

1. Rainscreen Cedar Shingles

Ecoshel's Smart-Shingle System Panels take most of the guesswork from installing western red cedar sidewall or roof shingles, while providing a built-in rainscreen. Guides printed on the panel fronts insure that shingle joints are offset from those on the two courses below. On the panel backs, thick vertical beads of hot-melt glue hold the panels off the courses underneath, allowing water to drain and the shingles to dry from both sides. Made in Maine from Premium #1 grade, vertical-grain western red cedar, the panels cost about \$400 a square. ecoshel.com

2. Multi-point Security

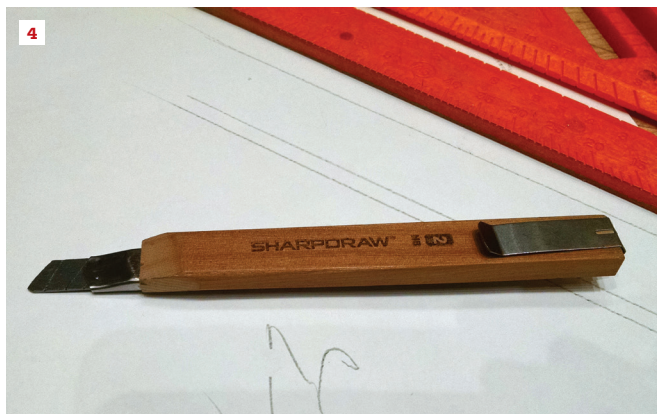
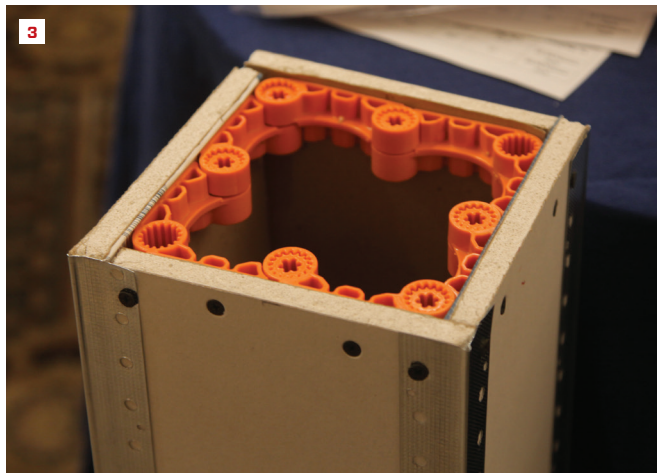
Endura's Trilennium multi-point door-locking system is made in the U.S., has three deadbolts, and uses a solid, one-piece I-beam along its entire length to improve security and even increase door-stile stability. Unlike some multi-point locks that require individual releasing, the Trilennium deadbolts all release with the turn of a single handle. Available in a variety of handle styles and metal finishes, the Trilennium costs approximately \$300 for a single door and \$500 for a double-door setup. trilenniumlocks.com

3. Quick Way to Box Columns

The Simpliframe modular fastening system is sold in kits containing small plastic parts that snap together into rectangular frames, which in turn provide the skeleton for a mechanical chase or box-in for a Lally column. Much faster than messing around with lumber or strapping—and resulting in a smaller profile—these will yield big savings in labor. The basic kit with enough parts for several frames large enough to box a basement column sells for around \$25. simpliframe.com

4. Carpenter's Pencil Reloaded

The ever-inventive Bob Cummins, maker of the Prazi beam cutter, introduced a new product at JLC Live that might be a must-have in every carpenter's nail bags: the SharpDraw carpenter's pencil. It has the same sort of click mechanism used to advance snap-off blades on some box cutters. Instead of a blade, though, it has a flat #2 HB carbon-fiber "lead" that is sharpened each time the tip gets drawn along a straightedge. Prazi USA can private-label the wood grip with any name or logo. Cost: \$5.95 each. praziusa.com



Products

5. Algae-Resistant Shingles

Atlas Pinnacle Pristine Shingles use a high concentration of copper-fortified granules and 3M Scotchgard to protect roofs from streaking. As rain washes down the roof, some of the copper in the granules dissolves and kills moss, algae, and molds. When the entire roof system (underlayment, starter strip, ridge caps, and Pinnacle Pristine shingles) is from the Atlas Signature Select family, the roof is covered by a fully transferable, non-prorated 15-year warranty on labor and materials. atlasroofing.com

6. Laminated Framing Lumber

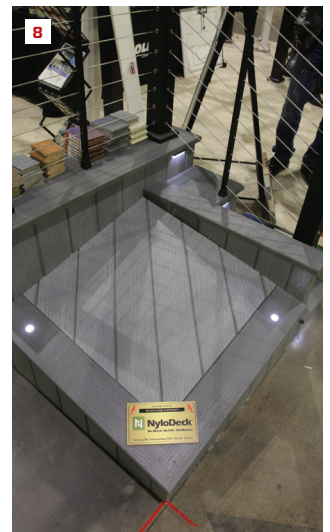
Quebec-based Lamco Forest Products has introduced LFL—an engineered lumber made from short lengths of slow-growing black spruce. The short culls are bound together with double tongue-and-groove edge joints and structural finger joints. Milled in sizes to match dimensional framing lumber (1 1/2 inches thick, depths from 2 1/2 to 16 inches), the material is reportedly as strong as LVL, but cuts and nails like dimensional lumber and can be notched for rafter birdsmouths or stair stringers. It's reportedly lighter than LVL, but has a superior fire rating. lamcoewp.com

7. Fast Footings

EZ Tube stackable concrete footings are made from a round base section with a 22-inch diameter, and 11-inch-wide by 12-inch-tall cylinders. Installation is quick: After digging a footing hole, install a galvanized guide rod through the base, then lower the base into the hole. Run a bead of sealant caulk on top of the base, then lower a cylinder into place. Add cylinders until you reach the desired height, then attach a post base, and you're finished. The cost of one base section, galvanized rod, and four cylinders is approximately \$160. Installation time: about 30 minutes, not including digging. e-zcrete.com

8. Durable Decking

NyloBoard's NyloDeck beaded decking, rated to span 24 inches o.c., and NyloPorch beaded porch flooring are both made from 100% recycled carpet. The strong, lightweight composite material is reportedly impervious to moisture, mold, mildew, and insects. The maker also claims it's one of the most dimensionally stable boards available, having passed thermocycling tests that show less than 1/8-inch movement in a 20-foot board over a 100°F temperature swing. The company also makes NyloSheet—a panel of the same material that can be used in wet-location or heavy-exposure applications. nyloboard.com



Products

9. Sensible Staging

Invented by Colchester, Vt., contractor Eric Kurtz, Smart Bracket Staging brackets are designed to hang over the top plates of a framed wall and support standard aluminum staging planks (wood ones can be used as well). Each pair of brackets is rated at 1,000 pounds, so only two brackets are needed to span up to 24 feet (the longest aluminum plank available). The end brackets (\$299 each) include a rail post with a pocket to hold a 2x4 guardrail. Accessory Smart Rails (\$159 each) provide interim guardrail support. smartbracketstaging.com

10. Sturdy Screen Door

PCA Screen Doors are made from heavy-duty aluminum and come stock with continuous hinges, integral kick plate, and corner keys that stiffen the aluminum frame. Most ingenious is an angled screen locking system that works kind of like a Chinese finger puzzle. The result is the screen can't be pushed out. It comes prescreened for about \$200. So far, storm panels are not available, but we hope they're coming soon. Doors are available wherever Brosco hardware is distributed. pcaproducts.com

11. Single-Room HRV

Vents-US, the North American arm of Ukraine-based Vents, a European fan maker, is selling a couple of interesting single-room heat-recovery ventilation units. The Micra 60 (shown) hangs on an exterior wall with filtered, through-wall intake and exhaust vents high and low. The heat recovery core is a counter-flow aluminum plate, which is reportedly 79% efficient. The vents are thermostatically heated to prevent condensation. Cost: around \$1,200. Also available is the TwinFresh, which looks identical to the Lunos (available from 475.com), for a similar price of \$1,000 a pair. vents-us.com

12. Post-Tensioned Hold-down

Quick Tie Products makes a post-tensioned cable system, which serves as a hold-down to resist shear and uplift in framed walls. A similar cable hold-down for block walls was also introduced at JLC Live. Each Quick Tie consists of a galvanized wire-rope cable with a threaded stud swedged to each end and a plate washer and nut on the upper end. Preordered custom-length cables are installed to run from a building's uppermost top plate down to the foundation, where the cable end is epoxied into a hole in the concrete; after the epoxy has cured, the cable is tightened by wrenching down on the nut. Price varies by length. quicktiesystems.com

