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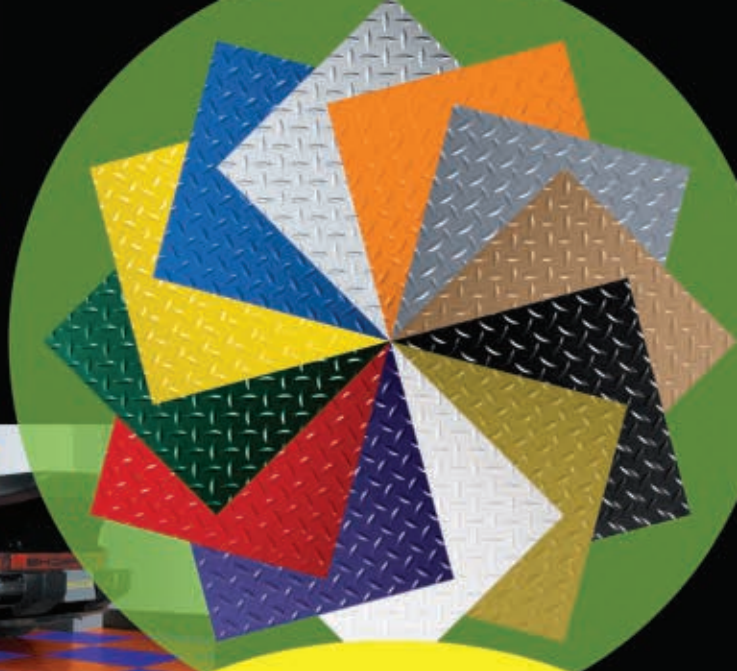


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3-flat shank, less chuck slippage**

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**Stronger, Faster
Less Walking**

High Speed



General Purpose

**Titanium
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High Speed**



Longer Lasting

Heavy Duty



**Heavy Duty
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The Outdoor Great Room Company

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Q: Is it necessary to add sand between the pavers of a flexible-base patio?

A: According to the experts at Pine Hall Brick, joint sand is the key to providing interlock between pavers and providing cushion between the pavers to prevent paver-to-paver contact and chipping. The sand

joint between pavers should be between 1/16 and 3/16 inch. Concrete sand that has coarse and angular particles is recommended over masonry sand, which has rounder, finer particles. The joints need to be completely full of sand to function properly and promote interlock in the system. If the sand joints between your pavers are not full then it is important to add more sand to prevent pavement failure. A properly installed base and edge system that drains properly will go a long way towards maintaining full joints. Learn more about landscape pavers at www.pinehallbrick.com.

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Q: How often should I water my lawn after planting grass seed?

A: During the germination period, you should water the area enough to keep the top 1/4 inch of soil moist. Most seed will germinate within two weeks of planting, but this will largely depend on the type of seed you are planting. Once the seed has germinated, maintain a consistent watering schedule, accounting for current weather conditions. Over-watering can cause grass disease problems, so it's important to monitor soil saturation when maintaining your lawn. The best time to water your grass is between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. If possible, you should avoid watering in the evening.

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Q: My garden has a mole problem. How do I fight back?

A: The most effective technique for getting rid of moles is to use traps, but many people are reluctant to use them for "humane" reasons. Traps come in a variety of configurations, including a choker mole trap, harpoon mole trap and scissor mole trap, all of which exterminate the pest. You can also trap moles using a live-trap from companies such as the Havahart Company, but you will then have to get rid of the live mole after you've trapped it. Poisons and mole repellents are also available. Most commercial mole repellents are formulated with castor oil. When using mole repellents or mole poisons, you should water the area of application so the agent will permeate the soil. Water the area thoroughly before and after application according to the instructions on the repellent or poison. More than one application may be necessary.

Q: What is the best way for a DIY'er to install sod on a lawn for a residential property?

A: Many pro builders use a tractor fitted with a special sod-laying apparatus hitched to the rear. These attachments are then fitted with large spools of sod (which are backed with mesh). A worker holds one end of the sod strip while the tractor operator pulls forward, literally unrolling the spool of sod in strips. However, a tried-and-true homeowner method is to purchase pallets sod, have the supplier deliver them to the site, and recruit all your friends on a Saturday morning. Have everyone lay the sod in tightly spaced rows, butted end to end without overlapping. Use hatchets to cut the squares to fit the property lines and around obstacles in the yard. If you have any gaps, fill with topsoil and add seed. **EHT**

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New Products for Outdoor Living



We're finally in the season for fun in the sun, when homeowners can make the most of their outdoor environment. Chilling out with a cold drink, a cool breeze and a hot grill is what summer is all about. Here's a look at a few products for entertaining in the backyard and relaxing on the front porch.

PERENNIAL WOOD PORCH FLOORING

The great American porch is back in style. A Census survey reported that nearly two-thirds of new homes built in 2011 had a porch (65 percent), compared to 1995 when only 42 percent of new homes had a porch. The Census data also revealed that

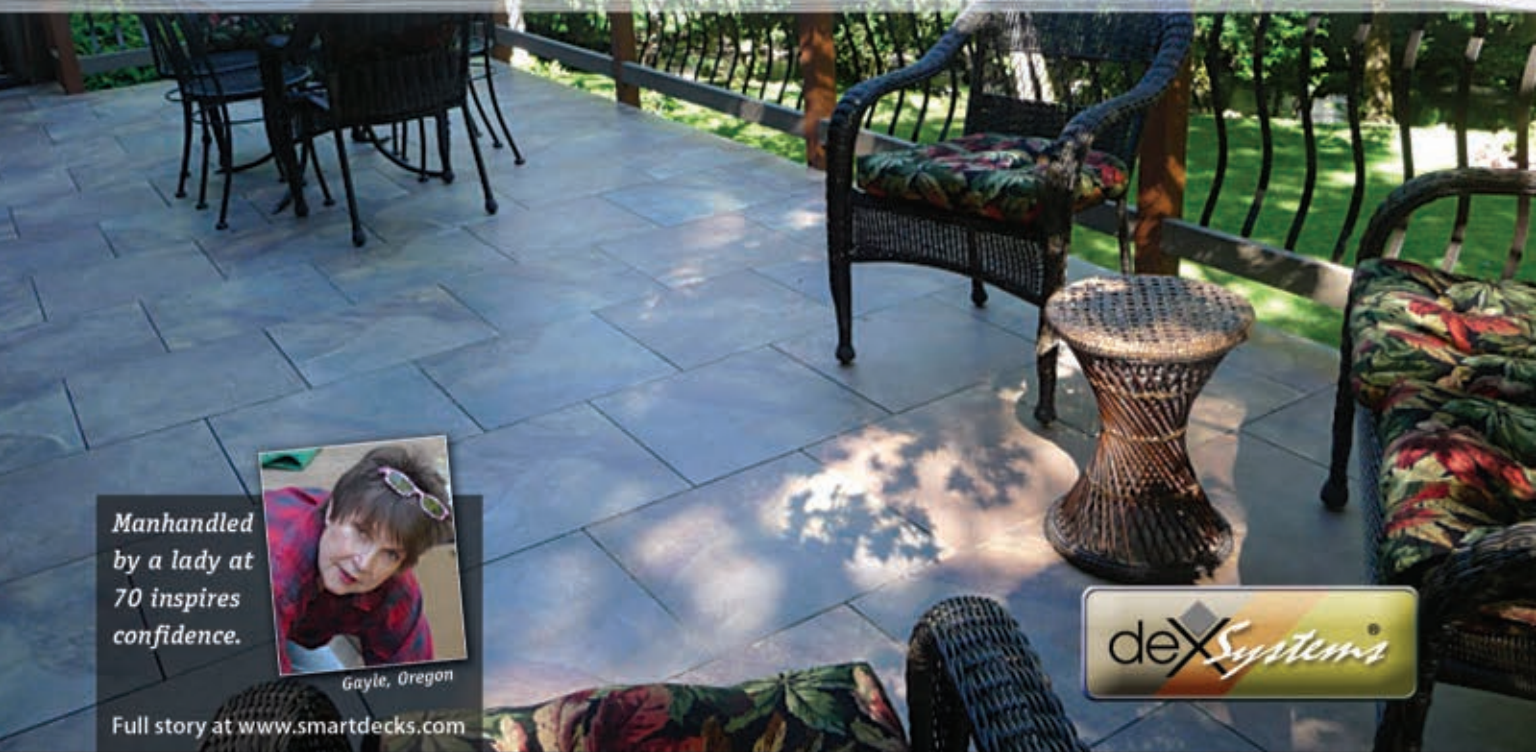
porch construction has been on the rise for nearly 10 years. The fact that porches generally require less maintenance than larger, fully exposed outdoor living areas also adds to their appeal, especially given new building materials designed for longevity. An example is Perennial Wood porch flooring, which is a new line of real wood tongue-and-groove porch flooring. Made possible by a proprietary process called TruLast Technology, it is three times more dimensionally stable than unmodified wood and resists changes from moisture for decades. The wood is modified with heat, pressure, and an organic compound that leaves behind no toxic substances within the wood. And because Perennial

Wood is made to last longer than unmodified wood, it needs to be replaced less often, resulting in less material disposal over the long term. Without sacrificing the beauty of real wood, it resists the shrinking and swelling that can lead to separation between boards, cupping and warping. Learn more at www.perennialwood.com.

BEST OUTDOOR RANGE HOODS

BEST releases its newest outdoor range hoods, the CPD and WPD39M, to provide a combination of style and performance. The new hoods offer homeowners the opportunity to cook in a more pleasant, safe environment while

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SPOT LIGHT

providing the elegance that designers and builders have come to expect from BEST. Perfect for outdoor grilling, these specially designed range hoods are made of corrosion-resistant stainless steel to fit seamlessly into the surrounding environment, while the range hood creates a smoke-free, enjoyable atmosphere. The new range hoods offer extra-deep capture and halogen lighting, and are specially designed for the harsh environment of outdoor cooking; they are not just indoor models relabeled for outdoor use like some of our competition. Learn more at www.bestrangenhoods.com.

SONOMA 12 PERGOLA

The Sonoma 12 Pergola not only brings all your outdoor elements together, it brings families and friends together. Made from Douglas fir, the pergola features a 12-by-12-ft. design that comes as a precision-cut kit. It creates an attractive focal point on your deck or grounds to provide a decorative visual impact while adding permanent value to the home



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(backed by a 3-year warranty on the structure). The picture shows the Sonoma 12 with the optional lattice roof, wall panels and post-bases. Learn more at www.outdoorrooms.com.

DECK RAIL FOLDING SHELF

The Deck Rail Folding Shelf is an attractive, portable shelf that fits right on the railing of your outdoor patio space. It's a table that folds to allow room when needed

and a storage/work area within a minute's notice. It's the perfect place to put your electric grill or to use as a food-prep surface. Conveniently designed for small outdoor spaces, the deck rail shelf fits almost any deck, patio or balcony railing and is the perfect space-saver for apartments and condos. The shelf has an antique bronze finish, assembles quickly and stores easily. Learn more at www.outdoorrooms.com.



GRANDSTONE FIRE PIT TABLE

Light up the night and add warmth to your outdoor space with a beautiful fire pit, fire pit table, or tabletop model from the Outdoor GreatRoom Company. The warm and glowing fires will become the place to gather with family and friends for years to come. With several models to choose from, there's a warm, cozy fire for every space. The Grandstone Fire Pit Table (shown) comes with a beautiful granite top on a stucco base. It features heavy-duty construction but is light enough to move. The Grandstone is made



in the USA, UL-listed and comes standard with a rectangular Crystal Fire burner. Learn more at www.outdoorrooms.com.

NYLODECK

Billed as the "non-composite" composite", NyloDeck deck boards contain no wood or PVC, but instead are manufactured using recycled carpet fiber, making the material incredibly durable and eco-friendly. NyloDeck is impervious to moisture, rotting, termites, mold and mildew and possess excellent strength, durability and performance qualities. The deck boards are lightweight and UV-protected. Plus, a proprietary embossing process creates natural looking, unique wood-grain patterns on every board. According to the manufacturer,

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Amber Stain on teak and PT pine

Photo courtesy of Beth and Rod of See Dirt Run!

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Protect your outdoor wood with Armstrong-Clark wood stains. Used for years by the *EHT* staff, Armstrong-Clark offers coatings for all your wood, wood-shake



restoration and water-repellant needs. The company specializes in oil-based coatings and non-toxic wood stains of all kinds. Unlike competitive products, the Armstrong-Clark stains can be applied in direct sunlight and the heat of the day. Drying oils, pigments and water repellents protect against water and UV damage and lock in the non-drying oils. For a look at the company's wide range of colors and products, check out the new website at www.armclark.com.

ALTERRA ALUMINUM HAND TOOLS

This collection of aluminum hand tools is perfect for the garden workhorse, including a hand trowel, transplanter with depth markers, cultivator, weeder with serrated edges, and an



extra-deep scoop. Each tool's contoured, ergonomic grip allows you to garden all day without the painful hand fatigue caused by other tools. The tool is constructed from a single piece of lightweight aluminum that allows you to apply more force and gain extra leverage without worrying if it will snap or break. You'll slice easily through clay, dirt and pesky weeds with sharp and strong edges, and you'll never have to worry about your tools breaking on hard ground. The rust-proof material means you can forget the tools out in the garden, and when you do bring them indoors, the convenient hanging hooks allow you to store them easily. Learn more at www.alterratools.com.

MOSQUITO DUNKS

Homeowners looking for an effective way to control pesky, disease-spreading mosquitoes don't have to resort to harmful chemicals. Mosquito Dunk offers organic mosquito control, killing mosquitoes before they're old enough to bite. The active ingredient in Mosquito Dunks is BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), a naturally occurring bacterium that's deadly to mosquito larvae but harmless to other living things. Mosquito Dunks, which look like small beige donuts, float on standing water and naturally kill mosquito larvae before they become adults. Just float the biodegradable



Mosquito Dunks in ponds, bird-baths, fountains or wherever water collects. Mosquito Dunks are also approved for use in fish habitats and animal watering troughs. Each Mosquito Dunk will treat up to 100 square feet of surface water for about 30 days. Visit www.summitresponsiblesolutions.com.

EDGETITE PAVER EDGING SPIKE

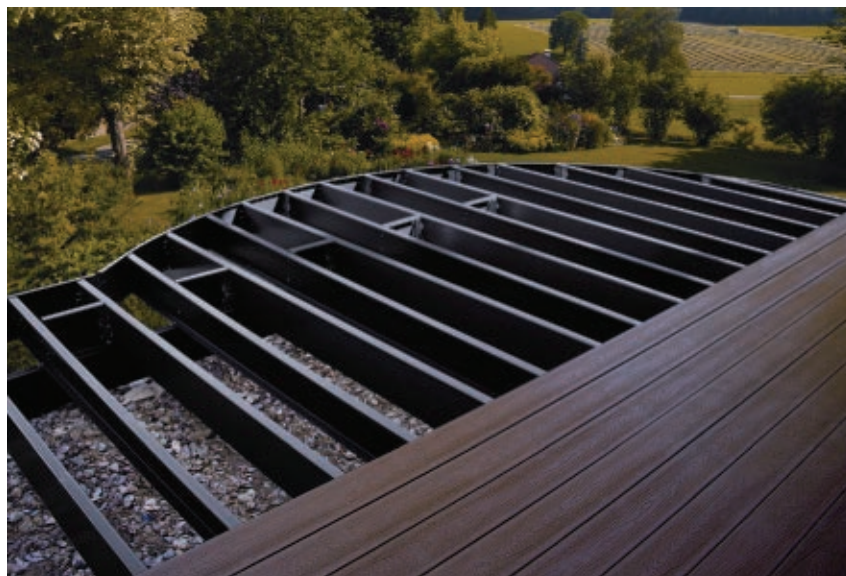
The new Edgetite 10-in. Paver Edging Spike is billed as "the spike that works" for installation. When installing paver patios and walkways, the spike has many exceptional benefits, including a modified tip that forces an angular trajectory during installation. Plus, they're easier



to transport, weighing 45 percent less than a conventional 10-gauge spike. The design of the spike pinches paver edging at the paver's point of contact, which increases project strength, reduces shifting and also resists frost heaving. Learn more at www.mcpsupply.com.

TREX ELEVATIONS STEEL DECK FRAMING

Trex Elevations Steel Deck Framing System now offers a new galvanized steel post and joists in a greater range of lengths. Making it possible for contractors to construct a deck substructure made entirely of steel, the Trex Elevations Deck Support Post offers a preferable solution to pressure-treated lumber posts, which may warp, rot, twist, split or decay. Additionally, Trex Elevations joists are now available in one-foot length increments—ranging from 8 through 20 feet. These new options provide contractors with the ability to construct a deck to the nearest foot, which significantly reduces the number of jobsite cuts required and lowers the cost of labor for homeowners. Learn more at www.trex.com.



BUZON PEDESTAL

Buzon pedestals are used for the construction of roof terraces, pedestrian areas, walkways, roof gardens, pool decks, green roofs, and can be used with any type of decking material, such as natural stone, concrete slabs, wooden tiles or slates, and industrial gratings. To support all sorts of raised flooring applications, the Buzon pedestals are adjustable in height from 3/4 to 42 in. and can support 2,200 pounds. In addition, they're provided with a unique slope corrector that adjusts up to a 10-degree slope to create a level surface while the roof slopes below. The original brand of pedestal created 26 years ago, the Buzon product is made of high-strength recycled polypropylene to exact specifications that satisfy the precision requested by architects, specifiers and contractors. Learn more at www.buzon-world.com.



YARDCRAFTERS VINYL RAILING SYSTEM

For homeowners that are tired of rotting, cracking and warping wood railing systems, there is an alternative. Vinyl railing systems not only beautify your existing deck or patio, but also keep you and your family safe. Yardcrafters vinyl railing systems are easy to install with highly integrated precision-engineered components. Pre-routed rails and Tab-Lock balusters make Yardcrafters easier to install than wood railings. Install an entire Yardcrafters railing system in a single color or mix and match different colors and styles. Maintenance is also easy, especially when compared to wood systems. Homeowners can trade in their sanding equipment, paint brushes and hammers for simply a garden hose to wash down the vinyl railing. Learn more at www.Amerimax.com.

EVERFLASHING

Developed and patented by a carpenter with 28 years of experience, EverFlashing is a new type of ledger flashing. When attaching a deck to a house, building code requires house wrap as well as flashing a deck's ledger board.

This is required to stop the rim joist from rotting and the deck pulling away from the structure. Everflashing has a siding flange to minimize water and dirt intrusion between the deck boards and the siding. The siding flange gives a clean, finished look to the decking where it meets the house. This also allows for the ledger board to be installed and the project sided long before the deck is built. Everflashing also has a 1/2-in. drip flange down the face of the ledger board to further ensure water protection. Everflashing comes in two sizes: 1-1/2-in. for standard ledger installations and 2-1/8-in. for deck-to-wall spacers. Available in 8- and 10-ft. lengths, the flashing is available in heavy gauge metals, stainless steel, G-185 galvanized and pre-painted aluminum. Visit www.ledgerflashing.com. **EHT**



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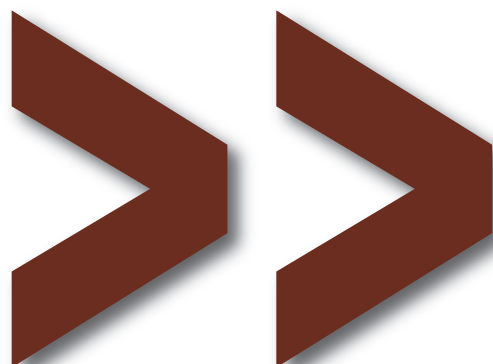
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DECK RECOVER



Replacing Worn-out Wood with
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RY >



By Matt Weber

Decks take a lot of abuse. Due to their very nature, we expect them to withstand brutal attacks from direct sunlight and driving rainwater. And, if not properly preserved and maintained, a wood deck will eventually require a major facelift, as shown in this article.

The sundeck we remodeled for this issue of *EHT* had certainly seen better days, before the wood succumbed to the perils of direct ultraviolet rays. The deck had been slapped with a clear coat of water preservative, but that was the extent of protection. And being situated on the second-story of a townhouse, there were no trees to shade it from that enormous nuclear cannon in the sky that we call the sun. The 2-by decking boards were no match for the power of Mother Nature, and the lumber had checked, warped and grayed. The deck floor was no longer in the same plane, nails were popping like a pan of Orville Redenbacher, and the cap rail had bowed into the shape of a miniature ski slope. It was time to get out with the old deck boards and in with the new—the “new” being low-maintenance composite decking.

Photo courtesy: Travis Industries

DECK RECOVERY >>>

EXTRA SUPPORT

The owner of the deck selected TimberTech's Earthwood brand of composite decking in a "Tropical Teak" color. According to the manufacturer's instructions, the TimberTech boards required the deck joists to span a maximum of 18 inches, but the deck currently existed with joists on 24-inch centers. This meant I had to install additional 2-by-8's between the existing joists.

A reliable framing nailer and a sturdy, adjustable ladder came in very handy for this chore, because the framing was roughly 10 feet overhead. The deck was also 10 feet deep. I was working alone on this deck remodel, and that meant hoisting the 10-foot joists into place from atop the ladder. I'd suggest wearing a toolbelt that includes a back brace, because this balancing act can do a number on your lower lumbar region.

Here are a couple of tips on the joists: First, I removed the 2-by-2 support strip that ran flush beneath the house side of the joists. However, I left the support blocking in place on the other end of the joists. This allowed me to hook one end of the new joists over the edge of the blocking, which supported a lot of weight while positioning the joists' other ends.

I also had some difficulty positioning the tops of a few joists flush with the existing deck boards, and I needed to make sure the replacement boards would be supported by framing that's all in the same plane. My solution was to use a T-Jak, which is a type of cabinet jack (or drywall tool ... or decking tool, evidently). However, the T-Jak didn't reach from the concrete carport to the second-story joists



Due to the power of Mother Nature, the deck boards have checked and warped.





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DECK RECOVERY >>>



Skil's Mag 7 worm-drive circular saw made quick work of cutting the 2x8 joists.

above. Since I was working on a Little Giant ladder configured as an A-frame, I bridged a scrap 2-by-8 board across the rungs to serve as support for the bottom of the jack. This worked well; it gave the T-Jak the reach it needed, and I could crank on its adjustment job until the jack pushed the joist in place. Before installing the metal joist hangers, I made the final adjustments to plumb the joist with a special pry bar called the Tweaker from Mahew Tools, which clutches the 2-by in a hardened steel grip so you can bend it in position.

Once all the new joists were in place, I re-nailed the long diagonal support brace that bridged the bottom of all the joists.

DE-DECKING

Ordinarily I would take a beefy pry bar and tear through all the deck boards like a wolf in a hen house, being that tearing stuff down can be a lot more exhilarating than building it up. However, I was working 10 feet from the ground, and decided to take it easy, alternatively tearing up and replacing the decking as I worked my way across to leave myself some sturdy flooring on which to work.

I started demolition at the far corner of the deck by plunge-cut-

ting the end plank with a reciprocating saw. Once the board was cross-cut it pulled up easily with a pry bar, and that got things going. I could then use my favorite deck-destroying tool, the Gutster, to pry up the boards from the joists. The

Gutster is a monster of a pry bar—at 48 inches long, it has all-steel construction but weighs less than 10 pounds. The Gutster gives you great reach, great leverage, and its huge demolition head has enough bite to tear up all the heavy framing you can throw at it.

And although the Gutster has built-in nail-pullers, much to my dismay the previous deck builder had used headless, smooth-shank nails—hundreds of which failed to pull up with the deck boards. This meant I was stuck pulling nails with pliers—one at a time, up close and personal.

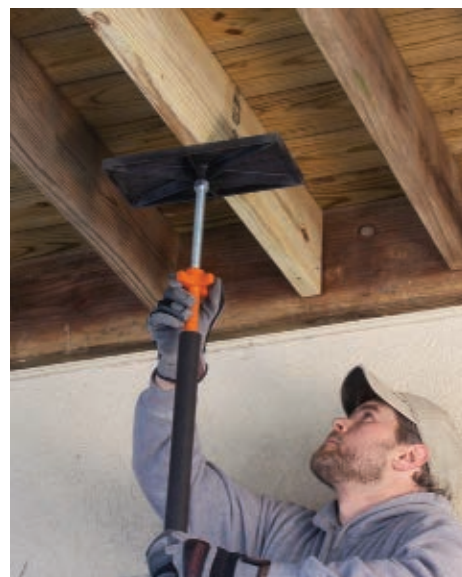
RE-DECKING

Once all the old deck boards were out of the way, I had the green light for the composites. The first new board went down beneath the hand rail and flush



A pneumatic framing nailer is a great help when fastening the joists.

A T-Jak helped hold the joists while I installed the joist hangers.





To begin demolition of the decking, I cross-cut the first board with a recip saw.

Once it was cut, the board pulled up easily with a small pry bar.



with the outside edge of the deck. I used a drill/driver to fasten it down with composite decking screws in pilot holes, driven no closer than 1 inch from the edge of the deck board. When pre-drilling composite boards, you'll notice that some shavings of composite material will probably pull out of the hole. I used those composite shavings to cover the countersunk heads of the deck screws—softly tap in the shavings with a hammer; it works like a wood plug.

The rest of the boards required no pre-drilling. Instead, each deck board has a 3/16-inch channel along both edges in which to install hidden metal fasteners. TimberTech's ConcealLoc fastener system uses two-sided metal hangers that operate similarly to wood biscuits. However, instead of using glue, a decking screw is driven through the center of the

metal hanger at a 45-degree angle and into the joist. The screw applies pressure to the hanger to tighten the board against the joist. Move to the next joist and repeat along the length of the deck board. The opposite sides of the fasteners will insert into the groove of the following board. Just line up the next board, slide its groove against the hangers, and tap the board until the joint closes in a tongue-and-groove fashion—I used a hammer

and scrap deck board to do this. (It may help to tilt the boards so the groove easily slips over the hangers. However, my boards were each 18 feet long to avoid end joints and were too flexible for me to tilt by myself.)

Basically, I just repeated the installation pattern from one end of the deck to the other; install a new deck board, fasten all the hangers in place, install a new deck board, etc. Once I got on a roll, I made some serious

Each side of the Little Giant Ladder can be independently adjusted for length, so it can bridge uneven footing and obstructions like the curb and air-conditioning unit shown here.



DECK RECOVERY >>>

progress. (And here's a tip on keeping up that progress: Invest in some quality knee pads.) When I got to the house-side of the deck, I had to rip some boards to width, including having to

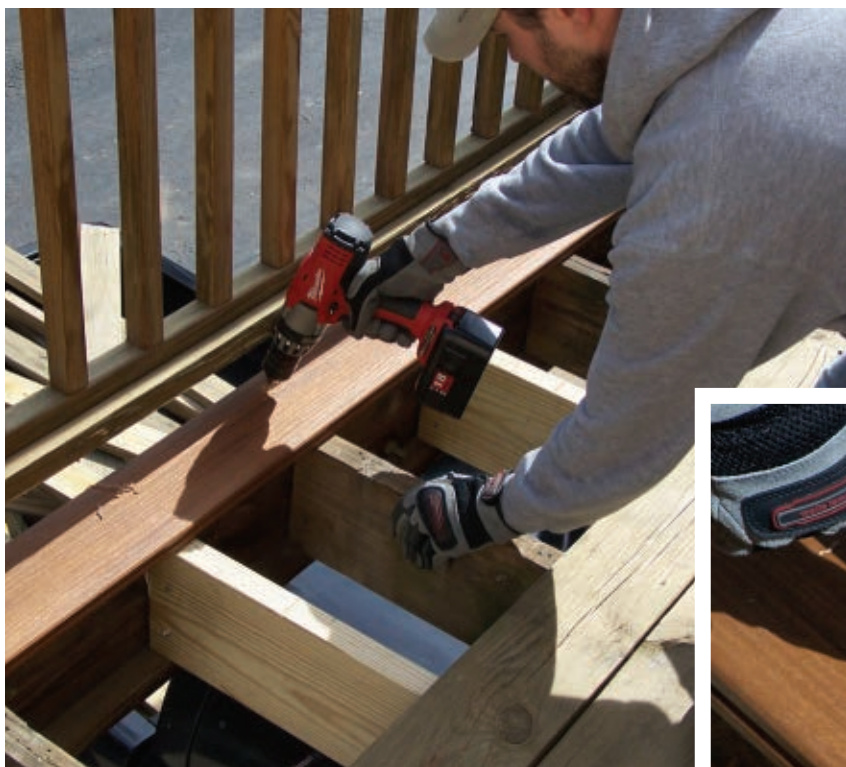
notch one board with a jigsaw to fit around a chimney.

Overall, the Timbertech fasteners proved to be a fairly easy and straightforward method for deck installation. And when the joints

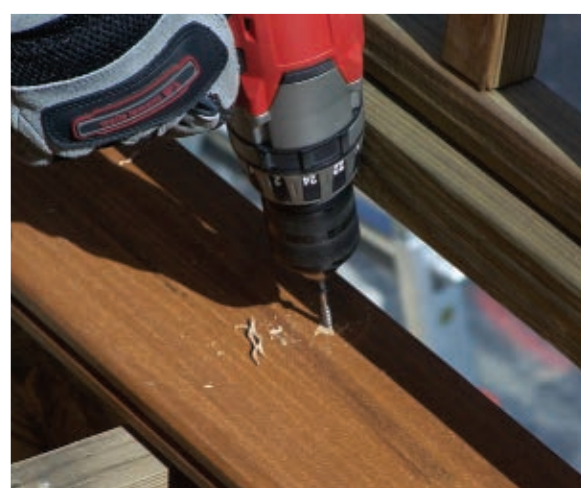
closed with no more than about 1/8 inch from board to board, the deck really did achieve a completely "nail-free" appearance with a clean, classy look.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Naturally, I ran into a couple of unexpected snags on this project. First, there was no flashing against the house. As a result, there was already evidence of wood rot at the deck intersection. So, I bent some aluminum flashing on a sheet-metal break and installed a channel beneath the siding along the top of the ledger board, to minimize further water



The first new composite board was installed flush with the outside edge of the deck. The first board was fastened to the framing with square-drive composite decking screws.



KEY ADVANTAGES OF COMPOSITE DECKING

There are a few key advantages of composite decking versus pressure-treated wood decking, but none more important than low maintenance. Low maintenance is a big reason many consumers choose composite decking over wood decking. With composite decking, homeowners don't need to worry about splinters, staining and annual upkeep. Maintaining a composite deck is simple—just wash the deck with a mild detergent once or twice a year or as needed, and that's it.

One major reason composite decking is low maintenance is that it does not take in or give off moisture, therefore it does not shrink or swell like wood. As a result, composites do not crack, warp or separate due to varying weather cycles. Composite decking resists insects, does not need water repellent or stain and can hold up to extreme weather conditions for decades. In addition, builders like to use composite decking because it cuts and installs like real wood.

Many composite decking products offer matching decking and railing colors that complement a home's exterior siding. Some composite brands also offers a reversible, woodgrain/brushed finish, which is slip-resistant. Another increasingly popular trend is composite decking with a pre-grooved/slotted plank that helps showcase a fastener-free appearance.

Learn more about composite decking at www.extremehowto.com.



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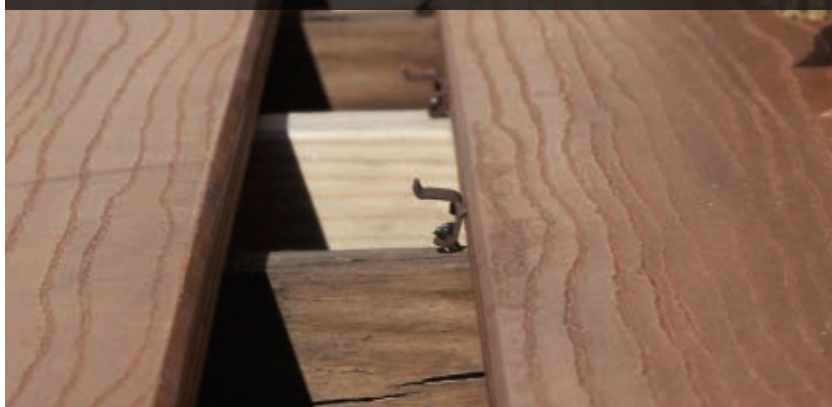
damage. You won't see photos of this step because I bent the flashing off site, and I was frustrated with the extra work so I didn't fool with the camera. Sue me.

Another hang-up came with the discrepancy between the thickness of the deck boards. The old lumber decking was 1-1/2 inches thick. The new composites were only 1 inch thick. When I installed the new boards, they revealed 1/2 inch of unpainted siding along the bottom of the three walls surrounding the deck. To hide this I needed to add trim, and settled on a kind of makeshift base moulding for the deck. Here, I should interject that the homeowner decided to keep the existing wood handrail system (except the cap rail), with the intention to stain the wood to match the color of the deck. To match the base trim to the railing, I ripped some 2-by-2 trim pieces from 2-by-4's on my table saw, which would also be stained. I then ripped a bevel along one edge to ease the profile a bit. I used a miter saw to cut them to length and to cut all the 45-degree corners. Granted, base trim for interior applications isn't

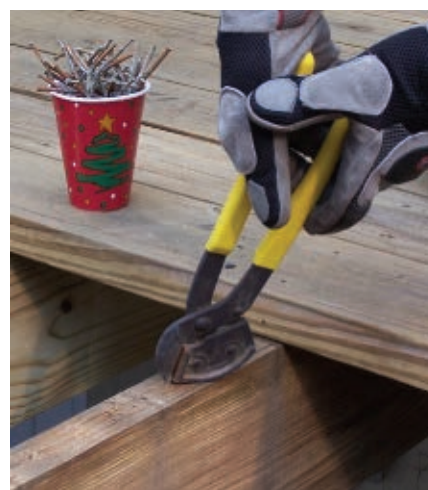


On the inside edge of the board, metal hangers were installed inside the channel at every joist location. Screws were driven at 45 degrees through the center of each hanger, which tightens the hanger to hold the board securely.

The TimberTech ConcealLoc fasteners extend into the opposite channel of the following deck board. This system ensures consistent spacing and a hidden, "fastener-free" appearance.



A heavy-duty demolition bar called the Gutster made an easy chore of ripping up the old decking.



A lot of nails were left in the framing, which were duly pulled out and collected in a disposable Christmas tree cup.



It may help to use a hammer and a scrap of decking to tap the boards together when closing the joints.

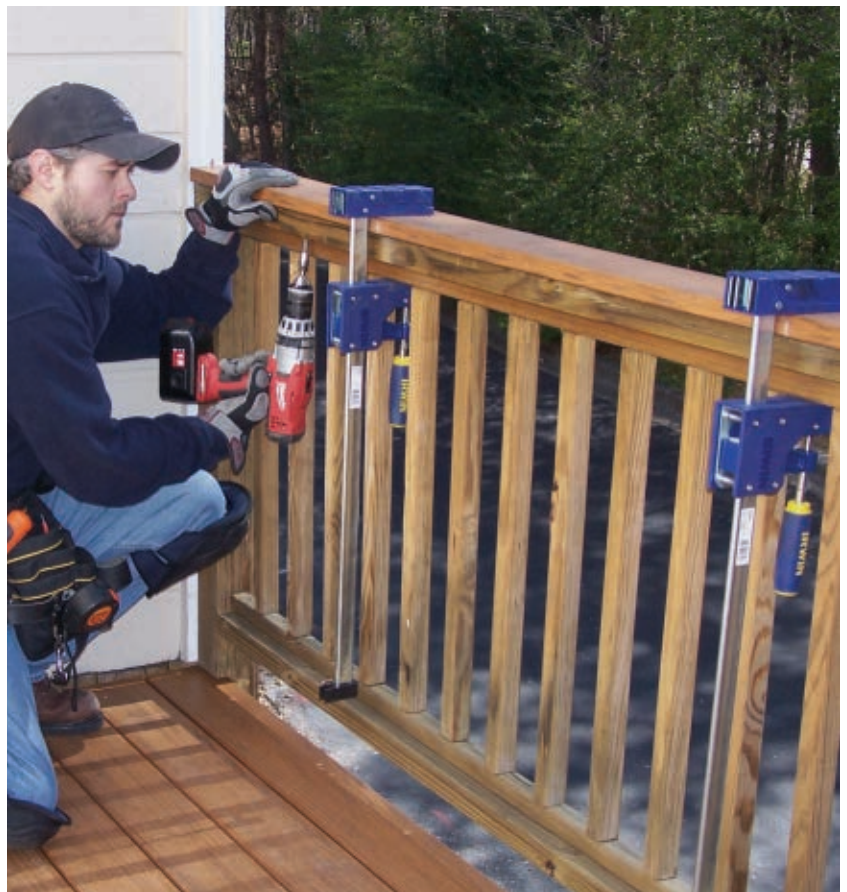


On the "house" side of the deck, a few boards had to be ripped to width, and one board had to be notched to fit around a chimney.

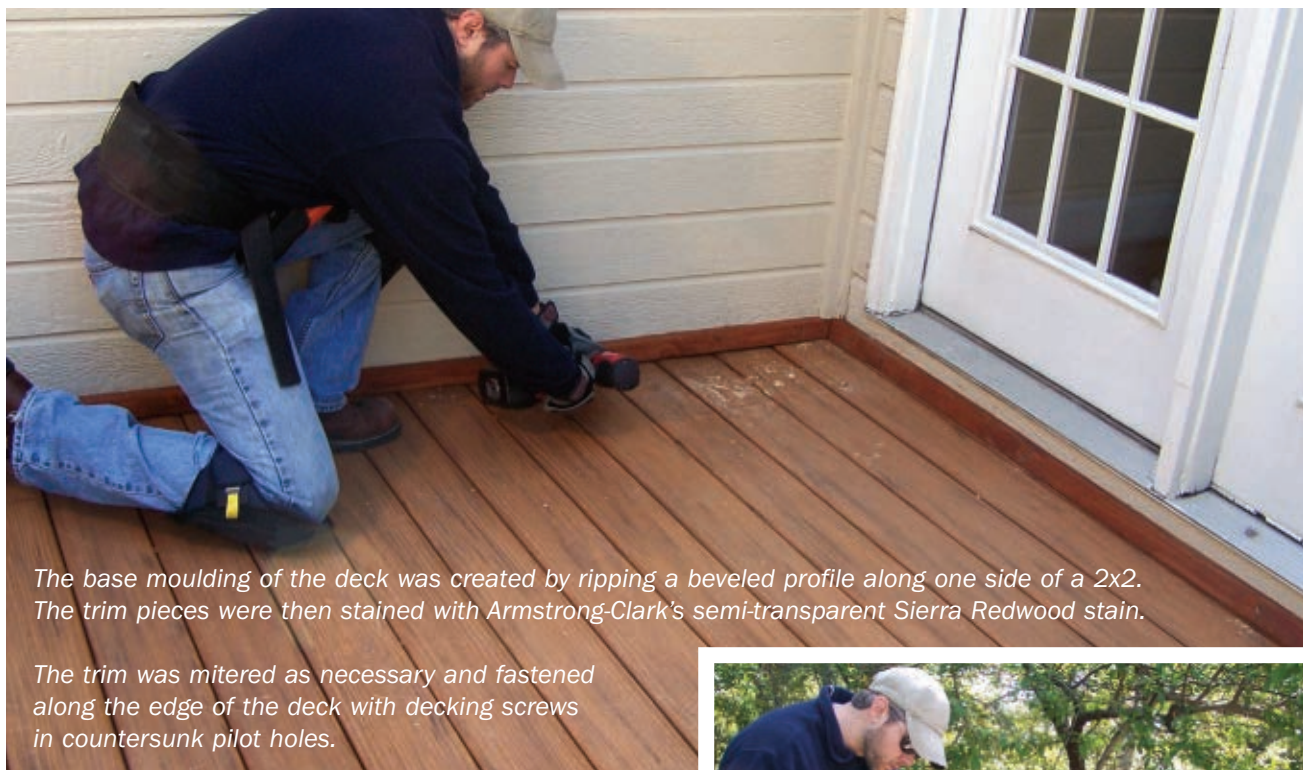
typically this bulky, but this was a deck, and I was trying to keep the wood thick and strong to resist warping from exposure. I was also relying on the protection of a high-quality wood preservative.

For the wood coating, the homeowner selected a semi-transparent Sierra Redwood stain from Armstrong-Clark. The EHT staff has used Armstrong-Clark's oil-based preservatives in the past, and they hold up well against water and UV-rays. The wood stain complemented the new composites very nicely, and I predrilled the base trim and screwed it in place along the edges of the walls. We then added a TimberTech fascia board to the outside edge of the deck and stained the handrail.

The homeowner chose to keep the wood handrail system and stain it to complement the new composite decking. However, the cap rail was in very bad shape, so it was replaced with composite.



DECK RECOVERY >>>



The base moulding of the deck was created by ripping a beveled profile along one side of a 2x2. The trim pieces were then stained with Armstrong-Clark's semi-transparent Sierra Redwood stain.

The trim was mitered as necessary and fastened along the edge of the deck with decking screws in countersunk pilot holes.



The finished project was a dramatic upgrade to the old, weathered lumber of the previously damaged deck. The new deck surface boasted a fresh, warm color and an uninterrupted, blemish-free surface thanks to the hidden fastener system. And just in time for summer. **EHT**

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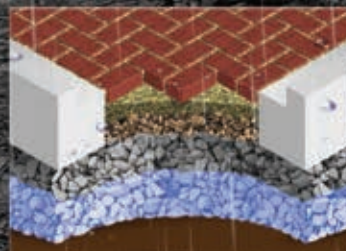
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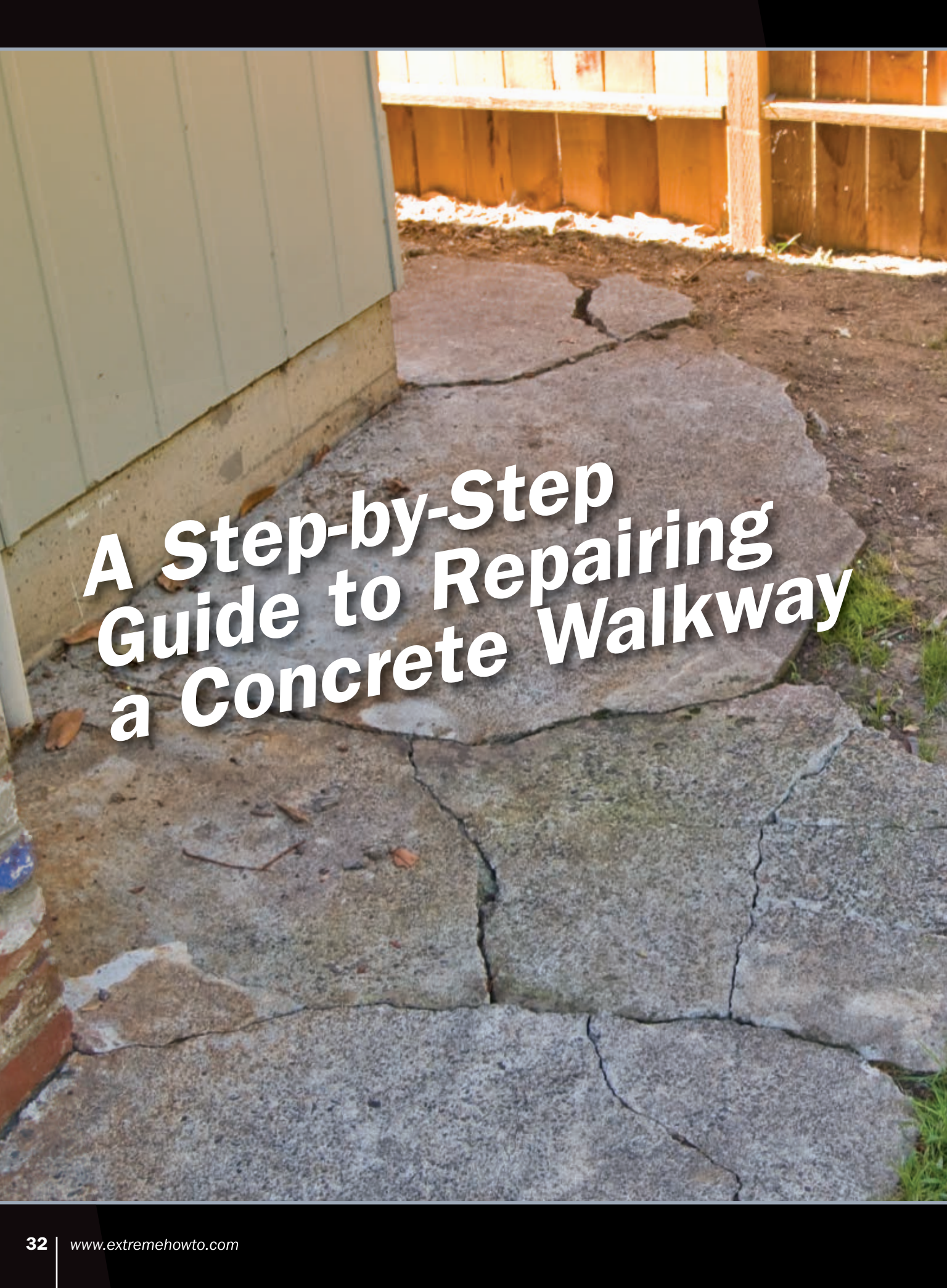
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A Step-by-Step Guide to Repairing a Concrete Walkway



WALK AWAY

REPLACING A SECTION OF SIDEWALK

By Larry Walton

I hadn't paid any attention to the sidewalk that goes from my neighbor Andy's RV parking area to the backyard, until he made a couple of trips over it with the backhoe. Oops! Now, to their credit, this sidewalk was not done right the first time and wouldn't hold up to a big ol' boy on a bicycle, let alone a backyard-seeking backhoe. It was just too thin, especially along the edges.

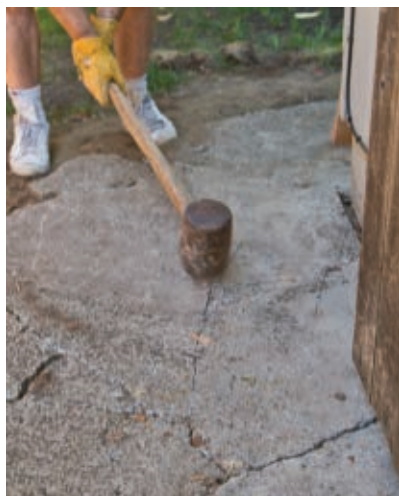
Of course, the goal here is not to place blame, but to get the walkway into top form so Andy and Kaye could put their house on the market in preparation for moving to Europe (which really stinks because they are good friends and we're going to miss them). But I digress. We tackled the sidewalk repair with a minimum of blood and tears, so we figured you could benefit from seeing how we did it.

The original walk was probably an after-thought using some extra concrete left over from a foundation pour. "Hey, we still got some mud on the truck—need some sidewalk or any- or not the original involved too

WALK AWAY

much beer, it certainly didn't get formed to proper depth.

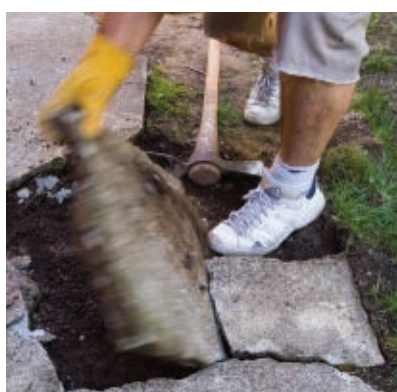
On the plus side, the existing walk was so thin we were able to bust up the concrete with a sledge hammer. If your concrete tear-out project was built better than ours



you will probably need to rent a jackhammer to break it up enough to remove it. Of course, we should have used the backhoe while we had it there!

Remember, the goal in breaking up the old walk is to get pieces small enough to handle without having piles of small rubble, so don't get too carried away.

A mattock is a good tool for lifting the re-sized concrete chunks out



of the ground. Once you get a few pieces loose, remove them before busting up more. This gives the concrete in the adjacent areas room to break off.

It goes without saying that concrete is quite dense, so don't overload your wheelbarrow. Keeping more than half a load up front makes it easier to lift and balance the wheelbarrow.

We tossed the chunks of concrete into my pickup. With apologies to bedliner manufacturers, projects like this are why I leave the inside of my pickup bed stock—and yup, it gets “all narfed up” according to my brother. But it makes it easier to slide loads in



and out, as well as easier to sweep and hose out. I figure if and when I get ready to sell the truck I can add a liner.

We had a couple of options for disposal of the concrete. Our local dump and recycle centers both had areas for “rubble.” The local sand and gravel company also has an area designed to receive “fill.” Our choice was made on proximity and fee level.

BUILDING THE FORMS

We used a laser level to mark several points along the foundation wall. We then used a piece of 2-by-4 and a carpenter's pencil to make a heavy pencil line on the foundation to indicate the level of concrete along the house side of the walkway.

A piece of concrete elevated a 2-by-4 to grade while a level on top



transferred the elevation out to the edge of the walk. We set the outside edge of the walk 1-inch below the house-side grade to get the required 1/4-inch-per-foot drainage drop.



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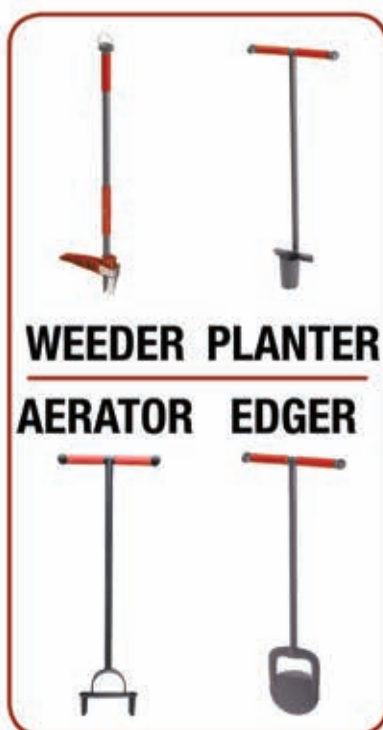
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We laid out the concrete areas with a string and cut the form boards to match the strings. We made wood stakes and drove them in the ground to support the form boards.

Although our crew has miter saws and table saws available, we usually do all of our wood cutting with a circular saw when we're working on concrete projects. This includes ripping for stakes and screed parts.

We nailed the wood stakes to the form boards with duplex-head



nails for easy removal when the concrete is set.

A reciprocating saw made short work of trimming off the stakes at



form-top level. Flush stakes make things much easier during the fine grading, pouring and finishing process.



We used a 2-by-4 with a support piece nailed on top as a fine-grade screed. The fine-grade screed acts as a depth gauge and scraper to get consistent depth, something the previous sidewalk did not have.



Because we knew the ground was well compacted under our project, we made sure not to dig too deep but rather to dig down to the desired grade without loosening the gravel/dirt mix underneath. We avoided needing to re-compact the area. On larger slabs where cracking may be an issue, we plan for several inches or 3/4-inch minus crushed rock to be compacted.

A flat-point shovel is a good tool to remove dirt scraped off during



the fine grading process. The flat point helps maintain an even plane in the formed area and works well against the form boards to get the dirt out.

We used some of the extra dirt material as back-fill to help strengthen the form boards and minimize concrete leaks.



POURING THE SLAB

We called Nation's Mini-mix in Eugene, Oregon (www.nations-minimix.com) for the concrete. Nation's process mixes the concrete on site. You can get just the amount you need.

With the forms set, fine-grading done and the truck backing into position, we sprayed the entire area with water to keep the forms

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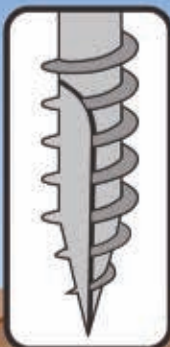
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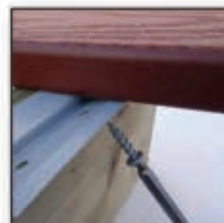
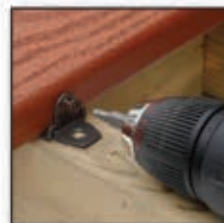
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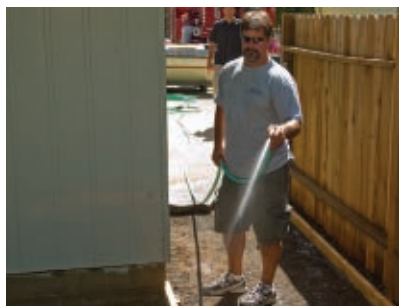
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and dirt from drawing too much moisture out of the concrete mix.

Once the truck is on site, it's very important to keep things moving. Concrete providers usually have a per yard off-loading time requirement. If you take too long to pour, they'll charge you extra for stand-by time. Using two wheelbarrows speeds up the process of getting the mud from the truck to the pour site.

Depending on the shape of your pour, a pair of rubber boots lets you get right into the thick of things to muck that mud into the corners of the formed areas.



We used 2-by-4s as screed boards for grading the concrete flush with the top of the existing walk and form boards. We rented a bull float along with its long handles and reversible edge control to smooth the concrete and start the process of working the larger aggregate away from the surface.



With one section poured and the temporary dividing form board removed, we started adding concrete to the next section. The screed for the second section bridges over the form board on one side and over the fresh concrete of the first section on the other to determine grade height. Keep working the concrete back



with the screed board and watch for any voids. If you keep a little mud piled up along the leading edge of the screed then you know you have the forms full to avoid low spots.

Of course, dumping the right amount of concrete with the wheelbarrow can save a lot of work moving material around within the forms.



In addition to the bull float, we used a magnesium float to work some "fines" to the top for a smooth finish. After waiting for the concrete to set up a bit, we used a trowel to smooth the surface. The key is keeping the leading edge up



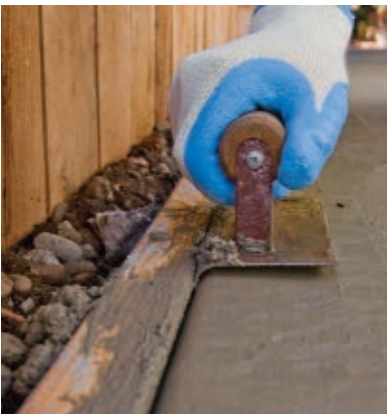
while making each pass with the trowel.

When the concrete is set up enough for troweling, you can get on it with knee boards, which in our case were scraps of plywood.



Knee boards allowed us to reach the areas against the house during the finishing process.

We used an edge tool to finish the sides against the form boards. An edge tool is a special trowel with a radius on one side, which takes the sharp corner off of the sidewalk edge.



We used a joint tool to press a crease into the concrete that lined up with the inside corner. We usually put joints in a sidewalk about every 4 to 6 feet, but in this case we had a hard-to-reach stretch between the house and fence and some odd

geometry where we wanted an extended corner.

We used a 2-by-4 as a straight edge to lay out the joint. It takes some pressure to push the larger aggregate into the mud and several passes to make the joint smooth.



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39



We put a broom finish on our sidewalk to provide traction and cover up minor imperfections in the finish.

BREAKING DOWN & WRAPPING UP

After the concrete sets up for a couple of days it's time to strip the forms. We used the mattock to get under the form boards and pry them up. Of course, you can pull the duplex nails first, but sometimes leaving them in makes it easier to get the stakes out of the ground. In any case, be careful not to damage the edge of the concrete.

A hoe or flat-point shovel make good scrapers to remove extra concrete from the form boards. You can save your form boards for future concrete projects or use them for shed construction. Be sure to watch for nails and



residual concrete when cutting used form boards.

Although we formed our project with plenty of fall for drainage, we still tested it with a bucket of water. The sidewalk passed the test. **EHT**

MATERIALS LIST

- Sledge hammer
- Mattock
- 2x4s
- Circular saw
- Reciprocating saw
- Tape
- String
- Hammer
- Duplex nails
- Wheelbarrow
- Garden hose
- Shovels
- Level
- Bull float
- Mag float
- Concrete trowel
- Edger
- Jointer
- Concrete finishing broom



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EXTREME OUTDOOR COOK

By Monte Burch



COOKING CENTER

Create an outdoor kitchen for your next neighborhood get-together.



EXTREME OUTDOOR COOKING CENTER

I love to cook outdoors. Not only do I like to grill for family and friends, but I smoke a wide variety of meats, such as brisket, ribs and chickens, sometimes for a full neighborhood party. My fish fryer also gets lots of work-out during the summer months. I probably use the turkey fryer the least, only three or four times a year. Over the years I've worked on refining not only outdoor cooking so it's simple and easy, but the equipment needed as well as a comfortable place

to cook. You can, of course do your outdoor cooking any place you can set up a grill, even a small portable grill on a balcony. However, a specific area designed for cooking not only makes it easier to cook, but to store equipment as well. In many cases outdoor cooking also involves entertaining folks, so you may want to set up

your outdoor cooking center suitable to entertaining guests.

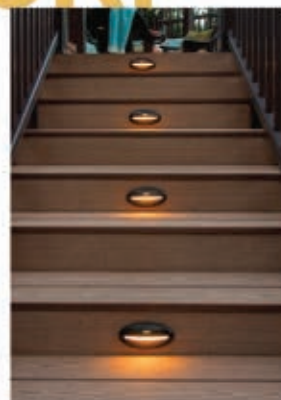
The center shown is an add-on, second-level deck below the main deck. The lower deck provides an area for a gas grill, a built-in storage cabinet with a concrete countertop, and space for guests. Adjoining the lower deck is a small brick patio. This provides space for

(Right) 5/4 deck boards finish off the space between an upper and lower deck, and doors provide access to under-the-deck storage space.

(Below) A cabinet to hold supplies is located on the edge of the deck with doors on both sides to provide access to the deck and patio. A concrete countertop with a Matcrete formed edge provides a work surface.



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EXTREME OUTDOOR COOKING CENTER



Lower deck boards extend under the deck to provide off-the-ground storage.

the smoker and fish fryer, or in my case fryers for those times when I fry for a big party. No matter how hard you work at it, fish fryers splatter and drop grease, creating a cleanup and safety problem on a deck. By the same token, smokers require filling with hot coals and ashes, again a safety problem if done on a wooden deck.

The space between the upper and lower decks has doors to create under-deck storage spaces. Depending on your equipment and cooking style you may wish to vary the center to suit your needs.

DECK IT FIRST

First step in creating the center shown is to build the deck. This is a straightforward deck construction. The deck shown was constructed of Hickson Wolmanized Residential Outdoor Re-dried (air-dried after treatment, ADAT) wood. This makes the wood lighter in weight and ready for immediate finish. A ledger board is fastened to the bottom edge of the upper level deck, making sure it is level. Then lay out the other three sides, using stakes, string line and a

string level. The low-level deck shown was supported on pre-cast concrete deck piers, supported on concrete footings. Make sure you follow local codes and regulations on deck support for your area.

Use the triangle system of 3, 4 and 5 feet to lay the deck out square. Or you can build a large 90-degree triangle to check for square. The side headers are then attached to the ends of the ledger



First step is to frame the deck, which is supported on pre-cast concrete pier blocks.

Joist hangers provide support for the deck framing.



A large, shop-made 90-degree triangle makes it easy to square up the deck.

board, and the front header fastened between the side headers. Joist hangers provide support for the joists. Non-corrosive fasteners suitable for use with pressure-treated materials were used to assemble the deck.

The deck is covered with 5/4 radius-edge deck boards. The lower deck boards extend beneath the upper deck by 24 inches and are also supported on a joist and piers. This provides off-the-ground storage under the deck for items such as fish fryers, pool covers and other equipment. You can also add a covering under the deck to protect the gear from rainwater. A number of products are available, including: Underdeck (www.underdeck.com), RainEscape (www.rainescape.com) and TimberTech (www.timbertech.com).

With the deck assembled, the space between the upper and lower deck levels is covered over with 5/4 deck boards to match the



5/4 pressure-treated deck boards are fastened in place on the framing. A Vaughan Bo-Jack makes it easy to take the warp out of boards.



Once the deck boards are down, a chalk line is snapped and the edge sawn even.

A light sanding removes chalk lines and rough spots.



deck. Two large doors are constructed, again using 5/4 material to provide easy access under the deck. Cleats on the back hold the upright boards together. A cross-brace prevents the doors from eventually sagging. Large hinges and a sliding lock keep the doors in place. The deck, as well as the vertical 5/4 facers and doors are all finished with Sikkens Cetol SRD One-Coat wood finish in Cedar tone. A Black & Decker StainStick makes it easy to apply the material to the deck.

A small brick patio on the end of the deck area is laid for the fryers and smoker. For more detailed deck construction, and finishing, as well as laying a brick patio see www.extremehowto.com.



5/4 vertical facer boards finish off between the upper and lower decks.

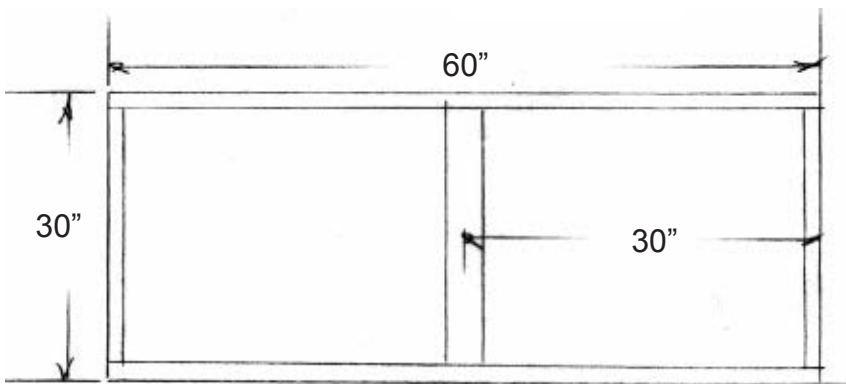


Rounded end 2 x 2's finish off the stair treads.

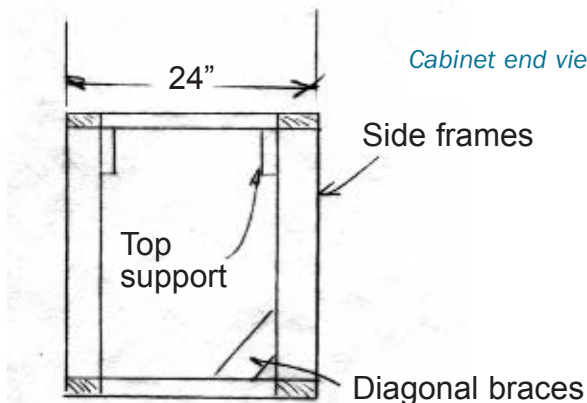


Storage doors are assembled from 5/4 material. Pressure-treated deck, facer boards and doors are treated with Sikkens oil preservative and then hung in place.

Cabinet side view.



Cabinet end view.



BUILDING THE COOK'S CABINET

The storage cabinet is constructed on the end of the deck and next to the brick patio. Doors on both sides, allow access for equipment for the gas grill on the deck side and for charcoal and frying oil on the brick side for the smoker and fryers. The side facing the deck and gas grill has a shelf.

EXTREME OUTDOOR COOKING CENTER



The cabinet is framed in place on the deck using 2 x 4's.

It's important the cabinet be constructed square ...



All frame work for the storage cabinet is pressure-treated lumber. It is not exposed to food prep or food storage. First step in constructing the storage counter is to frame the sides with 2-by-4's, fastening with 3-inch deck screws. Fasten a center vertical divider/support 2-by-4 in place flush with the outside edges of the top and bottom 2-by-4's.

The outside frame on the project shown is positioned 4 inches in from the edge of the deck. Place the frame in position and use a square to make sure it is squared with the facers between the upper and lower deck, and is properly spaced from the deck edge.

Level the top, providing a slight raise at the back for drainage. Use wood shims to achieve the

level desired. Fasten the bottom plate down to the deck and into the joists. With the bottom anchored, use a level to plumb the back end of the frame and secure it to the upper deck, or vertical facer boards. Assemble the inside frame in the same manner. Locate the inside frame the proper distance from the outer frame, making sure it is square with the vertical facers and again anchor the bottom plate. Plumb the back of the frame and anchor it to the vertical facers. Fasten a 2-by-4 support block between the frames at the back, anchoring it to the vertical facers. Do the same for the bottom, between the frames.

Cut a bottom spacer for the front or outer end and anchor it to the deck, and the bottom of the frames to it. Cut a diagonal brace, plumb up one side and fasten the brace in place. Then cut a top front spacer. This spacer is supported by blocks fastened to the inside edges of the side frames. Position the spacer in place, make sure the opposite frame is plumb and fasten the brace. Then anchor the opposite diagonal brace in place. A center top brace is added, supporting it on 2-by-4 blocks anchored to the center vertical supports.

CREATE A CONCRETE COUNTERTOP

The next step is to pour the concrete countertop. The countertop shown is poured in place, and the first step is to create the form. The edges of the countertop are formed using a Matcrete split-face granite edge form to create a unique natural-looking stone type texture. Made of high-quality polyurethane, the forms are easy to install. First step is to add a 2-by-4 support form around



... And plumb.

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EXTREME OUTDOOR COOKING CENTER



The concrete top is formed in place. Form boards are anchored to the cabinet framing.

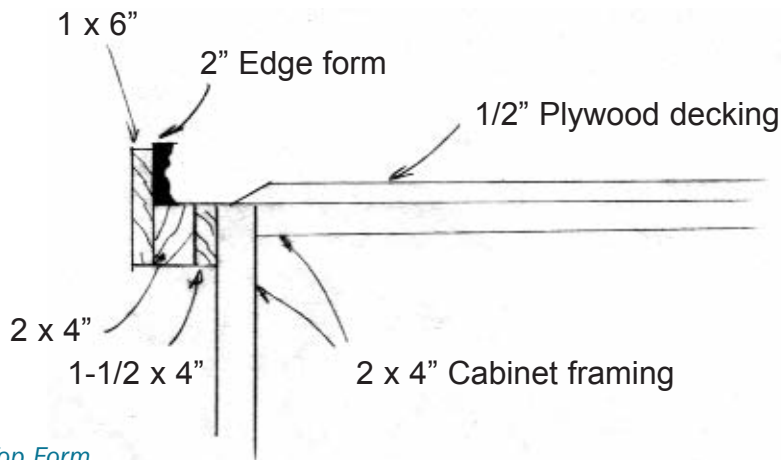


Matcrete 2" splitface Granite Countertop Edge Form is fastened in place with finish nails from the inside.

Quikrete Liquid Concrete Color is added to water, and mixed with bagged Quikrete concrete.



the cabinet. These are held in place with screws to the framework. In the case of the top shown, an additional 1-1/2 inch spacer was also used to allow for the extra width of the cabinet doors and sides. A 1-by-6 form is then added to the 2-by-4 forms. Then the Matcrete countertop edge forms are installed in



Top Form

place. It's important the Matcrete edge form extend slightly above the 1-by-6 form boards. The edge form is held in place with finish nails driven from the inside and into the 1-by-6 form boards. The edge form easily wraps around corners without mitering, but you will need a clamp to pull it in place to fasten. The countertop shown utilized slightly rounded corners on the outside. A 1/2-inch plywood sheathing deck is then placed down on the top support boards, leaving space for the overhang. The plywood edges should be bevel cut at a 45-degree angle to provide more edge support. The plywood is anchored to the supports with screws.

The concrete is then mixed, and you can mix your own. Use sand and gravel mix, but you should avoid using large aggregate. The best choice is to buy a bagged mixture. A 5,000-psi bagged mixture such as Sakrete's 5000-Plus Concrete Mix, is the best choice for this type of pour. The countertop shown required three 80-pound bags. One bottle of liquid cement color in terra cotta was added to the mix. The cement coloring agent is added to water and thoroughly mixed, then added to the dry concrete mix. Add only enough water at a time to blend

the mix and water. For the mix shown you can start with 3/4-gallon of water per bag. A power mixer makes the chore easier, but I made the mix shown in a large wheel barrow using a concrete hoe to mix the ingredients thoroughly.



A concrete hoe is used to thoroughly mix the water and concrete.

The concrete is poured into the form and a board used to screed or level the pour.





It's important to lightly tap the form boards to settle the material and remove any air bubbles.

After a short curing time, the top is smoothed with a trowel.



Once thoroughly mixed, with the coloring evenly distributed, shovel or use a small plastic bucket to pour the concrete into the form, using a trowel to spread it around as needed. You may wish to place drop cloths around the cabinet to prevent getting material onto the wooden deck. Once the form is filled, tap all around the sides with a hammer to settle the concrete and remove any air bubbles. Use a smooth board as a screed to drag off excess concrete, moving the board in a see-sawing motion as you pull off the concrete. Use a trowel to fill in any low spots as you screed and then use a wooden float to remove excess water and further smooth the surface.

Allow the concrete to set until it just slightly dents, then use a smooth-faced metal trowel to smooth the surface. The more you

trowel and the more pressure you apply, the finer the surface finish will be.

For a moist cure, and stronger pour, lightly mist the surface after troweling and cover with plastic sheeting. The countertop should be protected with a concrete sealer to provide protection from water damage, freeze/thaw cycles and chipping. Quikrete Concrete Sealer can be applied while the surface is still damp, but not wet. Or you can apply Thompson Water Seal Concrete Care Sealer 30 days after the pour.

After 24 hours of curing, the form boards were removed. Curing should be continued for five days in warm weather and up to seven days in cold weather. Do not allow the concrete to freeze until completely cured.

The top shown was left as is, but concrete will stain. You can grind and polish the top to a high sheen and use a gloss sealer if you prefer. To grind and polish, use an angle grinder or orbital sander

with progressively finer grits, using water as a slurry on the top. Note: Make sure you use a GFCI protected circuit for this chore.

COMPLETING THE KITCHEN

The next step is to finish out the cabinet by adding the covering and doors. The cabinet shown was covered with Western Red Cedar lap siding and rough-sawn board trim to match the siding and trim on the house. The siding pieces were first treated with waterproofer, and the trim strips with preservative wood stain. Strips of green-painted trim added to the décor.

The cedar siding for the fixed portions, including the end, are first fastened in place using stainless steel siding nails. The brown-stained wooden trim strips are added over the siding using stainless steel finish nails. Then the green-painted accent strips are fastened in place with stainless steel finish nails. Wooden facer

OUTDOOR COOKING

The *Extreme How-To* staff loves to cook, and here are some recommended cookers for your backyard retreat.

Monte Burch — "I've been using a Good-One charcoal smoker for many years. It's an indirect heat, dry smoker. It doesn't have a water pan as do some smokers. This type of smoker provides true, pit-barbeque flavor and is extremely easy to use. Merely fire up the charcoal, add some wood chunks and adjust the dampers. The smoker will cook at 225 degrees for hours without needing attention (www.thegood-one.com).

I've also used fish and turkey fryers from Bass Pro Shops for many years and their Stainless Steel Steamer/Fry Combo is an excellent choice. It comes with everything you need for frying and steaming, including a 10-1/2 quart stainless steel pot with basket and a large 30-quart pot with lid, strainer rack and lifter (www.basspro.com)."

Matt Weber — "I'm partial to the Big Green Egg, a ceramic 'kamado style' smoker that looks like it sounds. It serves as a smoker, a grill and an oven. Use it to smoke turkeys, grill steaks or bake a pizza; it all turns out great. The ceramic walls evenly retain heat for easy temperature control without hot spots, and the end result is some of the juiciest meats you've ever grilled. I've had one for about 8 years and swear by it. I even bought one for my dad (www.biggreenegg.com)."

EXTREME OUTDOOR COOKING CENTER

trim boards are added to the areas surrounding the doors. The doors are constructed using siding and brown-stained trim boards. They are assembled by placing the cut trim siding boards in place on a smooth, flat surface, then attaching the siding boards to their backs with wood glue and staples driven from the siding into the trim boards. The doors are hung with hidden hinges and held in place with heavy-duty magnetic catches. Green-painted knobs finish off the cabinet.

Add chairs and a table for entertaining guests while you cook. Deck lighting can also be added both for ambience and night-time cooking. Learn

more on deck lighting at www.extremehowto.com. **EHT**

Editor's Note: Monte Burch is the author of a number of wild-game dressing and cooking books as well as numerous how-to build-it books. (www.monteburch.com)



Western Red Cedar siding and rough-sawn boards are used to enclose and finish off the cabinet. Green-painted trim strips add to the décor.

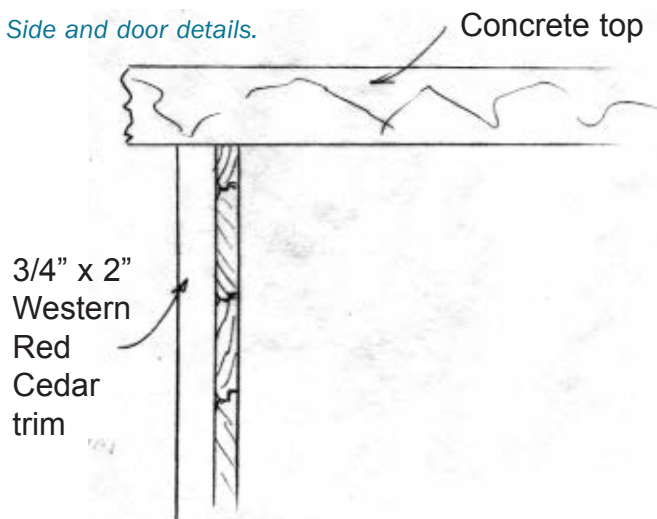
MATERIALS LIST

- **Side top and bottoms**
2 x 4 x 60", 4 req'd.
- **Side ends**
2 x 4 x 27-1/2", 4 req'd.
- **Side center supports**
2 x 4 x 27-1/2", 2 req'd.
- **End bottom and top supports**
2 x 4 x 17", 4 req'd.
- **Top Center Support**
2 x 4 x 17", 1 req'd.
- **Support blocks**
2 x 4 x 6", 6 req'd.
- **Brown trim**
3/4 x 2" (cut to fit)
53 feet req'd.
- **Green trim**
3/4 x 1-3/4" (cut to fit)
16 feet req'd.
- **Siding**
Lap siding (cut to fit)
77 feet req'd.
- **Form boards**
2 x 4 (cut to fit)
16 feet req'd.
- **Form boards**
1 x 6 (cut to fit)
16 feet req'd.
- **Edge form**
152" req'd.
- **Concrete**
80# bags Quikrete
3 req'd.
- **Concrete color**
one bottle



Doors are constructed and hung on the cabinet.

Side and door details.





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CLAS

By Kathy Ziprik



PVC column wraps and a matching balustrade system create a stylish porch with great curb appeal.

CREATE A STYLISH FRONT PORCH >>>

CREATE A CLASSIC FRONT PORCH

Most homeowners dream of relaxing on their front porch and watching the world go by. Tina and Brett Mealer had the same dream, so they decided to transform their hohum, bare-basics porch into a showpiece.

"We had some ugly wooden posts holding up the porch overhang, and the kids kept jumping off the porch area," says Tina Mealer, a resident of Wauseon, Ohio. "We wanted to create more of an enclosure that we could all share together plus add 'curb appeal' to our home."

The Mealers got their dream porch when local contractor Steve Roth installed PVC Column Wraps from Fypon to surround the wooden posts and added balustrade systems to enclose the entire porch area. Made of synthetic materials, the low-maintenance porch pieces resist warping, all forms of insects, decay and rot.

"The column wraps went up easily," says Roth. "Each one comes in a kit and includes a semi-assembled, two-piece wrap with the cap, base, installation cleats and caulk adhesive. The external cleats make installation a breeze by making them easy to reach and providing flexibility in positioning. I had each column wrap up in under 15 minutes."



WORKING WITH PVC COLUMN WRAPS

Fypon PVC Column Wraps are non-structural and must be installed around a previously installed structural post. The post provides the load-bearing component of the column, and the load-bearing capacity is determined by the strength of the post. Note: Do not use untreated lumber for the structural posts.

The bottom of the post should be mounted to a wooden deck or concrete porch floor using a code-approved method and post anchor. The top of the post should be mounted to the beam using an approved post-to-beam mounting bracket.

Cellular PVC becomes more brittle in colder temperatures, making

it more susceptible to damage, so the material should be warmed to 50-55 degrees before installing. To do so, just move the pieces into a heated space and allow time for the material to warm up. If you are unable to warm the columns before installation, you should pre-drill the nail or screw holes to avoid fractures.

Cellular PVC can be cut with conventional carpentry tools. Small pneumatic finish nailers and staplers can be used to fasten the column wrap. However, large framing nailers are not suitable because the drivers can fracture the PVC material. Coarse thread, galvanized or stainless steel dry-wall screws are suitable fasteners. Be sure to drill pilot holes for screws longer than 1-5/8 inch.

WHY PVC?

Polyvinyl Chloride, or PVC, was discovered in the 19th century and is a hard plastic that is made softer and more flexible by the addition of plasticizers. PVC cellular trim products are used on both the interior and exterior. Each trim piece is made of stable high-density PVC that resists decay, mildew, warping and splintering. PVC products are available in boards, sheets, bead board and corners that are easy-to-install and do not require paint. Available in smooth and wood-grain textures, each piece has a consistent quality and finish that requires no sanding, priming or sealing. When working with PVC, shapes

and cuts can be made with standard woodworking tools. It can be also painted to achieve your desired color.

When compared to wood, PVC has a closed cell nature, so water cannot penetrate the product. Unlike wood, PVC trim will not swell, rot or shed a painted surface due to water infiltration. Additionally, PVC resists all forms of insect infestations, woodpeckers, mold and mildew. Another benefit is that PVC has 100 percent product usage. There are no knots, voids or splits (which occur routinely in wood) that can lead to waste and unsightly appearance.

INSTALLING THE COLUMN WRAP KITS

The Fypon column wraps are sold in complete kits. Each kit contains two L-shaped PVC column halves, two L-shaped cap halves, two L-shaped base halves, four L-shaped external installation cleats, and one tube of Siroflex Duo-Sil Adhesive Caulk.

Begin the installation by dry-fitting the column wrap in position over the structural support post. Make sure the column base does not overhang the deck or porch. Note: Always check with local safety codes for any regional requirements.

Measure the support post to determine the length of the column wrap. Use a square to mark cut lines along the wrap half. Cut each wrap half to length with a circular saw or jigsaw.

Next, use the screws provided with the kit to attach the L-shaped external installation cleat to the outside bottom of the column wrap. The cleat designates the bottom of the column. Then dry-fit the two halves together over the support post. Fypon provides arrows inside the column wrap to ensure the miters match up correctly.



For this particular porch project, the Mealers wanted a matching balustrade railing system. If installing railing, then pressure-treated blocking must be installed at the height where the railing will be attached to provide solid support for the railing and fasteners. The thickness of the blocking must span the entire space between the post and inside surface of the

column wrap. Additionally, the mounting screws must be long enough to go through the blocking into the support post. However, if no balustrade system will be installed, you can skip the blocking.

CREATE A CLASSIC FRONT PORCH



Far left: The column wraps are mounted to the floor with L-shaped cleats.

Left: Use a chalk line to guide the installation when installing multiple wraps in a row.

Below: Install the wraps one half at a time using code-approved exterior fasteners and the supplied adhesive.

To install the wraps, first apply the provided caulk to the two mitered edges of the column wrap halves. With the L-shaped cleats at the bottom, position the two column halves around the support post. Make sure the cleats are flush at the base. Fasten the shaft seams together every 6 to 8 inches using 1-1/4-inch rust-resistant fasteners. Wipe off the excess caulk before it dries.

Next, fasten the base of the column to the floor by driving flat-headed fasteners through the cleats. The base assembly of the column wrap will set directly on

top of these fasteners, so they need to be flush. The cap and base will conceal the fasteners.

Plumb both sides of the column shaft. Use a pencil to mark the position of the shaft when plumb. Then secure the two remaining

installation cleats to the ceiling, while the shaft is plumb. The cleats will surround the column, locking it into position. Again, the fasteners should be flush so the cap can butt up tightly against them.





Remove any soap residue with clean water.

For best performance, paint Cellular PVC using light colors with a Light Reflective Value of 55 percent or higher. Dark colors will have an impact on the expansion and contraction of the material.

WRAPPING IT UP

After installing the three PVC Column Wraps, Roth moved on to the structural balustrade system. The Mealers selected an Ashley design that connected to the column wraps and enclosed the entire front porch.

Made of non-corrosive parts with fasteners that are hidden



Finish the installation by attaching the cap and base to the column, positioning them directly against the cleats. Apply the Siroflex brand Sealant and Adhesive to the mitered edges at the corners. Also caulk the small gap between the column shaft and the cap and base. Wipe away any excess caulk and use light-weight spackle to fill the fastener holes. Lightly sand or scuff the surface to remove excess spackle. Then clean the surface with light detergent and water, denatured alcohol or window cleaner.



CREATE A CLASSIC FRONT PORCH

to provide clean, classic looks, the Fypon balustrade system features reinforced baluster rails, newels and porch posts. "The rail system went in as effortlessly as the column wraps," says Roth. "It's impressive that these pieces connect together so well and each piece is so uniform."

Fypon's balustrade systems are also available in installation

kits, which contain all the hardware and fasteners necessary to complete the project. The systems are available in more than 40 different sizes and styles. For in-depth instructions on how to install the balustrade systems, visit the Fypon website at www.fypon.com. **EHT**

When installing an accompanying balustrade system, blocking must be added inside the column wraps to provide a solid mounting location for the fasteners.



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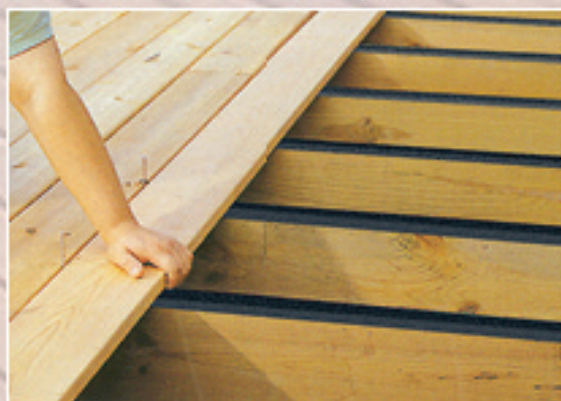
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