



Smooth Ride

K.N. Crowder's Catch'N'Close door track uses a gas-spring mechanism to automatically slow and silently shut (or open) a sliding door in the final few inches of travel. It's like a closet-door version of the self-closing toilet seat. It can accommodate doors of up to 300 pounds and as narrow as 18 inches wide. Price: about \$600. kncrowder.com



PVC Decking Plugs

The Pro Plug System for PVC is launching with plugs made from Azek and TUFboard decking material, so the color and grain matches those brands perfectly. A special tool sets the epoxy-coated or stainless steel star-drive fasteners at the correct depth. Price varies. Starborn Industries, starbornindustries.com



Simplified Soffits

Made from recycled HDPE plastic and wood, the Simpli-frame modular fastening system comes with four basic parts that can be configured to create chases or soffits. Components require no cutting and retail for about \$1 each. Custom packages are available. Simplifii Design, simplifii.com



Low-Impact Footing

An alternative to conventional footings, Diamond Piers transfer structural loads from the top of a precast concrete head through pins driven into undisturbed soil. Installation is simple, with no need for digging holes or pouring concrete. Prices range from \$130 to \$210 each, depending on loading, frost depth, and wind zone. Pin Foundations, diamondpier.com

Photo: bottom right, courtesy Pin Foundations

Products



Hardscape Lighting

I-Lighting has introduced the Iluma Hardscape Retrofit Lighting System for installing outdoor LED lighting in existing retaining walls and other landscape features. The system is sold in kits—thin (5 mm) strip wiring harnesses with evenly spaced 3-, 6-, or 9-inch removable lights—that install without cutting or splicing. Lighting is sold through landscaping companies and installers; retail pricing is unavailable. ilighting.com



Sound-Dampening Substrate

QuietWalk floor underlayment is a durable substrate for laminate flooring that reportedly dampens ambient sound and minimizes impact and airborne sounds from traveling into spaces below. Approved for use over radiant heated floors, it has an insulating value of only R-0.5, so it shouldn't limit heat transfer too much. A 100-square-foot roll costs about \$45. quietwalk.com



Hard-Wear Paint

Some paint manufacturers claim “low-” or even “zero-VOCs” but use high-VOC colorants. Sherwin-Williams says that its zero-VOC Emerald Acrylic Latex is created with colorants free of volatile organic compounds. According to its maker, this premium paint is fast-curing, self-priming, and offers exceptionally strong adhesion. Emerald Interior costs \$63 to \$68 per gallon; the Exterior version \$73 to \$77. sherwin-williams.com



Lighter Concrete Sinks

The jute-fiber reinforcement in NativeStone concrete kitchen, bar, and bath sinks makes them crack resistant and 40% lighter, the maker says. The product line's Morro vessel sink weighs about 28 pounds, the line's Farmhouse models weigh about 99 pounds. Sealed using a proprietary “nanosealant” designed to last 10 years, surface- or under-mounted models list for between \$485 and \$1,685. Native Trails, nativetrails.net