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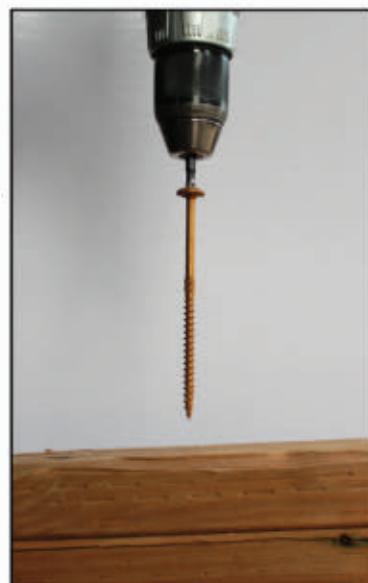
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As a side note to our Deck Product Update that appears in this month's issue, I thought I'd check to see if there have been any major updates to deck-building codes that I should note for our DIY readers. After a little research I mostly found clarifications to existing rules as well as some minutiae relating to specific geographic areas. (For example, proposal RB247-13 eliminates the requirement in certain seismic zones for blocking over a beam when joists cantilever 24 inches or less ... yawn.) I didn't find any particularly earthshaking code changes that will significantly alter how most DIY'ers will build a deck.

Building codes are funny things insofar as they can be proposed, amended and even rescinded by the governing code councils before your local jurisdiction ever adopts them in the first place. The lateral load anchor requirements made a splash in 2012 because they complicated how deck-builders would connect a deck ledger to a house. Since that proposal, however, decks of certain heights have been made exempt, and new hardware devices have hit the market that make the lateral-load connection easier to achieve—and each of these developments have to be proposed, discussed and voted on to meet code approval. Meanwhile, your local building inspector is probably not even looking for the lateral load anchors anyway, because the 2012 codes still haven't been adopted by your city.

It's a pain in the neck trying to figure out exactly how to build a deck in a way that meets the most stringent new International Residential Code requirements. Best practice is to always check with your local building authorities, but don't worry about future requirements that haven't yet come to your city, because they may never arrive. The whole building-code system seems to involve a lot of unnecessary bureaucracy and confusing red tape. Every three years, codes are updated, and these constant changes prove difficult for pro builders and remodelers to keep up with. Even people who inspect for code struggle to keep up with the changes.

In response to all the code confusion, the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) and the American Institute of Architects are urging the International Code Council to reconsider its code cycle. They are lobbying for the codes to be changed every six years instead of every three. I hope their efforts pay off. Imagine the luxury of getting twice the

time to learn about all the new recommended building techniques before the people in charge change their minds and set new rules about how to build. I could also write fewer of these columns on building-code changes, and that would suit me just fine.



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Extreme How-To is published by
LATITUDE3 MEDIA GROUP, LLC
2300 Resource Drive, Suite B
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone 205.949.1600 • Fax 205.949.1601
www.extremehowto.com

Extreme How-To (ISSN 1540-5346) is published and distributed monthly to DIY home improvement enthusiasts by Latitude3 Media Group, LLC, 2300 Resource Drive, Suite B, Birmingham, AL 35242 (executive and editorial offices). All rights reserved. Neither this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without permission of Latitude3 Media Group, LLC. Subscriptions: U.S. and possessions: 1 year (9 issues) - \$18.97; foreign, 1 year (9 issues) - \$32.50. U.S. funds only. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Extreme How-To, P.O. Box 4320, Oregon, IL 61061. SUBSCRIBER SERVICE: To order a subscription or change your address, write to Extreme How-To, P.O. Box 4320, Oregon, IL 61061, or call 888-587-8911; or E-mail to ehw@pubdmgroup.com; or visit www.extremehowto.com. To order back issues, call (205) 949.1603.

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Q: I replaced the floor tile in a bathroom. The new tile isn't nearly as thick as the old tile, and now my toilet sits 3/4-in. too high. How do I fix this?

A: The old tile may have been installed in a thick mortar bed, whereas today's tile is generally installed on a thinner bed of adhesive. Now that the floor surface is lower, you'll need to install a Toilet Base Plate

around the drain beneath the toilet, which functions as decorative shim beneath the toilet base. A toilet base plate can be used to fill in the gap between the floor and toilet to eliminate rocking. The plates are stackable, easy to install, non-corrosive and provide a clean, professional look to the toilet.

Q: I'd like to add a ceiling fan in my bedroom, but the center of the room (where I'd like to locate it) falls right on a ceiling joist. I was hoping to install between the joists from the attic side, but now I've found an obstacle. How do I mount the fan?

A: Try using a PVC saddle box. These electrical fan boxes straddle the bottom edge of the joist, and lag screws pass completely through the fan bracket, through the box and into the framing member. The wires are threaded upward on either side of the joist, and there's no need to cut the ceiling framing.

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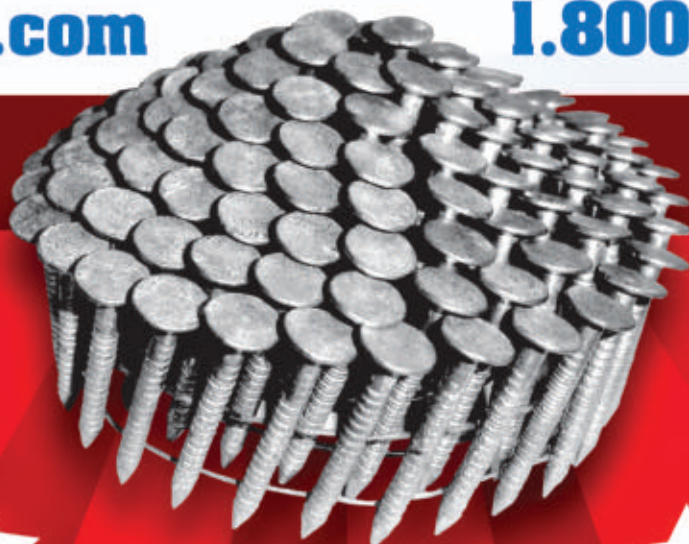


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A: A faulty thermostat might be the problem. While the fan is stuck running after the furnace has shut off, remove the face of the thermostat, which disconnects the terminals. If this stops the fan, then replace the thermostat. If the fan is still running then the problem might be a problem with wiring, or possibly a faulty control board or Fan & Limit Controller (in older furnaces), which should be set to switch off the fan at a preset temperature. Over time the Controller switches can get rusted and worn out and require replacement.

Q: I'm planning to build a deck attached to the rear of the house. It will be about 2 feet high. Is it necessary to connect the deck to the house ledger using the lateral load hold-down anchors that I've seen in your magazine?

A: Always consult your municipal building department to determine local code requirements, but the lateral load anchors that were suggested in the 2012 International Residential Code (which we have reported on in *EHT*) probably haven't yet been adopted by most jurisdictions. Furthermore, the 2015 International Residential Code makes an exception to the hold-down-device provision for decks less than 30 inches above grade, so it sounds like you're 24-in. tall deck would be fine without the extra hardware. **EHT**

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Toolbox Essentials



By Tom Matthews

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DaVinci roofing tiles have all the appearance and beauty of natural slate or shake, but with a higher level of durability from the proprietary-engineered polymer roofing formula. The tiles are designed for easy installation, while protecting against the elements for decades to come. DaVinci offers the discerning homeowner a level of style and beauty previously unattainable, backed by a lifetime limited warranty and made in the United States.



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STARRETT COMBINATION SQUARES

The Starrett Combination Squares consist of a machine-divided, hardened and tempered steel rule (or blade) and an adjustable square head. A reversible lock bolt allows the blade to be turned over or end-for-end without removing the lock bolt or nut. This ensures true alignment of the blade and heads. The square heads are made of cast iron and are not

easily cut into plates and wires with both horizontal and vertical serrations that bite into any screw head. Made in Japan from hardened Kobe steel, the T-shaped handle and comfortable cushioned grip make sure even the most difficult screws are easily removed with no slippage. Visit www.vampiretools.com.



to be confused with the cheap imitation plastic or die cast heads on the market. The value of Starrett tools is that they are accurate and will last. As the name indicates, this tool can be used for many different purposes; a complete substitute for a whole set of common solid try squares, a 45 degree miter, a depth gauge, a height gauge, a marking or scribing gauge, a level, a plumb and, by withdrawing the blade, it can also be used as a precision rule. Visit www.starrett.com.

ACCUMASTER 2-IN-1 DIGITAL ANGLE GAUGE

Finally, there's a digital angle gauge you can depend on. Unlike earlier technology cubes that drain batteries just sitting in a drawer, the new AccuMASTER uses a low-power MEMS sensor for utmost accuracy and extensive battery life. What's more, the invertible display with extra bright, always-on backlight makes it far easier to see at every angle. With the AccuMASTER 2-in-1 Digital Level and Angle Gauge you can find true level and precisely check



angles on saw blades, jointer fences, sharpening planes, drill press and band saw tables, bevels and many more precision tools. The strong magnetized base lets you attach directly to any

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metal surface—tables, blades and more. IP54 protected from water and dust, it includes two long-life AAA batteries, protective case and a two-year warranty. Visit www.calculated.com.

KOBALT RAPID-ADJUST WRENCH

The Kobalt Rapid-Adjust Wrench set features an innovative design with advanced gear technology and simple-squeeze triggers. The 6-in. squeeze wrench offers a jaw capacity from 1/8 to 1 inch, and the 8-in. squeeze wrench offers a jaw capacity from 1/16 to 1-1/8-inch. Advanced gear technology allows the jaws to stay tightly closed around fasteners until the release trigger is pressed, so you don't lose your grip on



nuts and bolts. The simple-squeeze trigger function closes the jaws in smooth, precise movements for ease of use. A quick-release trigger allows for one-handed use in tight work spaces and replaces the traditional thumb wheel adjustment, so you can easily change jaw capacity. Laser-etched callouts make it easy to adjust for different-sized fasteners, and heavy-duty steel construction provides strength and durability for tackling tough projects. Plus, it's backed by Kobalt's Hassle-Free Lifetime Guarantee. Visit www.lowes.com.

WISS SINGLE RING SHOP SHEARS

The new Wiss Single Ring Shop Shears provide users the control of traditional ring shears with the power of heavier industrial shears.

The Single Ring Shop shears feature full-length steel blades that provide maximum strength. For extra durability and a longer life, the heavy-duty blades have a titanium coating that is three times

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harder than steel. Designed for use where lighter weight shears won't make the cut, the blades extend through the full length of the handles for utmost force and reliable cutting of heavy materials. Additionally, spring-loaded blades help to reduce fatigue on long and complicated cuts. The Single Ring Shop Shears have a serrated blade that grips materials for a more even cut, and the ergonomic ring design allows for maximum control. The shears also feature a die-cast metal lock that keeps the blades closed when not in use. Visit www.wisstool.com.

CRESCENT 10" LOCKING ADJUSTABLE WRENCH

With the versatility of an adjustable wrench and the gripping power of a locking plier, the new Crescent 10-in. Locking Adjustable Wrench provides increased access for a wide variety of fasteners. Users often need amplified gripping power for both tightening

and loosening rounded fasteners in confined locations. The 10-in. Locking Adjustable Wrench provides the increased adjustability necessary to squeeze different shapes and sizes. The new wrench has an anti-slip adjustable jaw with a 1-5/16-in. maximum opening. **EHT**



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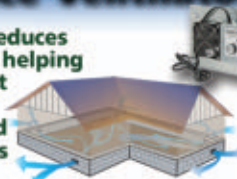
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Zerust Vapor Capsules are a simple solution to protecting your tools. With different options to meet your space needs, the vapor capsules make rust prevention the easiest option available. Simply place or adhere the vapor capsules to the inside of your tool box or other existing storage container, and your metal items are protected from rust and corrosion for up to two years or until removed from the storage container.

DRAWER LINERS

The perfect companion for any toolbox, Zerust Drawer Liners combine the patented corrosion-inhibiting formula with a heavy-duty non-slip rubber to keep your tools in tip-top shape. Available in a non-slip mesh or solid rubber, the liners can be cut to fit any drawer or storage box shape or size, and will protect your tools from denting, slipping and rusting for up to five years.

MULTIPURPOSE VCI POLY BAGS

Fabricated from the most widely used Zerust packaging product, these handy bags protect their contents from rust and corrosion for up to five years. Zerust Multipurpose VCI Poly Bags come in a variety of sizes with multiple closure options and are great for storing tools, hardware and small building materials.

Don't let your tools succumb to rust and corrosion. Give them the best with Zerust rust prevention products, available for purchase at www.zerustproducts.com.



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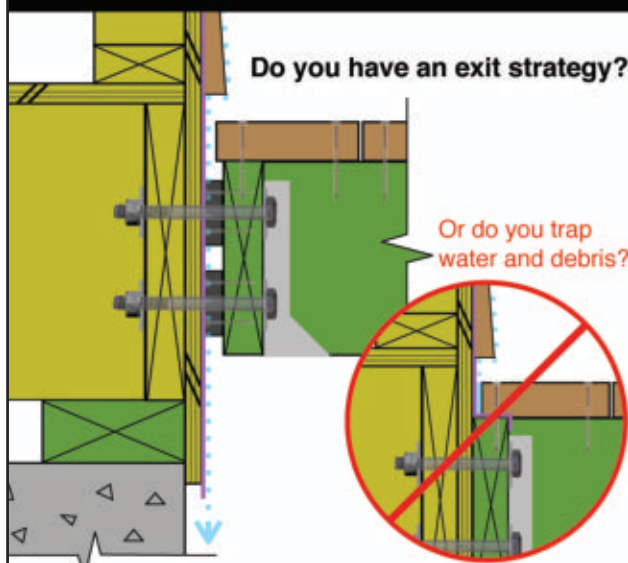


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Install a Retractable Door Screen



By Matt Weber

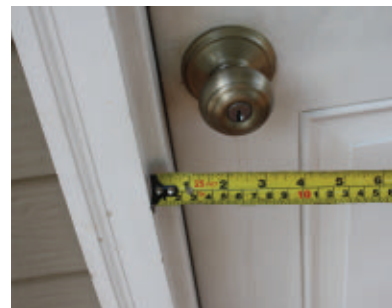
Bugs... Nobody wants them inside their house, but that's what was flying through the big rips in our previous back-door screen. The old screen had draped the doorway, split in the middle and weighted at the bottom. It worked fine for a while, but an impatient cocker-spaniel and a headstrong one-year-old eventually tore it to shreds while trying to fight their way through it.

A new screen that neatly and easily tucked out of the way seemed like a good choice for a replacement, and ODL just happened to have such a new design on the market. The product was marketed as "easy to install," but

one person's "easy" project is another person's confusing pile of parts, so I decided to dive into the project and give you my version of the installation procedure, which I think will elucidate the instructions that came with the kit.

The ODL Brisa Retractable Screen Door comes in one of three kits: Single Door, Double Door, and Sliding Door; as well as three door sizes (for heights of 6'6", 6'8" and 8'0"). This article details installation of a single standard 6'8" kit, which covers 32- to 36-in. openings.

The screen frame will expand outward against the inside face of the casing/brick mould, so



measure the distance between the two interior edges to determine the size of your opening.

Refer to the screen instructions regarding the sill of your doorway. If your door has a short sill (meaning its front edge ends before the brick mould/casing terminates), then you won't have adequate lower support for the screen frame to sit on. In this case you'll need to add blocking beneath it or make some other accommodation to the sill before installing the screen frame.

The screen kit contains five primary components: The left- and right-hand housing units, the upper and lower tracks that connect them, plus a sill plate assembly. You can assemble all the parts on the ground to form the screen frame, but leave the connections loose so the tracks can slide in and out of the housing. This allows you to adjust the frame's width once inside the door frame, so you can fasten flush to the casing.



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QUICK FIX

When assembling, be sure to orient the screen housing on the hinge side of the door. Insert the notched ends of the tracks into one of the housing units. Arrows marked on the connection tabs of the housing show where to align the channels of the tracks. Make sure the connections are aligned so the screen can thread through the channel.



Before adding the second housing unit onto the tracks, slide the bead of the sill-plate assembly into the groove of the bottom track. Once in place, slip the two plastic sill extenders onto the sill plate.



Finish assembly by inserting the flat ends of the tracks into the other decorative housing unit, completing the rectangular frame. Slide the frame together and tilt it into place. Extend the housings to the left and right so they slide



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against the inside of the casing. The housing has slotted screw holes, and the kit includes fasteners. Fire screws through each hole into the casing at each frame corner. Pin down the sill plate with sill screws, keeping the screws 4 inches from each end.



The sill extenders slide to each end of the frame sill to ensure all gaps are covered on both sides at the floor level. You can cut the plastic extenders for a tailored fit, but I just slid them beneath the door casing and tucked them out of the way.

The new screen slides easily along the track and simply hooks



onto the door latch. Simply lift the lever to open.

The retractable screen is easy to install and it works well. If you've got thirty minutes and a bug-intrusion problem, then you can add one yourself. **EHT**

For more information, visit www.odl.com.





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Channellock, Inc. Keeps History Alive Through Channellock® Champions



When a company has been around for over 130 years, how do they stay innovative? If they're smart, they keep an eye on evolving platforms such as social media, while staying true to the quality and tradition that is their foundation. This is Channellock, Inc.

Celebrating their 131st year, Channellock, Inc. is best known for evolving and elevating their tools while remaining committed to quality. They use the best materials, invest in the latest research and rely heavily on their most loyal fans for feedback. All of the company's tools—whether it's the tried-and-true 440® or the new line of Little Champs®—are

designed with extreme DIY'ers in mind. Dubbed the Channellock® Champions, these are the brand ambassadors that are bringing Channellock into the future.

"A lot has changed over the past 131 years, but one thing that will never change is our commitment to producing best-in-class tools," said Jon DeArment, president and COO of Channellock, Inc. "Our Channellock Champions want to buy American-made products that they can pass down to the next generation. We're proud to be the industry leader among the fiercest tradesmen and DIY'ers."

Channellock advertising has evolved over the years as well. While they're still embracing

traditional print ads, they've bolstered their social media presence and have a dedicated following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The company is not afraid to ask for feedback from their Channellock Champions and interact with them on a daily basis in real time.

In 2016, Channellock unveiled a series of new tools at the National Hardware Show in Las Vegas, including the Little Champs pliers, which are lighter, slimmer and more balanced. The company also unveiled a line of Professional Snips, crafted from drop-forged molybdenum alloy steel for maximum strength. The snips are designed with the same

commitment to quality that Channellock is known for. Finally, Channellock announced an updated version of its go-to tool, the 12" Oil Filter/PVC Plier with Angled Head. Designed for car aficionados, the plier has all of the strength and reliability of the iconic Tongue and Groove Pliers yet addresses the special needs of large PVC and oil filters. What makes this tool special is that it has a 30-degree angled head that allows access to previously impossible to reach areas. It also features a PermaLock® fastener to eliminate nut and bolt failure and has the famous Channellock BLUE® grips for comfort.

The new tools are all designed with the Channellock Champion in mind. They offer greater precision, ultimate performance and



enhanced design to make the jobs of the extreme DIY'er easier.

The next time you're on Facebook, consider this: 96 percent of people who discuss a brand, be it a complaint, engagement or review, do not follow the brand on social media. However, Channellock has a community of over 260,000 social followers, the most active being Channellock Champions.

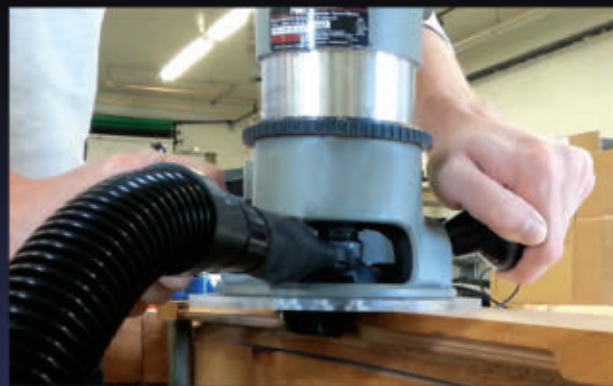
For over 130 years, Channellock has been known for best in industry innovation, standards and high quality craftsmanship, fiercely made in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Now, as the company focuses on the next 130 years, they're looking to form partnerships with serious DIY'ers who want to get the job done. If you're reading this and think you're a Channellock Champion, be sure to visit channellock.com or follow the company on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to join the conversation and help shape the future. **EHT**

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DECK PRODUCT UPDATE

Decks offer homeowners a versatile way to customize their outdoor entertainment area. From a wide range of building materials to an even wider array of decorative amenities, the way we build—and rebuild—our decks is always evolving. Here's a rundown of some of the latest deck-building products on the market.

IMPRESSION RAIL

With its easy installation, up to 30 percent faster than other aluminum rail systems, Impression Rail from AZEK and TimberTech has a lightweight profile and saves time and labor by eliminating the need for welding equipment. Available in black or bronze, the low-maintenance, high-quality powder-coated



aluminum profiles are engineered for strength, security and aesthetics. The system offers the look and feel of high-end wrought iron at an affordable price point. Its durable profile welcomes in the outdoors with unobstructed views and is available in 6-, 8- or 10-ft. lengths and 36- or 42-in. heights, plus it's covered by a 25-year warranty. Visit azek.com or timbertech.com.



Photo courtesy of TimberTech



DECK PRODUCT UPDATE

U2 FASTENERS

Anyone who's ever built a deck knows that quality fasteners must be durable, reliable and easy to use. U2 fasteners™ offers a new generation of innovative, code-approved, premium fasteners that have superior features, coating and driving capability. With five product lines, they have a diverse

piercing and alleviating strain on the material. The "Tight Star Recess" system is designed to grasp the U-Bit tightly, so the screw can be installed with one hand. Underneath the Universal head, "Burrow Pockets" are dynamically engineered to help countersink into the toughest of materials. Below the smooth



lineup of all essential screw types. U2 fasteners Universal screw is ideal for replacing your old deck screws. Features include the Tapper Point, which consists of the "Cork Screw Start" and "Blade Cutting Thread" for easy



shank is the "Reamer Thread," which enlarges the hole to create a passage when drawing materials together and reduces tension for the screw head. The U2 Universal Screw is available in lengths from 1-1/2 to 6 inches in hardened steel and from 1-1/2 to 4 inches in 316-grade Stainless Steel.

U2 fasteners' U-Bits are specifically designed to fit snug and firm on the "Tight Star Recess" of the company's screw assortment. However, U2 fasteners also fit the traditional star drive. U-Bits are impact-driver ready and are made of the same case-hardened steel as the fasteners to prevent wear and tear. (Note: Chromium-6, a known carcinogen, is commonly used in anti-corrosion coatings, but U2 fasteners does not use Chromium-6 for its coating.) Visit u2fasteners.com.



DECKORATORS DECK VISUALIZER

There is a new tool available for deck design and project consultations on the go. Deckorators has introduced a tablet version of its powerful Deck Visualizer app. The new mobile application is available to dealers, deck builders and homeowners as a free download from iTunes and Google Play. Built for tablets running iOS or Android, the Deck Visualizer mobile app perfectly complements the new web-based program available at Deckorators.com/deckvisualizer. Pros will enjoy the same highly intuitive and interactive functionality, plus the ability to save projects and work seamlessly between the mobile and online versions. Like the web-based version of the Deckorators Deck Visualizer, the Deck Visualizer mobile app goes beyond the ordinary design tool. App users can choose from the complete



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DECK PRODUCT UPDATE

line-up of Deckorators composite decking, railings, balusters, post caps and more to design a deck. Utilize versatile design capabilities such as picture framing, board angles, unique shapes and multi-level options. Pull a full report of the design, including installation tips and a complete materials list. Visit Deckorators.com.

SIMPSON STRONG-TIE CONCEALED BEAM TIE

For homeowners who prefer to hide their deck hardware, a new connector from Simpson Strong-Tie provides a strong but practically invisible link between a beam and a post. Designed for use with 4x, 6x, and larger beams and posts, Simpson's CBTZ system consists of a galvanized steel tube that is inserted into the beam and the post, as well as steel dowel pins that anchor the tube. Two versions are available: the CBT2Z with four dowels for a minimum 4x4 post, and the CBT4Z with six dowels for a 6x6 post and a 6x8 beam. Visit strongtie.com.



DECKWISE ALTITUDES PEDESTAL SYSTEM

DeckWise, The Ipe Clip Fastener Company, brings innovation and essential products to the decking industry with the addition of three new products in 2017. The DeckWise Altitudes Pedestal System has been developed to level underutilized sloped roof tops, plazas, concrete patios, and balconies into beautiful useable spaces. The system is designed



to fit tightly inside containment walls and be restrained from movement. The pedestals hold multiple patents and are built from three basic components; a self-leveling swivel head, Schedule 40 PVC and a screw-to-adjust base. The pedestals will support and elevate 24-by-24-in. Ipe hardwood deck tiles over multiple substrate slopes

for a smooth and even deck tile surface with a load-bearing capacity of up to 1,200 lbs. per pedestal. The PVC pipe allows for safe height variations up to 24 inches. The self-leveling swivel head has slope compensation from 0-5 percent with precise 3/16-in. spacer tabs integrated into the head to produce perfect tile gap spacing. Deckwise Deck tiles are secured to the pedestal with pine tree fasteners (rated up to 166 lbs. of wind hold-down strength) and the patented adjustable Lockit Down Washer.

DECKWISE WISERAIL CABLE RAILING KITS

Decks are constructed in all sizes and shapes, however there are only a handful of cable runs that can go on those decks; inside-of-post to inside-of-post, inside-of-post to outside-of-post, and outside-of-post to outside-of-post. The DeckWise WiseRail kits allow several methods to run cable on any deck. Every kit is designed to be seen through and attractive for any hardwood or wood deck project. The invisible hardware hides inside the end posts so you can't see them. The WiseRail Ready-To-Install Kits come pre-packaged with high-quality stainless steel cable and sleek stainless steel hardware fittings. These cable railing kits





are easy to install and can be utilized for both outdoor and indoor residential and commercial applications. For DIY enthusiasts, DeckWise offers these pre-assembled cable railing kits for wood posts in lengths from 5 ft. up to 50 ft. No matter the cable run length, you will be able to use the non-tensioning push-lock or pull-lock on the hardware to easily secure the cable. All cable railing kits come with stainless steel hardware fittings for ends, all fasteners and washers necessary, 1/8-in. diameter 1x19 Type 316 stainless steel cable, and installation instructions.

WISEWRAP LEDGERTAPE

DeckWise WiseWrap LedgerTape flashing barrier tape prevents wood rot, which is important to consider when constructing any deck. Whether building an Ipe hardwood deck, a PT or composite deck, trapped moisture allows the formation of fungus, mold and rot, which will shorten the life of any deck. Each roll of LedgerTape measures



12 inches by 25 feet, approximately 35-40 mil thick, and self-seals around penetrating screws, nails or hardware. LedgerTape flashing is a flexible polyethylene waterproof barrier material manufactured with a rubberized asphalt mastic adhesive. LedgerTape also prevents the degradation of in-ground wooden posts caused by mold and fungal growth below grade level. Easily apply this self-adhesive, durable material to protect in-ground wooden support posts for decks, fences, mailboxes and more. Visit deckwise.com.



ECOLIFE STABILIZED WOOD

Real wood is the most sustainable, renewable and economical decking and fencing option you can use, and Viance offers improved wood treatment solutions that allow the beauty of real wood to shine through. Ideal for decks and other above-ground outdoor projects, Ecolife is comprised of a non-metallic, carbon-based preservative plus wood-stabilizing polymer that offers the natural beauty of real wood combined



with advanced weather protection and fastener performance. Ecolife is fully protected against termite attack and decay, and the proprietary treatment also stabilizes the wood structure. Ecolife Stabilized Wood significantly reduces the problems of bending, twisting or warping that affect many other treated wood products, so Ecolife lumber performs much better as the structural frame beneath any deck surface. Visit treatedwood.com.

ARMSTRONG-CLARK WOOD COATINGS

The EHT staff has used Armstrong-Clark extensively over the last several years on decks and fences, and we keep coming back for a reason—good looks and lasting performance. The Armstrong-Clark line of wood coatings combines the effectiveness of the drying concentrate of a typical

DECK PRODUCT UPDATE



stain with two non-drying oils, which soak into the wood and actually improve the condition of the wood. Plus, the preservative formula meets some of the most

stringent VOC standards in the country. The formula is also the only oil-based coating that can be applied in direct sunlight. Choose from a broad selection

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For more information visit
kopperspc.com



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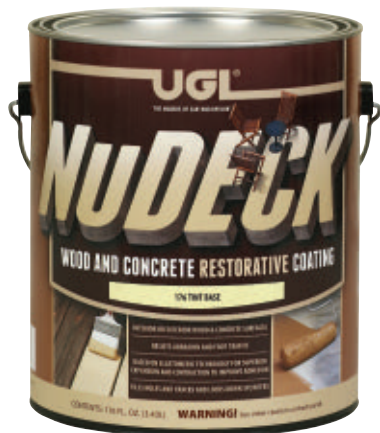
HOW IT WORKS



DECK PRODUCT UPDATE



the color of surrounding vertical surfaces such as siding, railings, posts and walls. The product is ten times thicker than paint or stain, so it locks down splinters and fills 1/4-in. cracks and nail holes. NuDECK is easy to apply with a brush or roller and easy to clean up with soap and water. Visit www.ugl.com.



WESTERN TIMBER FRAME

Western Timber Frame specializes in new decks and making old decks into fabulous outdoor rooms. Decks are also a great way to increase the square footage of a home with additional living space. Western Timber Frame specializes decks with oversized timber posts, Trex composite planks and decorative balusters; sometimes with integrated benches, furniture and/or planter boxes. Pergola frames can be incorporated with hanging bench swings, outdoor curtains and more. Wraparound

an Attached Deck usually allows for only one exit point from the house, but they can curve around a corner of the house for additional space. Pergola, Gazebo or Pavilion Covered Decks extend the outdoor living season even longer. In cases where homeowners feel overly exposed to the neighbors or just want to add some additional shade to the deck, lattices/or trellises can provide some beautiful privacy. Western Timber Frame offers a free consultation with a Design Manager for all these projects. Visit westerntimberframe.com.



Decks can accommodate entryways at both ends of the house or yard. Multi-level Decks can have stairways on one or both ends and can accommodate more space for entertaining within a smaller area. A Freestanding Deck within the landscape or at the end of the yard, for example, can turn a rough terrain or mud area into a usable level space with new interest. Depending on the size,

DECKS UNLIMITED

Deck2wall Spacers (D2W) are polypropylene spacers designed for spacing a deck ledger off a house. This allows water and debris to flow between the ledger and the house, promotes circulation and drying, and helps prevent rot. Often times when a deck collapses, a poorly designed ledger connection is the culprit. Stacked washers and flashing

are recognized by code to manage water at ledger connections. D2W work like stacked washers, but do a much better job. They're easier to install because they're screwed to the back of the ledger and stay in place during installation. The screws also make the spacer



connection stronger than stacked washers. D2W are non-corrosive and have a larger bearing surface for better load distribution. The spacers are easier to waterproof than washers and can be used with a wider selection of fasteners. Made in the USA, the D2W can be installed directly over most plywood siding, and used in combination with roll flashing for other applications like horizontal siding. The original spacer (5/8 x 2-1/2-in. diameter) was tested at IAS-accredited Washington State University with 1/2- and 5/8-in. bolts and lags, and the new smaller SWS spacer (1/2 x 2-in. diameter) was tested with structural wood screws. Visit www.deck2wallspacer.com.

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TG Tools KIK® HS Brad Point Bit

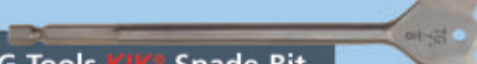
The KIK® HS Brad Point Bit has a unique tip design allowing it to bore wood, plastics and sheet metals exceptionally fast, clean and easy. The tip contains 20% more cutting surface. To accommodate the speed with which this bit drills, the flutes have an additional extraction ridge to clear the bore continuously and efficiently. The tip design permits plastics, laminates and even acrylic sheet to be drilled without melting, clogging or melting. Sheet metals are drilled with no burr left behind. KIK® HS Brad Point Bit are available in standard jobber lengths and 8-1/4 extended length. The extended lengths have a hole near the tip for pulling wires through the hole with the bit that made the hole!





TG Tools KIK® Spade Bit

Conventional spade bits can only drill holes in wood and can only go in a single direction. The "revolutionary" design of the KIK® Spade bit from TG Tools allows it to drill, wood, laminates, plastic and even non-ferrous sheet metal. In wood, the KIK® Spade bores faster due to 30% more cutting surface. By eliminating the brittle tang found on common spade bits, the KIK® Spade can even bore curved holes for those tight plumbing and electrical installations. On plastics and laminates, the KIK® Spade bores efficiently without melting the material and will not "slip" or "skate" from the start. With six cutting edges and more cutting surface, Chrome Vanadium 40 Steel was chosen for manufacture to allow the bit to flex when necessary in those tough situations when others simply bend and break.






KIK® Forstner Bit

Made from 60 Carbon Steel and Titanium-coated, the KIK® Forstner Bit from TG Tools drills, routs and channels wood, plastic, acrylic and more. The bit operates smoothly in any direction—even curves—making it easy to control. Bore the hole the way the conduit or pipe bends. Correct misaligned inlets. Bore blind holes without piercing thin laminate. It's a great bit for hinge or anchor inserts. Plus, the open cap design prevents clogging, and the three-flat shank means less chuck slip-page. Also, the bit includes a free heavy-duty protective case.




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DECK PRODUCT UPDATE



home, using the same simple, yet high-quality and long-lasting, two-part technology. Utilizing the same five steps, complete the wood restoration, only this time be sure to remove any wood rot while prepping and make sure the mixture of Bondo Wood Filler and Bondo Red Cream



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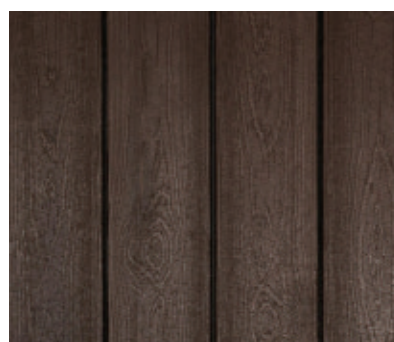
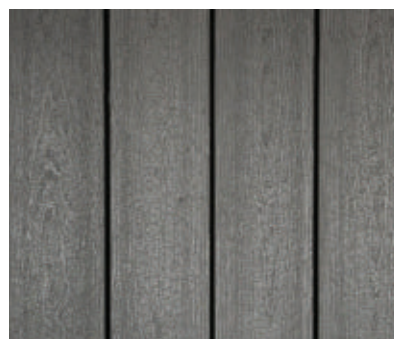
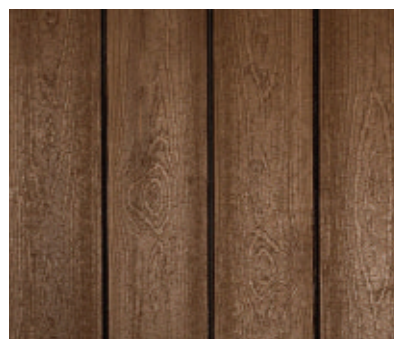
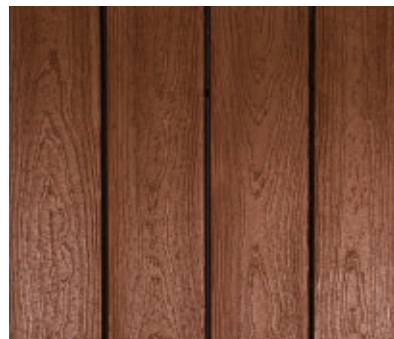
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DECK PRODUCT UPDATE

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TAMKO ENVISION DECKING

TAMKO is expanding its Envision line of capped composite decking boards by introducing a line of



solid color boards—"Envision Expression"—and renaming the current Envision variegated board "Envision Distinction." Envision Expression complements the Envision Distinction multi-colored board by offering four solid colors including three hues of brown and gray. Visit www.tamko.com. **EHT**



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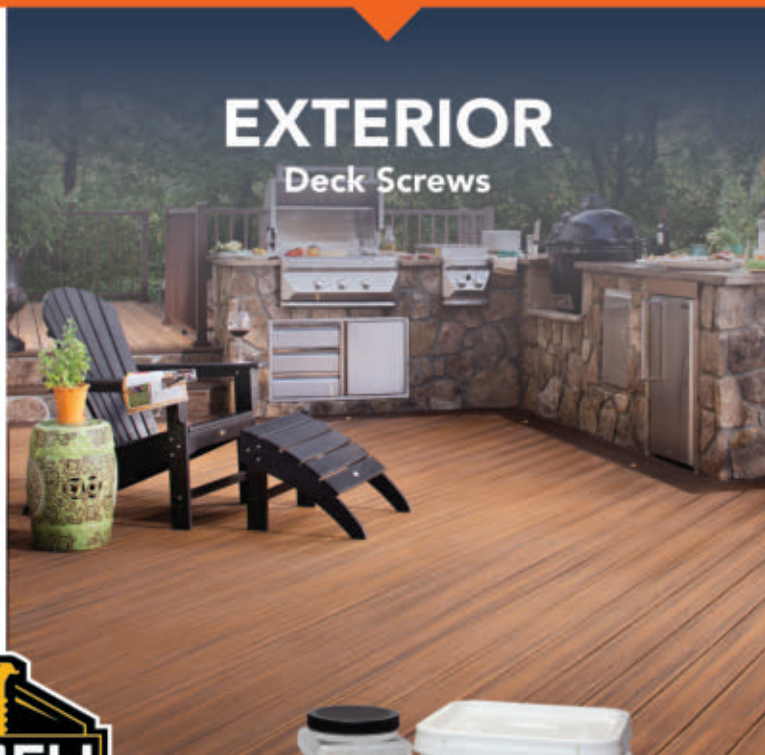
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A photograph of a wooden deck with a hanging floor. The ceiling is made of horizontal wooden planks. A black ceiling fan with a light fixture is mounted on the ceiling. The deck is furnished with wicker furniture, including a sofa and a chair. A red ladder is visible in the background. A circular text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*What to
Consider when
Hanging Flooring
Overhead*

INSTALL A WOOD-PLANK CEILING

By Matt Weber

A wood plank ceiling offers the same classic décor as a wood plank floor, so why not hang one in your house? This ceiling treatment has become increasingly popular over the years and presents an interesting way for DIY homeowners to dress up an often overlooked aspect of the home.

Although the basics of installation of both a plank floor and ceiling are essentially the same, working on a ceiling can present some unique challenges that some DIY'ers might not consider.

PREP & PLAN

As shown in this article, Keith Lively installed a tongue-and-groove solid pine ceiling on his 35-ft. long covered porch. The plan was to install the boards lengthwise, and with such a long span, there was no way to avoid end joints between boards. Keep in mind, however, that if you're installing the boards in a small room—say, 12 feet long—then you could opt for 12-ft. boards and install them from wall to wall with no visible end joints.

Since Lively couldn't avoid end joints, he selected boards measuring 8-, 10- and 12-ft. long to stagger the end joints during installation.

The long boards minimize the presence of the joints compared to most bargain wood flooring, which is a mix of short and medium lengths, and no long ones. Another problem with random-length boards is they won't be the right size to work exactly with your joist spacing. To fasten the ends to the joists would require cutting a lot of the boards to the exact length needed (and a lot of waste).



For his wood-plank ceiling, DIY homeowner Keith Lively chose solid tongue-and-groove pine flooring with a beadboard pattern.



If the flooring is unfinished, it should be sanded, stained and sealed prior to installation.

INSTALL A WOOD-PLANK CEILING



Lively installed a 1/2" plywood sub-ceiling over joists on 12" centers.

To avoid the problem of locating the end joints on exact joist spacing, Lively installed a layer of plywood over the joists just like a subfloor, which provided a flat, level and uninterrupted fastening surface. For this project he used 1/2-in. plywood on joists that were 12 inches on center.

The presence of end joints was one of several reasons Lively chose to stain and seal the boards prior to installing them on the ceiling. This installation was located in the unconditioned space of a porch, and seasonal temperature shifts were sure to affect the expansion and contraction of the wood. Staining and sealing the planks (including the end grain) before installing them helps to disguise joints when the wood shrinks. Furthermore, trying to stain the planks on the ceiling would be very tough on your

upper body and make a huge mess.

Another thing to consider is the style of the board's edge joints. With boards that have square joints which butt flush

against each other to create a smooth floor surface, the planks can have slightly different heights. This height difference results in a bit of lippage when installed. After a normal floor installation, a floor sander usually levels out the boards, but you won't be able to sand that aggressively on a ceiling, so the lippage would remain. Depending on lighting, such an installation could look amateurish if you're aiming for a smooth ceiling surface. However, the V-shaped channels formed by planks that have beveled edges will do a good job of hiding those slight discrepancies in a ceiling. Lively selected a plank pattern with beadboard-style joints, which achieved the same effect as the V-joints.

Although you can't use a floor sander, keep in mind that unfinished wood needs to be sanded in order to take the stain uniformly. You'll have to hand-sand the boards before finishing them, otherwise the rough spots will drink too much stain and become dark blotches.

INSTALLATION

Ceiling installation is generally the same as for a floor, and you should take the same steps to



Begin in one corner of the starting row and stagger the end joints between rows.

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INSTALL A WOOD-PLANK CEILING

prepare, such as acclimating the wood to the space where it will be installed.

In general, floor planks should be installed perpendicular to the ceiling joists, although the pres-

ence of a plywood sub-ceiling or a layer of perpendicular furring strips will allow you to install parallel to the joists.

For finished ceilings, first disconnect the electricity and



The tongue of the new planks insert into the groove of the installed rows to form a strong linear joint.

remove all light fixtures and other obstacles. If the framing is not exposed, use a stud finder on the ceiling to locate ceiling joists. Snap chalk lines along each joist location.

You'll face the same general layout issues as with any standard floor layout. Measure the ceiling for area and divide by the exposed face of a plank. Make sure you won't be left with a small sliver of boards on the final row of the ceiling. If this is the case, then begin installation with a ripped partial board to allow room for a larger board on the final row.

Also, check the ceiling for square. If the diagonal measurements in each corner aren't the same, you should create a square straight line as a starting point. Measure from the far wall to the tongue of the starting row. Use a long, straight piece of flooring material as a gauge to show where the front of the row should lay. Adjust its position along the starter wall until the measurements from the far wall to its tongue (which faces the near wall) are the same

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in each corner of the room. Mark the tongue edge and use that line as a guide to lay your first row. The key is to create a line parallel to the end wall. Remember, this first row is the place to make adjustments because you can tuck the starter board under trim or molding to hide the gap. You can also rip the tongues off the first row to reduce the size of the gap.

The reason to establish the square first row is to avoid having odd pie-shaped planks at the final row.

Begin installation of the wood flooring at the corner of your starter row. The tongue side of the plank installs against the wall. Depending on type of flooring, some planks will not only have a tongue-and-groove edge but also tongue-and-groove ends. Stagger the end-joints from row to row. The tongue edge of the second row will fit into the groove of the installed first row.

It's smart to place 1/4-in. spacer blocks between the wall edges and the ceiling planks to allow for expansion of the wood. You can remove these



Use a hammer and strike block to close the joints and lock the planks together.



It helps to tack the boards in place temporarily to free your hands and then come back to fill in the remaining fasteners.

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INSTALL A WOOD-PLANK CEILING



Hiding fasteners inside the beadboard joints helps to disguise their location.

spacers after the planks are installed and conceal the gap with molding.

Fasten the planks into the joists with nails or screws. You can blind-nail into the tongue-and-groove joint, or you can drive fasteners into the board face and cover with wood filler later (or do both). Construction glue such as 100-percent urethane flooring adhesive will help anchor the planks securely to the wallboard or plywood (if applicable) while reducing the need for fasteners. Gluing will also



Keep a circular saw handy to cut the final plank on each row to size.

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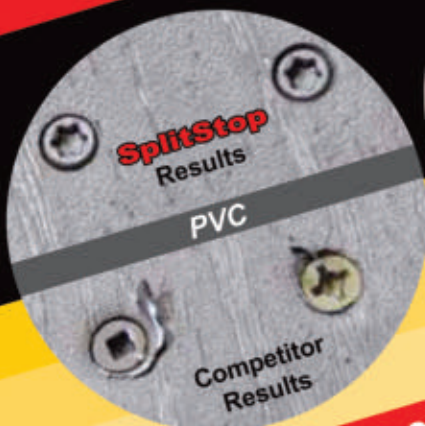
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INSTALL A WOOD-PLANK CEILING



The Livelys used wood blocks beneath the legs of the scaffolding to protect the floor.

prevent the planks from rattling and vibrating.

Butt the planks' end-joints closely together but avoid driving fasteners closer than an inch from the end grain to avoid splitting the wood.

A pneumatic nail gun will speed up installation dramatically. Fastener gauge is usually determined by board thickness. In addition to a nail gun, keep a saw on hand to cut the last board in each row to size. Use a hammer and strike-block to push the planks together and lock the tongue-and-groove joints. Scaffolding will also be a huge help when hanging the planks on the ceiling.

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WoodHaven prefinished ceiling planks from Armstrong Ceilings have a natural woodgrain look but are made of MDF (medium-density fiberboard), so they're easy to handle and can be installed in a single weekend. If you have an existing 15/16-in. suspended (drop) ceiling grid, then you can snap Armstrong's Easy Up clips onto the grid and slide the WoodHaven planks securely onto the clips without the need of additional nails or screws. Learn more at armstrongceilings.com.



When you encounter any air vents or electrical boxes, trace the cutout on the wood planks with a pencil and make any curved or intricate cuts with a jigsaw.

To add a finishing touch, the cut edges of the planks along the wall edges can be hidden with molding or trim strips stained to match the new ceiling. **EHT**



Molding or trim strips can be used to conceal the cut plank edges against the wall. The Livelys used the same floor planks as the ceiling to create decorative wall cladding that concealed the edges.



Complete the project with lights, fans or other amenities in a finish that complements the new wood ceiling.



HIDDEN PROBLEMS OF A BATHROOM REMODEL

By Rob Robillard

Bathrooms are botched more than any other room in the house. With bathroom remodels people often focus on easy-to-see things like tile colors and layout, or special amenities like heated floors. These are all important, but you also need to think about the stuff behind the tile and under the floors—all the hidden conditions that can derail a project.

It is very common when remodeling a bathroom to find walls that aren't level, deficient wiring, improperly installed plumbing, and floor joists that have been cut, drilled, notched or even removed to accommodate pipes or drains.

Bad wiring can be a fire hazard and bad plumbing a moisture nightmare. Uneven walls or floors—and floors that aren't properly supported—can lead to cracked tiles and bigger structural problems.

If you are doing a major upgrade to your bathroom consider doing a "full gut." Remove all the plaster from the walls and ceilings and remove the subfloor to allow the years of accumulated problems to be rectified.

Reconstruction of the walls and floor can present problems for a major bathroom overhaul.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

When preparing for a bathroom remodel, expect more expense, time, disruption and problems than you planned on. Surprises of one kind or another are so common that they're actually predictable. When you expect the unexpected, however, you can reduce a lot of stress.

Many people have no clue about the hidden costs of remodeling, and a lot of contractors do not advise their clients of them either. (You can scare away a lot of business that way!) Hidden conditions are things like finding and then needing to repair termite damage, improper wiring, outdated plumbing, abating asbestos, or repairing floor joist damage. Any or all of these can stop a remodel process midway and add time and money to the project. Plan for these situations by setting aside 10-20 percent of your budget to address them.



HIDDEN PROBLEMS OF A BATHROOM REMODEL



Remodeling a bathroom usually involves some exploratory demolition to locate pipes and wiring hidden behind walls.

sticking out from the wall connected to the hot and cold water supply lines. Open the faucet and let the water drain out. Disconnect the sink water lines and the drain pipe. Unscrew the countertop mounting hardware (if applicable), and cut away any caulking from the sink, then lift it out of the countertop. With the sink out of the way, you can unscrew and remove the vanity cabinet from wall.



From plaster and drywall to old flooring and cabinetry, a full remodel generates a lot of demolition debris. Make sure you've planned for a way to handle and dispose of all the garbage.

OLD OR CORRODED PLUMBING

A bathroom renovation presents a great time to deal with old, outdated systems, things like corroded cast iron or galvanized drains and water supply lines. Even copper water supply lines can be hiding problems if the joints are corroded. Flexible PEX piping joined with "push-fit" connections offer an easy-to-use alternative to soldering copper lines for DIY'ers who need to make a replacement.

Prior to doing any work, shut off the water to the house and open the faucets at the highest level and lowest level to drain the water lines. For the sink and toilet you can simply remove them from the bathroom and rely on their existing shut-off valves, or you can open the walls and cap the pipes.

REMOVING PLUMBING FIXTURES

To disconnect a vanity sink, turn off the two shut-off valves

If you're capping the pipes, open the wall to expose the pipes, cut the pipes and install a push-fit plumbing connector. These simple fittings, such as the SharkBite brand Plumbing Connectors, are brass fittings that use a push-fit technology to seal joints in copper, CPVC or PEX pipe. No soldering is required.

To remove a toilet, first turn off the shut-off valve sticking out from the wall connected to the toilet tank supply lines. Flush the toilet a few times to let the water drain out. Use a wet-vac to remove all excess water.

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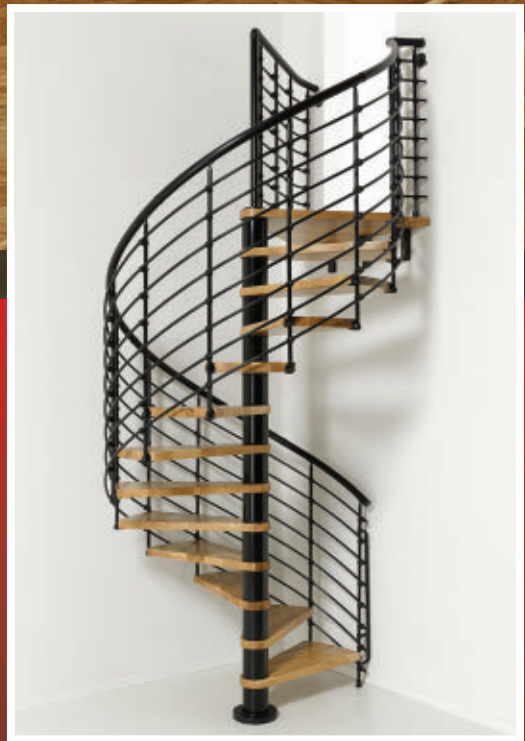
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- Standard kit includes 12 oak wood stair treads, a landing, a complete handrail, and all necessary hardware and connectors.
- Diameters available include a 5 ft. 3 in. model and a 4 ft. 3 in. model.
- The height range for the standard kit is adjustable from 8 ft. 3 in. to 10 ft. 2 7/8 in. and with additional components, can be installed to a maximum height of 11 ft. 9 5/16 in.
- Powder coat finished painted in either Hi-Gloss Black or Hi-Gloss White.
- Can be installed in a clockwise or counterclockwise rotation.
- Stair treads and landing are made of solid Oak wood with a natural stain and a polyurethane protective coating.
- Balcony rail kits are available in matching color and horizontal baluster and railing design.
- Handrail is manufactured from an aluminum core surrounded by a soft PVC cover to allow the handrail to be curved at the time of installation to accommodate the radius of the staircase.
- Rise between stair treads is adjustable from 8 3/8 in. to 9 1/4 in.
- Interior installation only.
- A complete installation guide is included in all kits and an installation video is available upon request.
- Homeowner should consult with local building department concerning building codes prior to purchase.



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HIDDEN PROBLEMS OF A BATHROOM REMODEL

Disconnect the water line. Remove the two mounting bolts at the floor and lift the toilet off the flange.

Note: Stuff a rag into the drain stub-out if you plan on using it again. The rag will block sewer

gases. If you are capping the pipes in the wall, use the push-fit plumbing connectors.

For showers and tubs, the process is the same. You need to open the wall or floor to expose

the water lines and cut them back.

Once all of the plumbing has been disconnected in the bathroom, turn on the main water valve slowly, turn off the open faucets and inspect for leaks. Now you can gut the walls, ceiling and floor as needed to conduct your remodel.

When reusing existing plumbing locations, ensure that supply and waste pipes don't need to be extended or modified. Recognize that removing old tile floors and

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Doing a retrofit or a remodel is an ideal time to address structural issues with floors, walls or ceilings.



When reusing existing plumbing locations, make sure that supply and waste pipes don't need to be extended or modified for the new fixtures.



The photos show a recent bathroom remodel where we relocated the tub drain across several floor joists. The floor system is 2x10 joists spaced 12" on center. Prior to drilling holes in these floor joists we installed 3/4" plywood to each one. We cut out and doubled up a header where the tub's P-trap was to be installed.

sub-floors will affect the floor height, which can affect the pipe positions. Check the dimensions of new toilets, sinks and other fixtures; don't assume they are the same as the old. Fixtures can vary in size even if they look similar. Wall studs may need blocking or modifying to accommodate shower valves and wall-mounted fixtures. Floors may need to be re-framed or reinforced for new plumbing lines, or for placement of a whirlpool or cast-iron bathtub due to the heavier load.

VENTING ISSUES

Check to ensure your existing plumbing is vented properly. Modern plumbing codes have changed the ways plumbers run vent lines for your sink, tub, show-

er and toilet. Insufficient venting can cause drains to gurgle or traps to be sucked dry, which contributes to clogs.

Improve air ventilation by installing a bathroom exhaust fan.

OUT-OF-LEVEL FLOORS AND WALLS

While not always noticeable, an out-of-plumb wall may show itself better when covered with tile and the grout lines taper off.



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HIDDEN PROBLEMS OF A BATHROOM REMODEL

Level construction is also important for one of the amenities that my clients ask me for most often: walk-in glass showers. If you plan on installing glass shower doors and walls, you want to make sure your walls are as straight and plumb as possible. (When installing glass shower doors, here's a tip to keep water where it belongs: Install solid strips of a material like granite or Silestone to make a lip against the glass.)

DEFICIENCIES IN THE FLOOR FRAMING

Doing a retrofit or a remodel is an ideal time to address structural issues with floors, walls or ceilings.

Homes are built to transfer the structural load down through the framing to the foundation and soil. This is called the "load path,"



A laser level can help determine the finished height of a new floor. Keep in mind that changes in the floor often affects the position of plumbing fixtures in regard to where they connect to existing water pipes.



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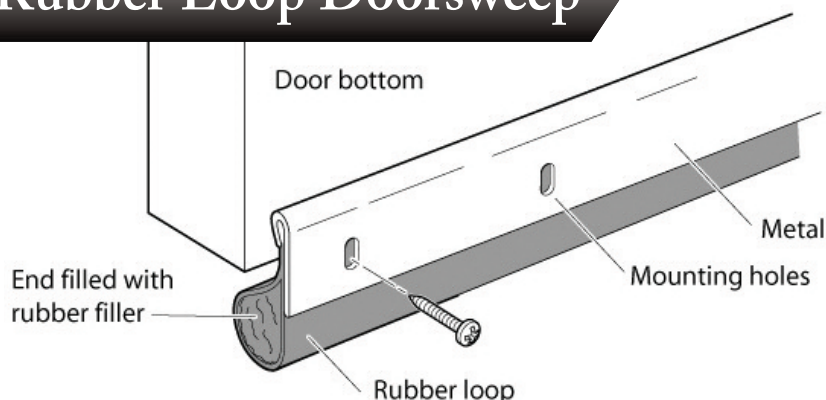
and it's where most of the forces in a home are concentrated. Understanding the different types of basic framing methods will help you to identify proper load paths no

matter which framing method your home uses.

Being able to locate key "point loads" will also help you know where to look for structural

BLOCK NOISE FROM ROOM TO ROOM!

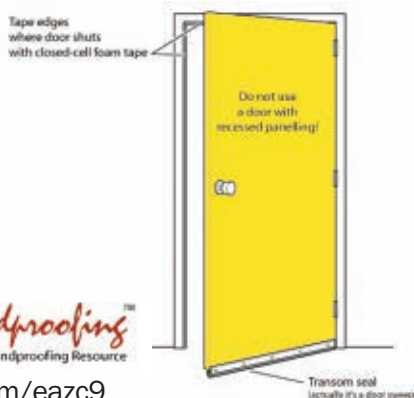
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Floors may need to be re-framed or reinforced for new plumbing lines, or for placement of a whirlpool or cast-iron bathtub due to the heavier load.



During remodeling the floor joists may need to be notched, and in some cases an entire framing member may need to be removed. If this is necessary, then accommodations must be made to reinforce the floor framing to adequately carry the load. Construction of a double-header is a common technique.

problems. Point loads are loads that are concentrated in a small area, such as where a post supporting a ridge beam rests on a header above a window. Point loads are high-stress areas.

It's not necessarily a bad thing if your contractor cuts through your floor joists; a contractor can do this to accommodate plumbing or HVAC mechanical equipment, as long as he properly transfers the floor load

to adjoining joists by adding headers made of framing lumber.

"Headers" can be used to transfer the floor load to the adjacent trimmer joists. In a perfect world, any floor joist that is cut should have a header installed, preferably two, and doubled adjacent joists. All headers should be nailed to the cut joists and their ends attached to two adjacent, uninterrupted floor joists. The use of joist hangers facilitates this repair.

A single header nailed to the cut joist and two uninterrupted joists will work for openings less than 4 feet. If the header spans more than 4 feet, both the header and the trimmer joists should be doubled. We often refer to doubling up of joists or other structural framing as "sistering." Reinforcing the floor joists is best done by doubling them up. Doubling joists is recommended under walls, heavy objects like tubs, and at large openings.

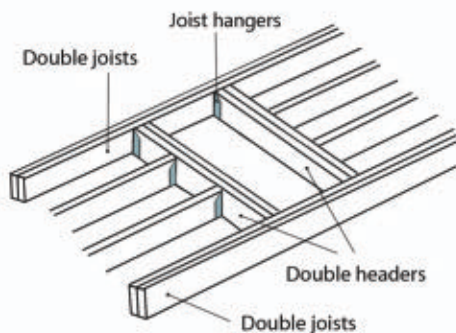
The doubled trimmer and header joists must be nailed together properly with spaced pairs of 16d nails every 16 inches so that they are reinforcing floor joists like beams.

Doubling joists can solve a lot of problems like sagging, uneven or undersized floor joists, especially when you can't install a full-length

floor joist because of plumbing, existing walls, or finished floors or ceilings. In these situations it sometimes makes sense to reinforce a key floor joist or even all of the floor joists.

HEAD OFF A FLOOR JOIST FOR A DRAIN

To frame a drain in the floor, first determine the location of your plumbing drain. Then, determine the size of your "plumber's box."



Openings in a floor should be framed with doubled headers and doubled joists.

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For a double header, measure back 3 inches from your "plumber's box" and mark a square line on the joist to be cut. Use a circular saw to start the cut and finish with a reciprocating saw. Measure the distance between the un-cut trimmer joists and cut four headers. Place two joist hangers under the first header prior to fastening anything. (This is important if the ceiling below is covered. If the ceiling is open, you can install the hangers afterward.) Direct-nail the first header through the trimmer

One technique is to use glue and fasteners to scab plywood over existing joists to reinforce the floor framing.



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joists into the end of the header. Use 16D common nails and make sure the tops of the joists are flush. Add the second header and direct nail this header through the

trimmer joists. Nail the double headers to each other with three 16D common nails every foot. Secure the joist hangers to the trimmer joists with nails.

SCABBING A FRAMING MEMBER WITH PLYWOOD

Scabbing is an effective technique that allows you to add strength and fix minor problems affecting floor joists. Scabbing involves taking piece of wood and fastening it over the problem area. Many times I will apply scabs to floor joists that were previously or will currently be notched or drilled to install plumbing pipes. Scabbing

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Mansfield Plumbing's new Protector No-Overflow Toilet features a unique concealed secondary drain that provides protection from messy overflow situations. Made in the USA, the Protector solves the problem of clogged toilets overflowing onto the floor by redirecting excess water into the concealed secondary drain. There are no unsightly holes, and the overflow system is hidden within the bowl. In addition to solving the overflow dilemma, the Protector stays clean longer than standard toilets with the use of a highly-engineered PuraClean glaze that makes the bowl bacteria-resistant and easier to clean. For more information, visit www.mansfieldplumbing.com.



PUSH-FIT CONNECTIONS

Soldering copper pipe requires hand tools such as a propane torch, a flux brush, a pipe-cleaning tool and a pipe cutter. However, copper pipe can also be installed with the same simple push-fit connections that work with PEX and CPVC.

For new installation and repair of potable water supply lines, push-fit connections provide a quick way to join pipe, requiring no soldering, clamps or glue. Push-fit connections utilize a compression fitting to join the pipes, and are certified up to 200 PSI and 200 degrees F.

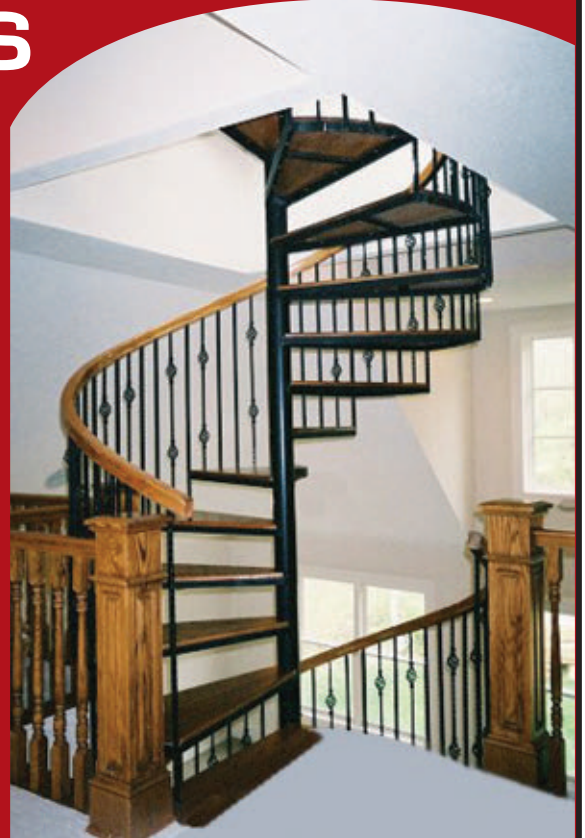
To make a push-fit connection, first make a square cut on the end of the pipe. Sand down any rough edges or debris. Mark the depth of the pipe that will be housed in the push-fit connection. Push the fitting together up to the depth mark so it "clicks," and like magic the connection is complete—it takes all of 3 seconds. (For PEX, use a reinforcement insert shown below in white, so the pipe doesn't distort.)

Here's how the connection works: When the pipe is pushed into the fitting, the stainless steel teeth of the fitting bite down on it and grip tight, while a specially formulated O-ring compresses to create a perfect seal. Disassembly is just as fast using a simple disconnect tool that releases the O-ring, so fittings and valves can be easily changed and reused. They can even be rotated after assembly for easier installation in tight spaces. The push-fit connections are permanent connections, some of which come with a 75-year manufacturer's warranty.



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is also used often with rotted rafters and wall studs.

I use glue and screws to fasten 3/4-in. plywood as scabs to both sides of a joist as far along its length as I can. It fastens easily to the joist with construction adhesive and 12-16d nails spaced every 16 inches on-center.

Plywood is a strong laminate composed of several thin layers of heavily compressed wood glued together. Some people consider it to be inferior to standard lumber, but the opposite is almost always

Once the floor framing is complete, new plumbing lines can be installed. For supply lines, flexible

PEX piping that connects with push-fit fasteners can provide an easy DIY alternative to soldering copper pipe (see sidebar).

true. A quality piece of plywood is typically stronger than the corresponding amount of standard wood and is an excellent choice for reinforcing weakened joists and even reducing squeaks.

In areas where I know the plumber will drill through my joist,

I will add plywood reinforcing and keep my nails out of the pipe path.

Keep these structural considerations in mind when planning your next bathroom remodel, and you will avoid derailing your “budget-train” before it leaves the station! **EHT**



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Chasing Tails

Dress up your rafters with a decorative tail pattern.



By Matt Weber

At the recent Remodeling Show/Deck Expo in Baltimore, Maryland, the *EHT* staff caught up with our friend Mark Clement, who was giving a demonstration on how to cut decorative rafter tails. With a limitless array of patterns, these stylistic enhancements to the ends of a beam or rafter can give a unique look to a pergola, a rose arbor, a trellis or covered patio. With a few basic carpentry tools and an eye for creativity, you can create a design that puts a personal stamp on your next outdoor building project.

Rafter tails generally dress up large outdoor structures. For both a sense of visual balance and structural strength, these framing members are generally made from large boards measuring 2x8 or wider. The broader the face of the board, the more material you have to incorporate the swoops and notches that comprise the rafter-tail pattern. Use treated lumber for outdoor projects or a wood species such as redwood that has natural preservatives.

STEP BY STEP

A neat trick for making a decorative swoop on a rafter tail is to



use a straight strip of sheet metal as a cutting guide.



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Use a series of 3-in. screws partially driven into the lumber on each side of the metal strip to hold its arched position as you mark the cutline.

Accentuate the swoop design

with notches and angles. A Speed Square makes a handy guide to keep cut marks square.

Clement suggests you save time cutting by using a handheld circ saw on all straight cuts.

The thin blade of a jigsaw can follow the curved path of your swoop, and its straight-cutting action can finish the incomplete cuts that the round blade of a circ saw leaves behind. The only



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down side is a jigsaw cuts much more slowly.

After cleaning up the cut edges of the tails with a sander, use your completed rafter as a pattern template to trace a matching profile on all the other rafters of your project.

Lots of notches and detail can add a sense of ornate elegance to a rafter tail design, while simpler geometric patterns give them a more basic, streamlined appearance.



The choices in pattern design are limited only by the size of the wood and your imagination. Experiment with different patterns to see what looks best your particular project. **EHT**

Editor's Note: Mark Clement is a professional contractor and co-host of the MyFixItUpLife radio show.

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Sliding "barn" doors are growing in popularity, and Stone Harbor Hardware has introduced new, DIY-friendly sliding door hardware sets with three different strap styles: barn, horseshoe and wagon wheel. The sets include two decorative straps, a track length, end stops, floor guides, mounting hardware and installation instructions. Each style is available with either a 6-ft. track length or an 8-ft. track length, allowing customers to use them with doors as wide as 48 inches. The horseshoe and wagon wheel styles are available in oil-rubbed bronze, and the barn strap style is available in both oil-rubbed bronze and stainless steel. These premium finishes coordinate with the rest of Stone Harbor's extensive hardware line, which includes hinges, builder's hardware, door locks, cabinet hardware and bath hardware. The oil-rubbed bronze sets feature solid steel construction for long life and durability, and the stainless steel barn set is manufactured from solid 304 stainless steel, making it ideal for use in many different environments within the home. Learn more at www.stoneharborhardware.com.

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it. Drive down the 24-in. auger until the large load plate contacts the soil, then compress the plate against the gravel by tightening the nut above it. Screw on a 4x4 or 6x6 post bracket and you're done. A 36-in. auger is available for sandy soil where more uplift resistance is desired or for use on a slope. The footing has been load tested to support a minimum of 19,000 lbs. Because of the post saddle design, you can set beams as low as 2 inches above grade and hang joists from the beam face for very low level decks. You can also build safely up to 6 feet if you brace posts to beams. This makes for a solid structure and is an effective solution for above-ground pool decks where as many as thirty or more footings can easily be required. Learn more at www.titanbuildingproducts.com.

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Viance warranty coverage includes Above Ground (UC3B) treated wood framing members that are critical to the safety and performance of the structure, including joists and beams



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THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR ALL OUTDOOR STRUCTURAL FRAMING APPLICATIONS TO BE TREATED TO GROUND CONTACT RETENTION LEVELS, BECAUSE IT'S NOT NECESSARY.

Products treated to above ground retention levels are still recognized by the IBC® and IRC® building codes for Deck Joists and Support Beams.

Ground Contact (UC4A) treatments are **not required** for the most common deck framing applications

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