

Products



Ultimate Hood for Outdoor Use

An outdoor kitchen should have a range hood designed specifically for use outside. The *Best WPD38* is made from corrosion-resistant stainless steel and has controls engineered to resist the effects of heat and moisture, says the manufacturer. It's 27 inches deep to handle the intense heat of a large outdoor grill; an optional wall extension adds another 3 inches to accommodate deeper grills. The hood is sold in a range of widths from 36 to 60 inches and costs \$1,720 to \$2,800.

Broan-NuTone, 800/558-1711, bestrangehoods.com.



Recycled Resin Studs

The *EcoStud* stud and track system is for use in non-load-bearing walls and could be a good solution for a basement remodel. The studs look like steel but provide a better thermal break because they're manufactured from 100% post-industrial plastic resin. They're also light — 3.5 pounds apiece compared with around 8 pounds for wood or steel — so workers can carry more studs per trip from the truck to the basement. They cost about \$6 apiece.

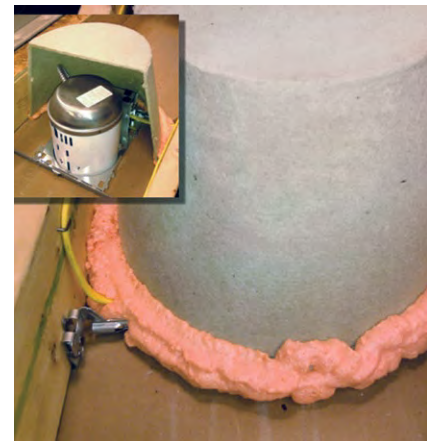
EcoStud, 877/586-5543, ecostud.com.



Windows Menu

The highly customizable *1500 Vinyl Collection* makes it easier to specify PlyGem windows by consolidating a number of different vinyl window lines into one platform. Builders start with the window type (single-hung, sliding, picture, or architectural shapes) then choose from various frames (brickmold, beveled, or flat), colors, grilles, hardware options, and energy features. Prices vary widely; the unit shown would cost between \$185 and \$200.

Ply Gem, 888/975-9436, plygem.com.



Recessed Can Covers

The Tenmat *FF130E* insulation protection cover is made from a fire-resistant material and is designed to keep insulation away from recessed light fixtures, as required by code. When installed with a foam sealant, it also stops air leakage through the fixture (the DOE estimates that recessed lights account for 50% of total thermal losses through ceilings). The covers are not meant for use in one- or two-hour fire-rated ceiling assemblies. They cost \$15 each.

Tenmat USA, 302/633-6600, tenmatusa.com.

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Truss and Rafter Screw

The *SDWC* structural wood screw can be used to fasten trusses and rafters to top plates without hardware. (The hardware shown in the photo is merely a guide.) The screw has a fully threaded shank, which ensures that its entire length engages the work. No predrilling is needed, and the head countersinks fully into the top plate. It's sold in 4½- and 6-inch lengths for \$33 and has been tested to meet ICC-ES AC233 (screw) and ICC-ES AC13 (roof-to-wall assembly) standards.

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



Sticks to Concrete

Florprufe polyolefin vapor barrier glues itself to the underside of a concrete slab — so if it tears, any moisture that gets through won't migrate. A 1-mil protective coating keeps it from feeling sticky during construction; once the concrete is in place, pressure breaks down the coating and activates the adhesive. At 21 mils, the product is also quite thick. It comes in 4-foot by 115-foot rolls that cost about \$700.

Grace Construction Products, 866/333-3726, graceconstruction.com.



More Than a Pretty Face

The direct-vent *Energy Pro Gas Fireplace* delivers a lot of bang per Btu, with an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) of 92.6%. It's also certified as a central furnace, with cutouts on top for four supply ducts, each of which can carry heated air as far as 50 feet with a maximum of three elbows. The unit can be ordered with a wireless thermostat and various mantel options. It costs \$7,400.

Hearth & Home Technologies, 888/427-3973, heatnglo.com.

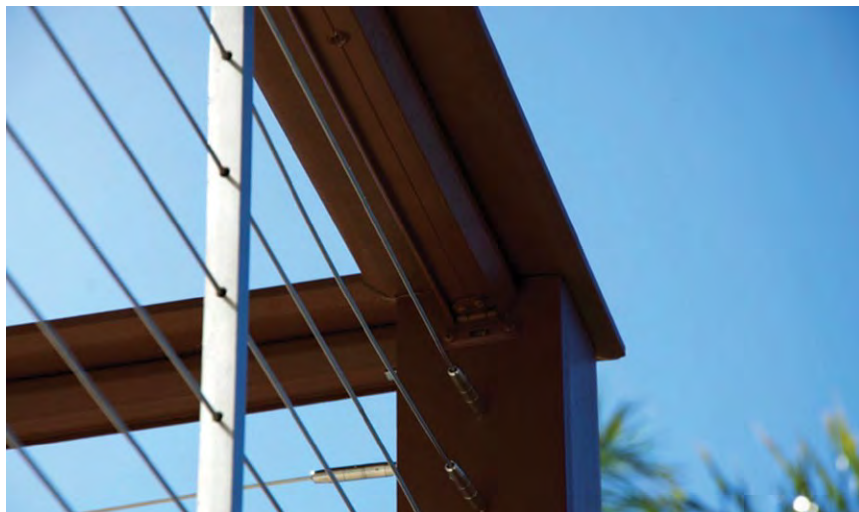


PVC Trim Adhesive

PVC Trim Welder comes in fast- and slow-curing formulations and laminate grade. The fast-dry's five-minute open time means you can glue up an outside miter or other assembly and put it in place right away; the slow-dry's 15- to 20-minute open time provides more flexibility when gluing long pieces. The laminate grade has a low viscosity so it will spread across the surface when two boards are placed one on top of the other. A 50-ml cartridge costs \$13, a 220-ml \$29.

Extreme Adhesives, 603/895-4028, pvctrimwelder.com.

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Quick Cable

The *TimberTech CableRail* is meant for use with composite rail systems that have structural wood posts inside composite sleeves. Quick Connect fittings fasten the cable to the posts: Simply drill through the sleeve, screw the fitting into the wood post, then connect the cable to the fitting's swivel and tighten it with a wrench. Cost is around \$355 for a 6-foot section, including the composite railing, cable, and connectors. If you lose a connector, you can buy one for \$24.

TimberTech, 800/307-7780, timbertech.com.



Insulated Sheathing

Available nationwide since January, *Zip System R-Sheathing* consists of 1/2-inch (R-3) or 1-inch (R-6) polyisocyanurate foam bonded to the inside of Zip System enhanced OSB structural sheathing. The product has a built-in water-resistant barrier (the green facing) and a 180-day guarantee against moisture damage. When used with Zip System tape, it also serves as an air barrier. Cost ranges from \$42 to \$46 per sheet.

Huber Engineered Woods, 800/933-9220, zipsystem.com.



Reclaimed Vanity

The handcrafted *Americana Vanity Hutch* is made from textured wood rescued from structures like old barns, houses, and fences. It comes with hand-forged iron hardware in 24-, 30-, and 36-inch widths in four finishes: chestnut, whitewash, anvil, and driftwood. The company also offers paired stone and copper vanity tops. A 36-inch vanity base costs \$2,300.

Native Trails, 800/786-0862, nativetrails.net.



Stronger, Lighter, Wider

BamDeck 3G is a 3/4-inch-thick composite decking made from 60% reclaimed bamboo fibers and 40% recycled HDPE plastics (derived from detergent bottles and milk cartons). Cylindrical chambers running through the material reduce weight by 20% and increase tensile strength by 35% compared with the company's solid decking. The planks come in 5 1/2- and 8 1/4-inch widths for \$2.40 to \$3.10 per linear foot. They're meant for use with hidden fasteners.

Cali Bamboo, 888/788-2254, calibamboo.com.