

LETTERS

Don't Forget About Glass

I'm a former contractor and a code enforcement officer in a suburb of Buffalo, N.Y. In our town, a hot tub is a common deck upgrade, so I was surprised when your recent article ("Smart Hot Tub Planning," Jan/Feb 2014) failed to address the proximity of the tub to glazing. Like most states, New York utilizes a version of the International Codes and requires safety glazing for any glass located within 60 inches horizontally from the water's edge and less than 60 inches measured vertically from a walking surface (R308.4.5, 2012 IRC). The reason for this is rather obvious: A wet hot tub's surface presents a slip hazard upon entry and departure; add a few glasses of wine and muscles that are maybe a bit too relaxed and there is a recipe for disaster. Many people have rapidly bled to death after lacerating an artery with broken glass, and this part of the code is a direct consequence of that.

Several manufacturers offer films that can be applied to meet impact requirements; the version sold by 3M (solutions.3m.com) sells for about \$3 per square foot in my area. As an extra measure of safety, some local installers add "crash bars" across the window that also serve as grab bars.

Contractors and designers should consult the code in their specific jurisdiction to make sure their design meets the minimum standard or—better yet—to design above it. The last thing anyone wants to see is an injury or a death, or a contractor's life turned upside down from the legal and mental ramifications of a deficient design.

Michael S. Oliver
Tonawanda, N.Y.

Don't Mess With the FAA

If you're thinking of hooking your GoPro to a drone and taking pictures of your deck projects, be aware that any photography from the air is regulated by the FAA. A 20-year-old was recently fined \$10,000 for taking and selling pictures from the air. Drones seem like a great idea ... until you use them for pro services.

Pamela Underhill
From online comments

Another Refinishing Option for Composite Decking

UV exposure can cause a photochemical breakdown of the polymers used to manufacture composite decking. Over time, some decking surfaces erode enough that they can be easily gouged out with a fingernail. While decking manufacturers have made

improvements to their products that provide longer-lasting color and better mechanical properties, there are thousands of older-generation vinyl- and WPC-based decks with significant fading and surface deterioration. The vast majority of them are still mechanically sound and simply need a



Located in Ohio, this WPC deck had a weathered but structurally sound surface.

Drive

Composite Deck Screws

DCSD: durable deck screw for fastening composite decking to steel and aluminum deck-frame systems

Not Your Ordinary Fastener

- Drives easily through double 14ga. steel box beam without pre-drilling
- Stand up and drive with our Quik Drive® PRO300S decking system
- Approved fastener for Trex® Elevations

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strongtie.com/deckcenter



Prep work for a new Versacryl coating is similar to that for paint, with thorough cleaning followed by sanding.



Versacryl is available in one-and two-part formulations, which must be applied by a factory-certified applicator. The finish comes in Spa Gray (shown) and four other stock colors.

to restore mechanical strength to the deck surface. Our opaque topcoat allows the homeowner to either match or change the original decking color.

Versacryl coating systems require prep work similar to that described by Mr. O'Neill, but are available only through a network of regional managers and certified application contractors. Contractors interested in joining the Versacryl team can contact us through the website at versacryl.us, where there is a contractor contact tab that will guide them through the process.

Bob Harris, Innovative Plastics Technologies
Akron, Ohio

surface restoration to bring back their color, appearance, and surface durability. As Shane O'Neill explained in a recent *PDB* article, composite decking can often be restored with a good paint job (see "Painting Composite Decking," May/June 2012). But my company offers additional solutions for restoring faded, stained, and degraded deck surfaces that were not discussed in that article.

For decking manufactured of vinyl and vinyl blends, including profile and cellular decking, and decking with vinyl or other plastic capstocks, my company recommends a single-coat version of our Versacryl restoration coating system. This field-applied coating is available in five standard colors and a clear finish, but we can also match OEM colors for warranty work. For WPC decks (with or without capstocks), our single-coat version is suitable for decking that is faded and stained but hasn't experienced significant mechanical surface deterioration. For deteriorated WPC decking, we offer a two-coat system that has a reinforcing primer

Drive

Stainless-Steel Deck Screws

DWP: resilient deck screw for fastening wood decks in coastal and high-exposure areas



Not Your Ordinary Fastener

- Available in Type-316 stainless steel for maximum corrosion resistance
- Greatly reduces torque with "box" thread design for easy driving
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We want your two cents.

E-mail us at prodeck@hanleywood.com or mail letters to: Professional Deck Builder, 186 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, VT 05495