

# PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson

## Stainless Steel Fasteners

PrimeGuard MAX screws have lifetime guarantee

Grip-Rite says its PrimeGuard MAX fasteners come with a lifetime warranty against corrosion while increasing total deck construction costs by only about 1½%.

Made from 316 stainless steel, PrimeGuard MAX screws contain between 16% and 18% chromium, a maximum of 0.08% carbon, and as much as 3% molybdenum for the best available protection, the company says. The fasteners can be used in all types of treated wood as well as in cedar and redwood.

Grip-Rite makes a variety of decking fasteners, including square- and star-drive screws, composite-deck screws, and trim-heads. They're available in 1-pound and 5-pound containers with bilingual labels. Grip-Rite doesn't list prices, but Lowe's sells a 1-pound container of #10 by 3-inch PrimeGuard MAX square-drive screws for about \$15.

■ **Grip-Rite**, 800.676.7777, grip-rite.com.



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## PRODUCTS

### Structural Posts

Replaces wood as core for vinyl post sleeves



Fairway Building Products is offering a mounting insert that can be used in place of wood for vinyl railing post sleeves.

Unlike wood, the company says, these inserts won't crack, split, or rot. They're mounted to deck framing, rather than to the decking itself, to meet strength requirements of the International Residential Code.

One version of the post includes shims that can correct an out-of-level installation by as much as 5 degrees. Fairway also sells a 5-inch by 5-inch spacer-block kit that fits over its 4-inch structural post, for larger sleeves.

Structural posts can be used for 36-inch and 42-inch railing heights, making the posts suitable for both residential and commercial applications. They can be installed on wood decks, or on concrete or stone patios.

They're made with galvanized pipe with 1/8-inch-thick walls, welded 3 1/2-inch-square base plates, and two 3 3/4-inch polypropylene blocks that keep post sleeves centered.

For pricing, the company suggests using its dealer locator, available at its website. An online search turned up structural post inserts for about \$50 each.

■ **Fairway Building Products**, 800.598.5245, fairwaybp.com.

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## PRODUCTS

### Shade Sails

Tensioned fabric canopies

For providing shade on open decks and patios, Shade Sails are a colorful alternative to a framed roof or a pergola.

Shade Sails don't need a full frame for support. Instead, they're tensioned from a few attachment points using the same stainless steel rigging hardware found on sailboats, according to California-based Shazeebo.

Sails can be attached with a variety of brackets, including corner brackets, rafter brackets, and wall plates. Where there are no buildings nearby, the sails can be attached to posts with eye bolts.

The knitted shade cloth comes in 40 colors, is UV resistant, and carries a 10-year warranty.

Sails come in both custom and standard sizes. Standard sails range in price from \$195 for a 12-foot by 12-foot by 17-foot triangle to \$490 for an 18-foot square. The com-



pany also carries a full line of hardware and offers training and design support.

Shazeebo says it has dealership opportunities nationally for deck builders interested in broadening their business offerings.

■ **Shazeebo**, 760.603.3269, shazeebo.com.

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## PRODUCTS

### Elastomeric Coating

Revives worn deck surfaces



Superdeck Deck & Dock, an elastomeric coating that's designed to revive cracked and weatherworn wood surfaces, holds down loose wood splinters and fills cracks up to 1/4 inch wide. The coating expands and contracts with the deck's surface rather than peeling or cracking, the manufacturer says, and it contains mildewcides and UV protection. For areas that are exposed to water, the company recommends combining the coating with its Duckback Anti-Skid Additive.

Deck & Dock is similar to Rust-Oleum's Deck Restore and Behr's DeckOver products. Available in four colors, which can be tinted, it's sold for between \$42 and \$52 per gallon and comes with a limited lifetime warranty. A dealer locator can be found at the company's website.

■ **Duckback Products**, 800.825.5382, superdeck.com. ❖

*Scott Gibson is a writer in East Waterboro, Maine.*

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