

Products

Relief for Dying Decks.

Instead of replacing a badly neglected deck, consider repairing it with *UDF-21 Deck Resurfacer*. This polymer coating fills cracks, locks down splinters, and cures to form a textured, slip-resistant surface that's nearly maintenance-free, says the maker. The water-based product can be applied using standard painting tools and dries in hours. It can be tinted with latex paint to match any color. The cost to contractors is about \$1 per square foot.

Gulf Synthetics, 770/382-7399, gulf synthetics.com.



Space-Saver. When there's no room for a swinging door, Johnson wall-mounted sliding-door hardware can provide the convenience of a pocket door while keeping installation simple. Two hardware packages are available. The 200WM heavy-duty kit (\$190 for a 3-0 door) features an extruded aluminum I-beam track and four-wheel hangers and can support a 300-pound door. The lighter-duty 2610F package (\$115 for a 3-0 door) includes an aluminum fascia track and tricycle wheels and can support up to 200 pounds.

L.E. Johnson Products, 800/837-5664, johnsonhardware.com.



Deeper Dishwasher. Ever since it was introduced more than a decade ago, Fisher & Paykel's DishDrawer has been a big hit. But perhaps not quite big enough. Last year the company introduced an expanded version, the *DishDrawer Tall*. Along with extra headroom, the appliance has a fully adjustable racking system that allows it to accommodate such items as long-stemmed wine glasses and 13-inch plates. It's sold as a single unit (\$700) or as a stacked pair (\$1,200).

Fisher & Paykel Appliances, 888/936-7872, fisherpaykel.com.

Simplified Valley Framing.

Simpson's new *VTCR* single-sided valley truss clip eliminates the need to bevel the bottom chord — or use wedges — when installing a valley truss over a sup-



porting roof. The maker says that the truss can be set first and the connector added after the crane has been sent on its way. You can fasten the clip with nails, but if greater uplift resistance is needed Strong-Drive SD screws are recommended. The VTCR connector can accommodate pitches up to 12/12. It costs about \$2.25.

Simpson Strong-Tie Co., 800/999-5099, strongtie.com.

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Disappearing Door. Homeowners who like to host summer parties might appreciate Andersen's new *Folding Patio Door*. Thanks to the door's unusual top-hung design, its panels fold up and out the way easily, says the maker. The custom-made units can be manufactured to fit rough openings up to 10 feet tall and 48 feet wide. Buyers can choose from 21 exterior color choices and seven interior wood species. Pricing runs from \$800 to \$1,200 per lineal foot.

Andersen Corp., 800/426-4261, andersenwindows.com.



Earth-Friendly Oil Paint. In the race to create non-toxic paints, waterborne formulations have taken a commanding lead — but not every manufacturer has given up on oil. *Safecoat Naturals* are finishes made from— in the maker's words — only “natural earth-based plant and mineral components.” The lineup includes two interior paint formulations, an interior/exterior primer, and a penetrating oil sealer. The company also makes an organic plant-based thinner that's suitable for cleanup. A gallon of Safecoat Naturals paint costs about \$50.

American Formulating & Manufacturing, 800/239-0321, afmsafecoat.com.

Emergency Escape. Unlike ordinary flexible fire escapes, the PEARL (Permanent Escape and Rescue Ladder) is guaranteed to be there when it's needed. The recessed steel cabinet that houses the ladder fits between 16-inch on-center 2x4 walls.

It requires a finished space beneath the egress window sill that's at least 14 inches high and 16½ inches wide. According to the maker, the ladder's aluminum rungs can support up to 1,500 pounds. It's available online for \$299.

Pearl Protected, 800/374-5737, pearlprotected.com.



Undercounter Fridge. The Sub-Zero *700BR Refrigerator Drawer* is designed to fit discreetly under a counter and blend into the surrounding cabinetry. The 27-inch-wide two-drawer unit has a crisper cover and an optional egg container and might be a good fit for a compact kitchen. But with no freezer and an upper drawer deep enough to hold most wine bottles upright, it seems even better suited for a media room or bar. It costs about \$3,200.

Sub-Zero, 800/222-7820, subzero.com.

