

PRODUCTS

Concrete-free Pavers

Light, stain-resistant, and durable

by Scott Gibson

A new line of composite pavers from Azek includes not only a standard landscape paver, but also a slightly thinner version for resurfacing existing patios and walkways, and a version that's permeable. Azek says all are more durable and scratch-resistant than concrete pavers.

Designed for ground-level patios, flat roofs, and driveways, the 4-inch-by-8-inch Vast pavers are installed on 16-inch-square grids that align them in a variety of patterns. The pavers can be cut with a miter saw before they're placed on the grid, or afterward with a jigsaw. Overlapping them from grid to grid ties the system together and makes it more uniform.

The pavers are substantially lighter than their concrete counterparts. While 11 standard concrete pavers weigh 64 pounds and cover about 2½ square feet, Azek says, the same weight in Vast materials (32 pavers and four grids) covers more than 7 square feet.

They're manufactured from up to 95 percent recycled material (scrap tires and plastics) and are available in three standard colors — deep clay red, light tan, and olive — and



two special-order colors. They also meet slip-resistance requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Prices for standard and permeable pavers range from \$8.50 to \$9 per square foot. Resurface pavers are \$8 to \$8.50 per square foot. Note that the installation instructions warn not to use any of these pavers near or under firepits.

Scott Gibson is a writer in East Waterboro, Maine.

■ **Azek**, 877/275-2935, azek.com.

Gates Made Easy

Hinges and hardware in one package



TimberTech's gate kit may simplify life for deck builders who want to add gates to their repertoire but don't like shopping around for all the parts and hardware they need.

The kits, which complement the company's Radiance-Rail system, include two powder-coated aluminum side rails, butt hinges, a latch and stop, and the fasteners to put them all together. Builders use the kit along with separately purchased railing and baluster material to build gates that match the rest of the rail system.

Gates can be up to 4 feet wide in a 36-inch railing system. The kits carry a five-year warranty and come in white and black.

Prices vary by region, but expect to pay about \$290 per kit. — S.G.

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

PRODUCTS

Deck Spacer

For a uniform look

Lock In plastic spacers clip over the tops of joists between deck boards to space the planks $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 millimeters) apart.

The maker, New Zealand-based DeckLock, says one advantage to using the clips is that deck boards don't have to be fastened one at a time. A video on the company's website shows an installer laying down several planks with spacers in between, clamping them all snugly together, and quickly nailing off the boards. The spacers also help to shed rain and debris off the framing.

Made from UV-resistant plastic, spacers are sized to fit over standard U.S. framing.



Prices listed on the website are in New Zealand dollars. Converted to U.S. currency, the prices run roughly \$53 for 200 spacers or \$250 for 1,000 spacers — including shipping to the U.S. — payable through PayPal. You'll need about 20 spacers per square yard of decking. — S.G.

■ **DeckLock**, deckinglocksystem.com.

New Composite Decking

Made from polypropylene and wood

Developed in Japan, Einwood, a wood-plastic composite decking, is now available in the United States as Geolam.

The distributor says Einwood has a 25-year track record around the world in climates that include extreme heat and sunlight, high humidity, and tropical rain.

The patented Einwood manufacturing process completely removes moisture from wood before it is mixed with recycled polypropylene, allowing the plastic to become “fully integrated” with wood fibers, according to the company. The result is low water absorption and high compressive strength.

Even coffee and wine won't stain the decking if wiped up promptly, the distributor says, and sanding will remove any staining that does occur.

Fully recyclable itself, Geolam is made of 90 percent recycled materials. It doesn't off-gas formaldehyde, and it's free of chlorine and solvents. The decking has been certified in Japan as an “Eco-Mark” product, a designa-



tion that indicates at least 80 percent of the raw materials are recycled and the product is harmless to people and animals.

The 12-foot-long hollow-core deck boards are $\frac{7}{8}$ inch thick and $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. They are able to span up to 18 inches.

Geolam is available in three colors — teak, rosemary, and ebony — and sells for \$3.95 per lineal foot. — S.G.

■ **Geolam**, 877/627-3530, geolaminc.com. ❖