

PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson

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1. Grill Cleaner

After so many burgers, dogs, and racks of ribs, the grill is going to be filthy, and eventually someone will need to clean it—a job most people don't enjoy. That's the market niche for Grillbot, an automatic robot that cleans the grill while your clients are doing something else. Turn it on, close the lid, and walk away. The rechargeable bot has settings for 10-, 20-, and 30-minute scrubs, and has either brass or stainless steel brushes for cleaning different types of grates. The company says it can be used on any type of grill. Grillbots come in red or black and retail for \$130. Grillbot, 800.854.1576, grillbots.com

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2. Dock on a Rock

These galvanized steel brackets provide a solid base for a dock, stair landing, or walkway on a rocky shore, with no need for pilings. Once the laser-cut hot-dipped A36-steel-plate bracket bases have been anchored to solid rock with steel studs, the angle of the 36- or 72-inch-long support arms can be adjusted to level. Kits include galvanized mounting hardware and acrylic chemical anchors. The 36-inch bracket (\$340 Canadian) adjusts from 25 to 90 degrees; the 72-inch bracket (\$540 Canadian), from 40 to 90 degrees. Prices don't include shipping and taxes. Dock on a Rock, 705.352.0664, dockonarock.wix.com/dockonarock

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3. Cable Rails

Outwater sells its cable-railing assemblies in a range of pre-cut lengths; builders then order the cable a little long and cut any excess in the field. Each assembly includes threaded terminals and quick-connect fittings that are easy to use and to conceal, according to the company. The 316 stainless steel cable is available in three diameters— $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch—and in lengths from 5 to 80 feet in 5-foot increments. Railings can be installed on new or existing wood or metal railing frames, in residential or commercial settings. Outwater Plastics Industries & Architectural Products, 800.631.8375, outwater.com

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4. Tile Underlayment

Silca System's structural panels can support a wide range of finished deck surfaces, including tile, brick, stone, and concrete pavers. Made in Ohio from all recycled PC-ABS—a type of plastic—the 16-by-18 $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick grates are screwed to 16-inch-on-center framing and will support 260 pounds per square foot, according to the company. Pavers are set directly on the grates, with gaps between pavers typically left open. Alternatively, a geotextile material can be installed on the grates and the gaps filled with polymeric sand. Check with the company for pricing. Silca System, 330.821.1585, silcasystem.com

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5. Work Boots

The CarbonMAX safety-toe boot from Wolverine is light in weight to reduce strain on legs and feet. Though the toe cap is thinner—for more room and comfort—the boot still meets ASTM standards for protection from falling and rolling objects. The toes also are non-conductive to heat and cold. Boots have leather uppers with abrasion-resistant heel and toe reinforcements. The Overman style starts at \$180 at the company's website and is available in men's sizes in several color patterns and in 6-inch lace-ups and an 8-inch Wellington. Wolverine, 866.699.7369, wolverine.com

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6. Coastal Railings

Railing Dynamics has added Avalon Aluminum Railings to its lineup. The preassembled, powder-coated, rust-proof railing panels are available with three top rail styles, in three colors—white, gloss black, and satin black—and in 42- and 36-inch heights. Angled assemblies are available for stairs. "Securatec" strips keep balusters rattle-free and eliminate the need for spacers and fasteners. In weather-resistance testing, the railings withstood more than 8,000 hours of accelerated salt-spray exposure, the company said. The railing meets most commercial and residential codes. Railing Dynamics, 800.488.7245, rdirail.com

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7. Glass-Railing Post

The Panorama Universal Post, part of a new topless glass railing system from Duradek, allows a single post to function inline, at corners, or at ends. The 2 1/2-inch-square posts can be mounted on the deck surface or on the fascia, and they allow glass panels to be angled 30 degrees in either direction. Posts come in nine standard colors and 180 custom colors. In jurisdictions that don't permit installations that lack a top rail, one can be added and the bottom of the assembly left open to enhance the view, Duradek said. The company didn't disclose pricing. Duradek, 800.338.3568, duradek.com

8. Gate Hardware

Boerboel's wrap hinges will support a gate of up to 75 pounds or 72 inches wide and withstand a point load of 1,500 pounds. A tension control can be set for self-closing or manual operation. Designed for use with a 2-inch-square or larger post and a 1 1/2-inch or larger gate upright in vinyl, aluminum, or wood, hinges are manufactured from zinc-plated powder-coated steel or stainless steel in one color—black. The company says hinges go through testing equivalent to 10 years of use, plus ASTM B117 salt-water testing. A kit with two hinges, a handle, and a latch sells for about \$50. Boerboel, 800.336.2383, boerboelgatesystems.com



9. Cast-Stone Post Covers

Made of low-maintenance and long-lasting fiberglass-reinforced concrete, the new Deckorators cast-stone post covers come in three styles—gray fieldstone, gray cobblestone, and gray stacked stone—with five mix-and-match post caps. The post covers work equally well with wood, composite, or vinyl railings. Each cover slips over a 4x4 or 6x6 cedar or treated post, measures 8 inches square, and comes in 42- and 53-inch heights. Post covers can also be stacked to create robust stone-look columns. Deckorators, 800.332.5724, deckorators.com

10. Joist-Hanger Tool

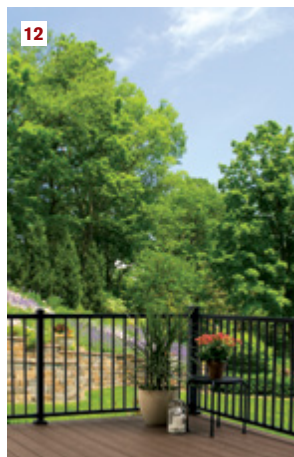
The Hanger-Buddy holds joist hangers in place so they can be fastened to a deck ledger or rim joist, allowing a framer to attach all joist hangers accurately and then drop the joists into place. The Hanger-Buddy is 12 1/2 inches tall and 5 1/2 inches wide, with a 90-degree flange on top that hangs over the top of the beam to which hangers are to be attached. The tool fits all standard joist sizes up to 2x12. A double-joist model also is available. Once the Hanger-Buddy is adjusted for height and width, a framer inserts a joist hanger, hangs the tool on the crossbeam, and attaches the hanger. The tool is made in the U.S. and sells for \$40. Hanger-Buddy, 208.661.1938, hanger-buddy.com

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11. New Glue

Though called a subfloor adhesive, Tytan's new high-yield polyurethane-based construction adhesive can also be used to glue decking to joists and joists to joist hangers to reduce squeaking. The collapsing gel adhesive is available in 29-ounce cans—which the manufacturer says are the equivalent of a dozen tubes of caulk-type adhesive—that require the use of a foam gun. Smaller, 12- and 20-ounce cans that use a disposable straw tube dispenser are available too. Tytan also offers a similar glue for bonding and sealing stone, brick, and block, called Outdoor & Landscape High-Yield Adhesive. Selena USA, 616.994.8959, tytan.com



12. Iron-Look Railing

Impression Railing from CPG Building Products is designed to look like classic wrought iron, but because it's aluminum, it installs without tools like welding equipment, which real iron railing typically requires. It can be installed as a stand-alone rail or combined with Azek or TimberTech composite top rails and post sleeves. Railing is available in 36- and 42-inch heights and in one color—black—and posts can be had with 2- and 3-inch cross sections. Rail kits are sold in lengths of 6, 8, and 10 feet (measured between posts); an 8-foot section, not including posts, retails for about \$25 a foot. CPG Building Products, 800.307.7780, timbertech.com