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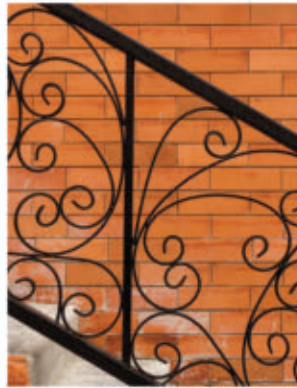
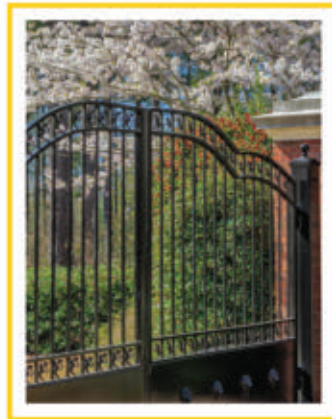
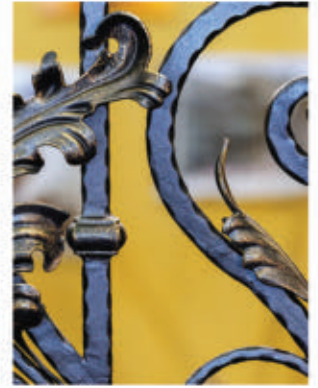
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My guess is that everyone reading *Extreme How-To* knows that a 4x4 doesn't measure exactly 4 inches by 4 inches. Since the 1950s, retail lumber has been sold in nominal sizes, and a "four-by-four" board actually measures 3-1/2-by-3-1/2 inches, which should come as no surprise to anyone who's ever built, well, anything. The same nominal tag holds true for the 1-1/2-by-3-1/2-inch "two-by-four."

But this is 2017, the Age of the Whiner, and what has not been a problem for 60-some years is now the cause of a lawsuit. Two home-improvement centers, Menard's and Home Depot, are accused of marketing and selling boards as "4x4s" although the boards are actually 3-1/2-in. square. The suit against Home Depot alleges that the "defendant's representation as to the dimension of these products were false and misleading."

In fact, the nominal dimensions have long been a government-approved industry standard that specify minimal dimensions (3-1/2x 3-1/2-in. for a "4x4"). You know who already knows about this? Builders, remodelers, carpenters, woodworkers and most likely, you. Who doesn't know the difference between nominal and actual lumber dimensions? Ignorant people.

As long as I'm talking about definitions, I should mention that *ignorant* doesn't mean *stupid*. Merriam-Webster defines ignorant as "lacking knowledge or comprehension of the thing specified." So, when it comes to nominal lumber sizes, some people lack the knowledge and need an education, kind of the way I lack the knowledge to perform heart surgery, so maybe I shouldn't be given a scalpel.

I'm not suggesting that people who don't understand nominal lumber sizes should be denied lumber, but I am suggesting that instead of pushing a lawsuit to change industry standards, maybe the people behind it should take all of five minutes to educate themselves about the subject. After all, lumber is used to build things, so common sense and safety dictate that things should be built correctly. And people who don't have a clear understanding of their building materials (and what they measure) are unlikely to build anything correctly.

This is why I'm opposed to the lawsuit; it feels like lowering the bar for an important skillset. Rather than change the lumber standards

to appease ignorant people, I'm in favor of ignorant people learning the basic skills, terms and practices necessary to build with 4x4s and 2x4s—and the world will be a much sturdier, safer place.



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Q: Are there any rules about how to build a mailbox?

A: As far as the aesthetic design of the mailbox, you should check with municipal codes and your homeowner's association, if you have one, for any restrictions in your area. As far as the mailbox dimensions and

proximity to the street, according to the US Postal service your local postmaster must approve the location of your mailbox. This typically means that a roadside mailbox must be located where a carrier can reach inside without leaving the truck. That means positioning it about 41 to 45 in. off the ground and back about 6 to 8 in. from the curb. Visit www.ups.com for more information.

Q: When my garage door closes it immediately opens back up. How do I fix it?

A: These situations are often caused by the garage door sensors at the bottom corners of the door. As a safety device, the sensors transmit a laser to detect any obstructions. Start by ensuring that there are not any items blocking the sensors at the bottom of the garage door. If something is in the path of the sensors, the door will not close, and this includes objects as fine as a spider web. Also, these sensors can sometimes get inadvertently knocked out of alignment. Make sure the sensor is oriented in a level line parallel to the door sill and aimed at the opposing sensor. Also, make sure the door is not hitting anything when it comes down that could be causing it to reverse.

Sometimes if the door will not close all the way, the lights on the garage door motor will flash. The pattern of the flashes can indicate what the problem is. Check the garage door opener's manual to see what the light flashing pattern means for your particular type of door.

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Q: When I mow my lawn, how high or low should I cut the grass?

A: When mowing, far too many people will set their mowers too low or “scalp” the lawn. This leads to thin and dying grass and shallow root systems. Each grass type has a height range that it prefers to be mowed to

be healthier, look better and last through the season without dying out from lack of water. The depth of the root system is in direct correlation to the height you mow. So, the higher you mow, the deeper the roots, the more water the grass can get and the less you have to water.

In general, two types of grasses are what we deal with. Cool Season grasses: Fescue, Bluegrass, Ryegrass. These are the most common in the Southeast. These grasses like to be mowed at a range of 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches high. Fescue looks best at least 3 inches high. Bluegrass is the most tolerant to lower mowing, but should still be left at least 2 1/2 inches.

The other type is Warm Season grasses: Bermuda, Zoysia, Centipede. These grasses will tolerate as low a cutting as most homeowner’s mowers will cut. Golf courses use a lot of Bermuda and Zoysia, and they routinely cut it as low as 1/2 inch. A typical home lawn will look nice at 1 inch, providing you have a smooth grade. **EHT**

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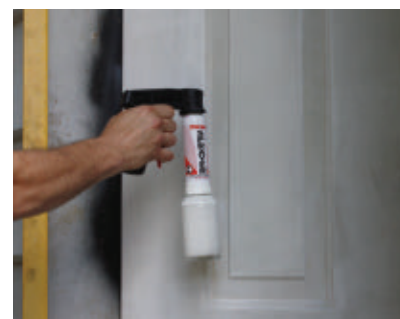
Paint Sprayers, Big and Small



virtually any surface without mixing the paint and propellant, which ensures no color change to the paint. This handy, portable paint system is perfect for touch-ups on metal, concrete, wood, pottery, ceramic and glass, and it's compatible with any exterior paint, stain or dye.



The Preval Sprayer is an aerosol-based spray system that allows the user to mix up any paint, chemical or solution and turn it into sprayable material through the patented Venturri Vacuum Process.



When using the Preval Sprayer, the paint and propellant never mix, which ensures no change in paint color.

By Matt Weber

There's no secret to the advantages of a sprayed paint finish. If applied correctly, spraying a coat of paint will result in a smooth uniform finish without runs or brush marks. And when it comes to selecting what tools to use to spray the paint, DIY'ers and pros alike now have more options than ever.

TOUCH-UP IN A FLASH

Whereas cans of spray paint are limited in color choices, the Preval Sprayer system enables

you to spray any color of latex paint you choose.

Here's how this unique system works: Choose your paint of preference and load it into the glass containers that come with the Preval kit. Thin the paint as necessary for spray application, then screw a can of Preval Sprayer propellant onto the paint jar. The sprayer draws paint from the container (via a plastic straw) and then sprays it in a fine mist onto the workpiece. This achieves a professional-grade finish on

AIRBRUSH APPLICATION

Another Preval product to consider is the vFan Airbrush system. I've seen similar tools used to paint T-shirts at the beach, but I'd



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Powered by a compressor or a small can of propellant, The Preval vFan is used for precision paint and material dispensing, touch-ups, and surface preparation and repair.

never used one until Preval sent the EHT staff a test kit. The advantage here is the vFan's precision paint and material dispensing. The stainless steel and brass-designed vFan Airbrush delivers a 1/16-in. detail to 3-in. fan spray pattern. That 1/16-in. bead pattern is practically a pen mark, and you won't achieve that with any other type of sprayer, making this system ideal for detail-oriented work.

The vFan connects via hose to an air compressor or to Preval's cans of propellant, which the company calls "150 Feet of Energy." The propellant container will fit into a toolbelt for easy lightweight portability. Combined with the small airbrush tool, this system provides easy maneuverability and the ability to work in confined areas. The vFan works with lacquer,




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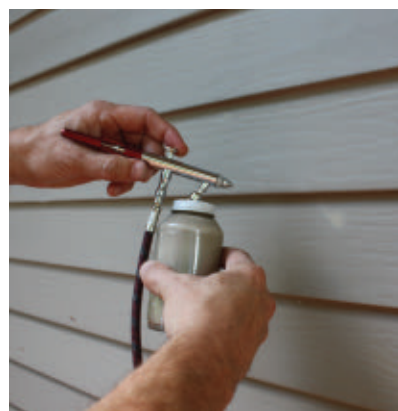
exterior/interior paints, wood stains, latex, clear coats, solvent-based paints and more.

A detail airbrush isn't typically going to be your go-to tool for

siding applications, but that's where I tested it because I had an unusual circumstance: A recent mishap during a wood-staining project involved a wind gust



The vFan includes a standard aircap, plus a second aircap to spray a fan pattern.



For detail work, the vFan delivers a 1/16" to 3" spray pattern.

giving flight to my plastic drop-cloth, which slapped against the nearby house wall and left dozens of dime- and nickel-sized splotches of mahogany stain on the tan-colored paint. Luckily, I had some matching leftover paint and loaded it into the vFan's glass container. With a little practice on a scrap of cardboard, I quickly learned how to control the size of the paint bead, and used the sprayer to conceal those little stain spots until the entire wall looked uniform again. It turns out that for detail work, the Preval vFan is a very cool tool that does a handy job on tricky touchups.



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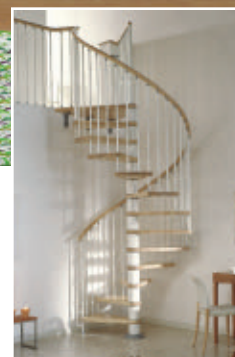
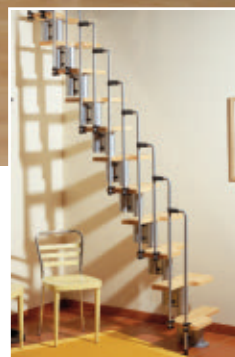
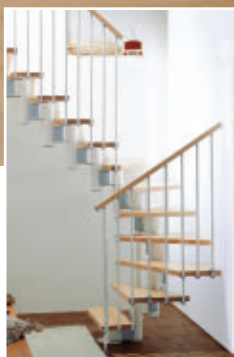
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For more consistent performance, you'll likely have better results with an HVLP sprayer that has an integrated air turbine. This design keeps the airflow consistent and



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the pressure regulated for ideal spray performance. Wagner SprayTech offers a nice unit in the Control Spray Double Duty, which features a two-stage air turbine that's built right into the



When applying the paint, keep the HVLP sprayer nozzle about 7 inches from the work surface.

PRO TIPS FOR PAINT SPRAYER SUCCESS

When using a paint sprayer, always strain the paint or stain/sealer through a paint screen to keep solid particles out of the system.

Avoid spraying in windy conditions, and use drop-cloths and handheld paint shields to protect surrounding areas.

The adjustable tip of a sprayer gun enables a choice of spray patterns for either vertical or horizontal application. Adjust this according to your direction of motion to economize your paint and get the most from your coverage.

When using an HVLP sprayer, keep the nozzle about 7 inches from the work surface. For airless sprayers, keep the nozzle 10-12 inches from the work surface.

For any type of spray application, always hold it perpendicular to the wall surface, moving in even, overlapping coats. Don't swing the nozzle back and forth over the surface, which will result in uneven application.

Be thorough and patient, keeping the coat consistent but still thin. Do not apply a thick coat. Thick coats result in sags and runs, which is a mess to clean—and if the drips harden, you'll have an ugly finish. For a thicker topcoat, apply successive thin coats after the undercoat has dried.

Once the job is over, follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and flushing the machine using the appropriate solvent. This is an absolutely critical step and ensures the paint sprayer will be properly stored without contaminants that gunk up the system, so it will be ready for the next job.



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HVLP sprayers work best in the 35-70 PSI range.

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TOOL SCHOOL

that this sprayer is simple to disassemble for easy cleanup, which takes about 10 minutes.

When preparing the paint for an HVLP sprayer, check the viscosity of the product to make sure it will spray effectively. Most HVLP sprayers include a small, plastic test cup that you fill with paint and then measure the time it takes to drain from the hole in the bottom (the

An HVLP sprayer with an integrated air turbine will achieve the most consistent airflow.



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product manual should provide drain times for specific products, i.e. latex, oil-based, shellac, etc.). Refer to the paint product's instructions for the recommended thinning agent.

AIRLESS APPLICATION

The easiest, most productive way to spray a very large project, like a fence or house siding, is to use an airless sprayer. An airless unit draws stain or paint directly from a paint canister and sprays at pressures up to 1,700 PSI.

Whether you're purchasing, renting or borrowing one of these units, it's important to understand they require additional

care to make sure they're in proper working order. Airless sprayers should be flushed and tested each time a new job is started to ensure no contaminants from previous jobs will mix with the product you intend to apply. Follow the sprayer manufacturer's instructions for circulating the solvent used to clean the equipment. For latex paints, many pros prefer to use clean water, but an oil-based stain requires mineral spirits.

The new Titan ControlMax Series sprayers feature High Efficiency Airless (HEA) technology that provides better paint control with up to 55 percent less overspray. HEA



The easiest, most productive way to spray a very large project is to use an airless sprayer. Titan offers four ControlMax High Efficiency Airless models to suit your needs: ControlMax 1500, ControlMax 1700, ControlMax 1700 Pro, and ControlMax 1900 Pro.

The advertisement for FrogTape features a green background at the top with the FrogTape logo and the tagline 'Keeps Paint Out. Keeps Lines Sharp.' Below this, a comparison is shown between a paint line 'Without PaintBlock**' and a paint line with FrogTape. The FrogTape is shown in a roll and a strip, with the text 'MULTI-SURFACE' and 'FROGTAPE' visible. The bottom of the advertisement has a yellow background with the text 'FrogTape® is the only painter's tape treated with PaintBlock® Technology to give you the sharpest paint lines possible.' and the website 'FrogTape.com'. At the very bottom, small text reads '© Shurtown Brands, LLC 2017 / 71813'.



An airless unit draws stain or paint directly from a paint canister and sprays at pressures up to 1,700 PSI. Like the Titan ControlMax, most airless sprayers are connected via hose to a compact nozzle that allows the versatility to spray at any angle and access tight spaces.

Technology shortens the learning curve for new users while delivering the same quality and speed of conventional airless paint sprayers. ControlMax has the power to spray unthinned paints and stains and has a softer, more forgiving spray pattern that standard airless sprayers, resulting in a consistent, professional finish. **EHT**

For more information on these paint tools, visit:

Preval
www.preval.com

Titan Tool Inc.,
www.TitanHEA.com

Wagner SprayTech
www.wagnerspraytech.com



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Raise the Roof with SkyLift Hardware



Photo courtesy of Green Okie — greenokie.com

Adding a sunshade or patio cover to an existing roof is not a simple project. The problem arises when you try to figure out how to join the new roof to the old roof. Simply attaching to the vertical surface of the wall or even to the fascia board would not be nearly high enough. In response, the SkyLift Hardware company offers the SkyLift Roof Riser brackets to simplify construction. The brackets provide the ability

to securely mount the new roof structure well above the rain gutter and slope it (if desired) for rain runoff without obstructing the view from below.

The SkyLift bracket accomplishes this by providing a vertical riser with a flat plate that penetrates the roof and bolts to the top plate of the exterior wall. The top of the riser accepts a metal saddle designed to hold a beam, which supports the house end of the

new roof. A corresponding beam set on posts supports the other end of the roof.

There are several advantages to the SkyLift design. First, it attaches to the wall framing without interfering with the roof support system. Second, it seals with a standard pipe jack flashing just like the vent pipes you see on most roofs. Third, it provides a way to set the roof beam into place one end at a time.

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SPOT LIGHT

Fourth, it holds the beam securely while allowing lateral adjustments to get the structure square before lag-bolting the beam in place.

The Skylift brackets come in a variety of sizes to accommodate

every design and pitch requirement. The elevated roof increases pitch that helps water flow and discourages debris accumulation, solving most of the leakage and rot problems of low-pitch or flat

covers. The higher roof also provides the patio with an airier feel and opens up the view. The brackets create a gap between the two roofs, allowing natural light to spill in and releasing trapped heat,



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The Roof Riser Brackets are available in different sizes.



To install the brackets, remove roof shingles and cut through the roof deck above the exterior wall of the building.

but weather protection is not compromised because the roofs overlap. **EHT**

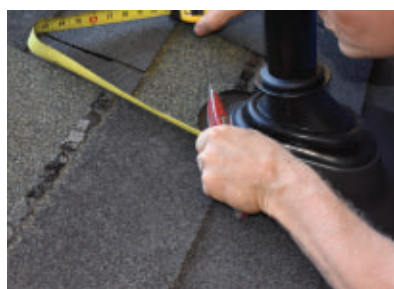
Learn more about the
Roof Riser brackets at
www.skylifthardware.com.



Cut an access hole (minimum 3-1/2" x 6" to 9") through the roof decking/sheathing to reveal the wall's top plate.



Insert the Roof Riser Bracket through the hole and attach to the exterior wall's top plate using four 1/4x3" Simpson Strong-tie SDS screws (included).



Remove the SkyLift Saddle and fit a standard pipe jack flashing (not included) over the bracket column. Then, cut and fit the roofing (removed earlier) around the pipe jack flashing.



Replace the SkyLift Saddle and bolt it to the column (3/8" bolt and nut included).



A beam can then be bolted onto the saddle.



The beams can be configured in a number of ways to accommodate various project applications.

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SKYLIFT HARDWARE SUPPORTS A PERGOLA IN GEORGIA

"I purchased four of the SkyLift Roof Risers this past February, and we are so pleased with our new pergola structure. The product made this building project possible. We have a beautiful view off the back of our house, but for 16 years have been unable to sit outside and enjoy it because of the sun and heat here in Georgia. I had numerous contractors look at ways to extend our roof so we could have a covered porch. No one could figure out what to do without ripping off the existing roof. We liked the idea of a pergola structure with a metal roof. But how to attach it to the house became an issue. The Sky Lift Roof Riser solved the problem!" — K. Hughes, Dalton, Georgia



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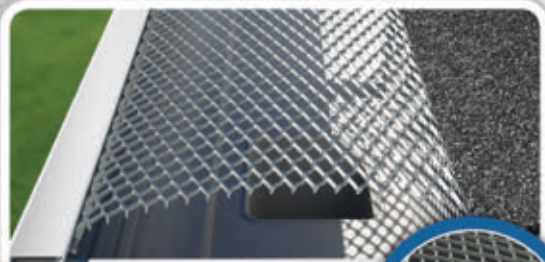
- ★ All three are engineered for a fast install--no fasteners needed.
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- ★ All will fit 5" gutter and come in 4' sections

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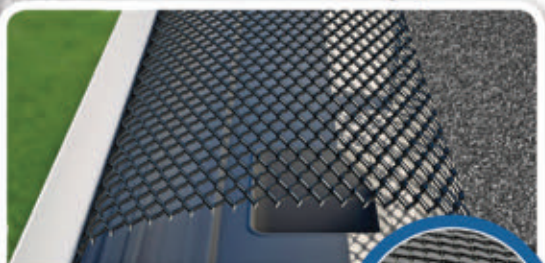
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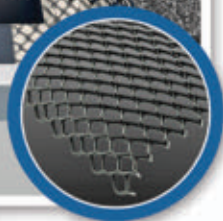
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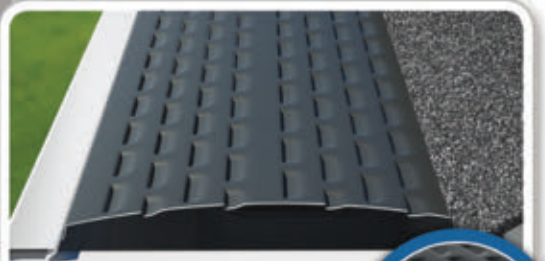
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2017 REMODELING SHOW/DECK EXPO PREVIEW

By Matt Weber

Each year, professional remodelers and building-product suppliers put their heads together at the Remodeling Show/Deck Expo, where new tools and materials get a showcase and the craftsman that use them get a chance to offer face-to-face feedback. The *Extreme How-To* staff will be exhibiting at the convention this year in Nashville, TN, so if you make the trip, stop by booth 525 and say hello. In the meantime, here's a preview of products that will be on display.



DECKORATORS HERITAGE DECKING

Two new Deckorators Heritage deck boards bring interior design to outdoor living. Heritage Riverhouse and Heritage Smokehouse composite decking feature detailed embossing that offers the rustic look and feel of distressed wood flooring. The innovative embossing process creates a pattern that does not repeat for at least 12 feet, meaning boards are not only full of rich character, they are also unique. Riverhouse (brown) and Smokehouse (gray) are available in 12-, 16- and 20-ft. solid and slot-edged profiles, along with fascia. The durable, ultra low-maintenance boards are covered by the Deckorators 25-year structural, 25-year stain-and-fade and 25-year removal-and-replacement limited warranty. Visit www.deckorators.com or booth 1100.

Designed for building. **Designed for living.**



Outdoor Accents®

Add beauty and strength to your outdoor projects. **Introducing Simpson Strong-Tie® Outdoor Accents® decorative hardware.** With multiple connectors to choose from and a classic black matte finish, you can customize your outdoor living space. This new line also includes structural screws that are easy to install and offer the look of bolts.

Outdoor Accents is available at select retailers and online at homedepot.com. Learn more at go.strongtie.com/outdooraccents.

SIMPSON
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DECK2WALL SPACERS

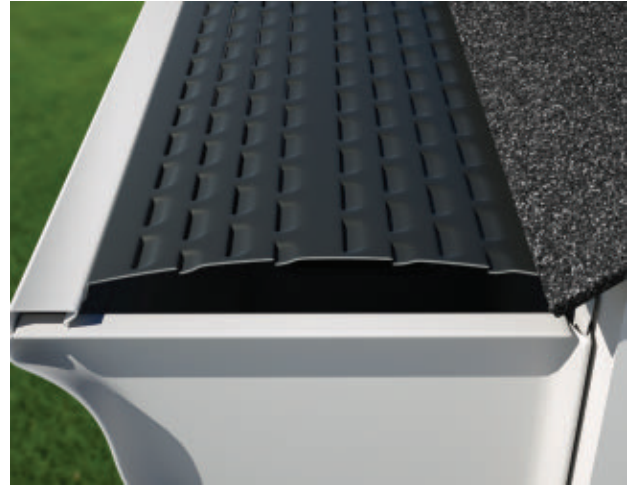
Prevent rot at deck ledgers with Deck2wall Spacers. Deck ledger designs must incorporate water-management practices, because preventing rot at ledger connections is critical to maintaining a safe deck. Deck2wall Spacers provide a space between the deck ledger and house, allowing water and debris to flow through which promotes circulation and drying. Compare this method to typical flashing details that can trap water and debris between the first deck board and the house. The Deck2wall



Spacers work like stacked washers but are noncorrosive, easier to waterproof, and have a larger diameter for better load distribution. They make stronger connections, tested with bolts and lags, and are much easier to install. Made in the USA, these polypropylene spacers are available in two sizes and they also work well on many other applications including shade structures and posts. Visit www.deck2wallspacer.com or booth 854.

E-Z GUTTER GUARDS

E-Z Gutter has developed a series of three distinctly different gutter guards all engineered for fast installation—with no fasteners needed. They're all designed to allow rainwater to rush through while keeping debris out of the gutters, and to stay put during rough weather but snap out for maintenance. E-Z Quick is made of durable, expanded aluminum, with a tight mesh that is engineered to keep debris out while letting rainwater rush through. E-Z Zip is a heavy-duty mesh, made of powder-coated expanded steel. The top of the line is E-Z Shield, which is built out of heavy-duty painted aluminum with reverse louvers allowing water to rush through, while keeping the maximum debris out. The



black color blends into the roofline and heats up fast in the winter months to melt ice and snow. All three products install by placing the back of the screen on the gutter hangers, and pushing the front of screen back and down until it locks into the gutter. They are designed for 5-in. gutters. Each section is 4 feet long and notched for 3/4-in. in overlap. When installed, each box will cover 98.5 ft. Visit www.e-zgutter.com or booth 1045.

DECKWISE

In the last three years, DeckWise has expanded its decking products with flashing tape, stainless steel cable railing and an ever-expanding line of decking screws. The DeckWise lineup also includes hidden deck fasteners, hardwood siding clips and oil finish



products that helps builders to build stronger, longer-lasting hardwood decks. The new DeckWise deck tile pedestal levels and elevates deck tiles over any uneven surface such as rooftops. Four years in the making and countless patents have made this product one of the best on the market. Visit www.deckwise.com or booth 952.

GOOF PROOF SHOWERS

For shower floor drainage, the floor must be properly sloped, and that's what Mark E. Industries' Goof Proof products provide. They have a system of screeding guide sticks that will aid the user in getting the pitch right on all shower floors. No more puddles or kicking water to the drain. Capable of extending up to 6 feet out from the drain in any direction, you can achieve a perfectly sloped floor. The system works with the existing plumbing, regardless of wherever the drain may be located in the floor. Pre-Pitch is for subfloor sloping using membranes to waterproof, and Quick-Pitch is for the thicker mud-bed applications that get tiled. Kirb-Perfect is a cage that wraps the curb, easily filled with mud, which preserves the waterproofing liner integrity in addition to constructing a solid



curb for attaching tile or stone. The company also has another curb, Handi-Kirb for solving wheelchair accessibility obstacles.

The Goof Proof Shower Seat is a ready-to-tile corner seat with the choice of two sizes in one. It includes all the hardware needed for installation in new construction as well as for retrofitting in existing showers (and is able to support 400 lbs.).

The Goof Proof Corner Shelf is also a ready-to-tile corner shelf that attaches to existing tiled walls and can be tiled before or after installation. It will support 100 lbs. All Mark E. Industries products come with thorough easy-to-follow instructions, and the website has instructional videos. Visit www.markeindustries.com or booth 1908.

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MANTIS HIDDEN DECK FASTENER

Sure Drive USA manufactures a wide variety of deck fastening solutions. Our hidden deck fastener line includes The Mantis Clip for grooved boards. Voted as the easiest hidden deck fastener to install, it has been a favorite with decking contractors as well as DIY homeowners. For easy installation, the Senco Eliminator RCS with E-Z Slide attachment is a pneumatic tool for installing Mantis using Ballistic Nail Screws to fasten grooved decking up to 70-percent faster than conventional methods. The Mantis clip is recommended by top decking manufacturers like MoistureShield, Trex, Gossen, ChoiceDek and more. The Mantis is different than the other “generic”



clips on the market because it is built with a base that promotes airflow to ensure the joist structure remains protected. The Mantis clip is available in four profiles to precisely fit specific boards and is backed by a 30-year warranty against loose deck boards (unmatched in the industry).

Additional Sure Drive hidden deck-fastening options include the Hidden Link for solid edge decking (available in two varieties), and the ShadoeTrack metal channels which are available in 4- and 8-ft. lengths and can be used for all types of decking. Visit www.suredrive.com or booth 941.

READY SEAL

A one-step product like Ready Seal allows you to stain and seal wood in a single process. Traditional products require using back-brushing techniques to cover brush strokes and to make overlapping stain blend properly, but not Ready Seal. Ready Seal is a penetrating stain that absorbs into the wood fibers rather than just leaving a surface film which will crack, flake and peel off as wood expands and contracts. Its deep penetration moisturizes wood with waterproofing oils and creates ultimate UV protection



in a flexible barrier that keeps out moisture, mold and fungi. It contains no linseed or vegetable oils that promote algae and fungus growth in wood. Ready Seal can be easily applied with a sprayer, roller or brush. It will not lap, run or streak, and no back-brushing is necessary. It can be applied in any temperature, and no sanding or stripping is required for reapplication. It can also withstand rain within minutes of application, and Ready Seal is VOC compliant in all 50 states. Visit booth 1153 or ReadySeal.com.

SNAPPOWER SAFELIGHT

The easy-to-install, SnapPower SafeLight (starting at \$17), safely transforms any outlet into a child friendly night-light with a built-in sensor that automatically turns on and off based on the lighting in the area. The SafeLight is equipped with sliding outlet covers which helps prevent children from electrical shocks and hazards. Visit www.snappower.com or booth 602.



THROUGH THE ROOF!

From the makers of Lexel and Big Stretch, Sashco touts Through the ROOF! as the fix-it-even-when-wet roof sealant. It's easy to gun out or brush onto roofing surfaces, even when the outside temperature is zero degrees. Best of all, it's immediately water resistant and sticks to most any surface—wet or dry, hot or cold, even in standing water! It won't crack or dry hard, and it expands and contracts with temperature changes. The product is great for shingles, vents, flashing, gutters, and sealing up leaky chimneys. The best time to fix a leak is when it's leaking;



no need to wait for it to dry. Through the ROOF! sticks to most roofing surfaces and stays clear, meaning it will not yellow over time, and it won't cause discoloration to metals or tiles. This ultra-clear roof, gutter and flashing caulk goes on easy and remains elastic year after year to permanently seal those nagging leaks. It's proven to last 20 times longer than roof cement, it's paintable, made in the USA, and backed by a limited lifetime warranty. Visit www.sashco.com or booth 1918.

RFOIL REFLECTIVE INSULATION

rFOIL Reflective Insulation is a patented technology manufactured by Covertech. It is designed to reduce the radiant heat gain/loss in residential, commercial and HVAC applications. Residential applications include walls, ceilings, crawl space, floors, between joist, ductwork, under vinyl siding, attics, roofs and many other applications. rFOIL will not rot, degrade, compress or breakdown over time. Adding rFOIL to your construction project will improve the insulation value and significantly increase its energy efficiency.

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The image shows a modern bathroom shower stall with a glass door and a showerhead. The showerhead is a large, round, rain-style showerhead. The glass door has a silver handle and a lock. The shower floor is made of wood. The background wall is covered in dark, square tiles. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

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rFOIL is also lightweight, clean and fiber-free. It will not promote mold, mildew or fungi, and its thermal value is unaffected by moisture or humidity. Easy to handle and install, rFOIL reflects 96 percent of radiant heat. Visit rfoil.com or booth 1916.

SIMPSON STRONG-TIE OUTDOOR ACCENTS DECORATIVE HARDWARE

No matter what you plan to build in your backyard retreat, Simpson Strong-Tie has the outdoor hardware to help you complete all your projects. For a pergola, outdoor bench, or even a custom grill table that makes a statement, Outdoor Accents hardware is made with ZMAX hot-dip galvanized steel for corrosion resistance and features a black powder-coat finish.



The hardware provides the structural strength needed for outdoor projects and showcases the beauty of the wood. Visit diydoneright.com booth 1319.

MURO

Screw It!... Muro Auto Feed Screw Driving Technology provides great solutions for driving screws, helping save you time, energy and effort on every job, all while completely eliminating those hated sore backs and knees normally associated with these tasks. Whenever your job involves subfloor, drywall, roofing, decking or dock-building, there's a Muro system for you. Muro also has fasteners for these and other specialty applications, including wood to steel or aluminum and exotic hardwoods with no pre-drilling



required on any job. Muro tools boast 150 screws per coil (the highest payload in the industry) and have a telescopic handle that adjusts to your specific working height—key features that no one else offers. Visit www.muro.com or booth W648.

AZEK DECK DESIGNER APP

AZEK's new app has been updated to give customers the opportunity to bring their dream outdoor living spaces to life. It features the web-based Deck Designer tool that allows consumers to create virtual deck designs on the AZEK website. The Snapshot Mode allows consumers to upload or snap a photo of their own outdoor space before attaching their virtual deck to the image. The app also comes with template decks to help customers get their designs started,

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as well as customized collections of user saved deck designs. The new app makes it easy to lay out unique, 3D designs using 140-plus product options that include premium AZEK and TimberTech decking, railing, lighting and accessories. When those custom designs are complete, consumers can then download a list of materials that they'll need during the construction process. The app also helps locate local contractors and dealers. Visit azek.com or booth 1251.

DAVINCI ROOFSCAPES BELLAFORTÉ SHAKE

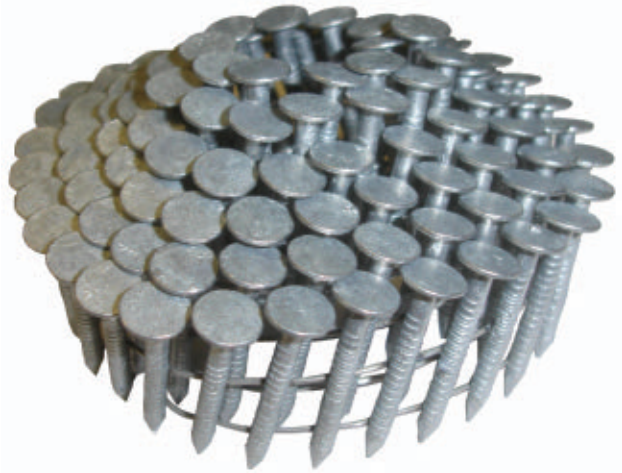
Bellaforte Shake tiles from DaVinci Roofscapes provide a cost-effective alternative to real wood shingles. The authentic-looking 12-in. wide synthetic tile has multiple profiles to simulate a staggered, rough-hewn real wood shake roof. Leading edge tabs drastically improve wind performance, and the snap-fit tiles



create a built-in rain gutter. Resistant to fire, impact, insect, curling, fungus and algae, Bellaforte Shake tiles have a 1-in. average thickness and come in dozens of colors. Visit davinciroofscapes.com or booth 1848.

MAZE NAILS

Maze manufactures quality double hot-dipped nails for fiber cement siding, cedar and redwood siding, roofing, cedar shakes and shingles, PVC trim products, decking, fencing and post frame building construction. The Maze Double Hot Dipped Galvanized Ring-shank Roofing Nails are Miami



Dade County Approved. All Maze Nails are 100-percent Made in the USA from recycled re-melted steel, making them eco-friendly for sustainable building practices. Visit www.mazenails.com or booth 1347.

SPLITSTOP SCREWS

Titan Metal Werks offers SplitStop High Performance Screws for natural wood and composite decking applications, as well as most other wood-to-wood and composite-to-wood applications. Titan's patented design eliminates splits and the need to predrill, even in dense hardwoods like ipe. Drive-torque is thereby diminished, resulting in less screw breakage, reduced user fatigue and longer cordless-drill battery life. Wood screws are available in both square and star-drive recess types. A variety of quality finishes are available, including interior yellow-zinc, Lifetime Warranted exterior ACQ-rated finishes, and stainless steel. Similar patented SplitStop features also





enhance the performance of the non-mushrooming Titan III composite decking screws. SplitStop T3 composite screws comes in three sizes and five colors, and are available collated as well as in a 1.5-in. length developed for composite fence builders. Visit www.splitstop.com or booth 740.

DEKTEK TILE

DekTek Tile is a new concrete decking material that provides a perfect way to add class to outdoor living areas: porches, patios, concrete-slabs, balconies, outdoor kitchens, three-season porches, fire pits, concrete steps and ground pavers. No expensive substrates or heavy-duty framing are needed. Standard framing is usually sufficient, with only minor modifications. DekTek Tile is designed to be the same 1-in. thickness as traditional wood/composite decking to make beautiful accent decks, edge trims, or for mixing and matching. It's building-code approved and structurally engineered to hold over 1,000 lbs. per tile. Homeowners will also have more time to enjoy their deck rather than maintaining it, which means no more mold, rotting wood, chipping and peeling, or the upkeep of cleaning, scrubbing and staining the deck. And unlike wood and composite decking, DekTek keeps its beautiful look without fading. Visit dektekile.com or booth 1038.



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KIK HS BRAD POINT BITS

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 percent 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 Bits are available in standard jobber lengths and 8-1/4-in. extended length. The extended lengths have a hole near the tip for pulling wires through the hole with the bit that made the hole. Visit www.mytgtools.com or booth 525.

U2 FASTENERS

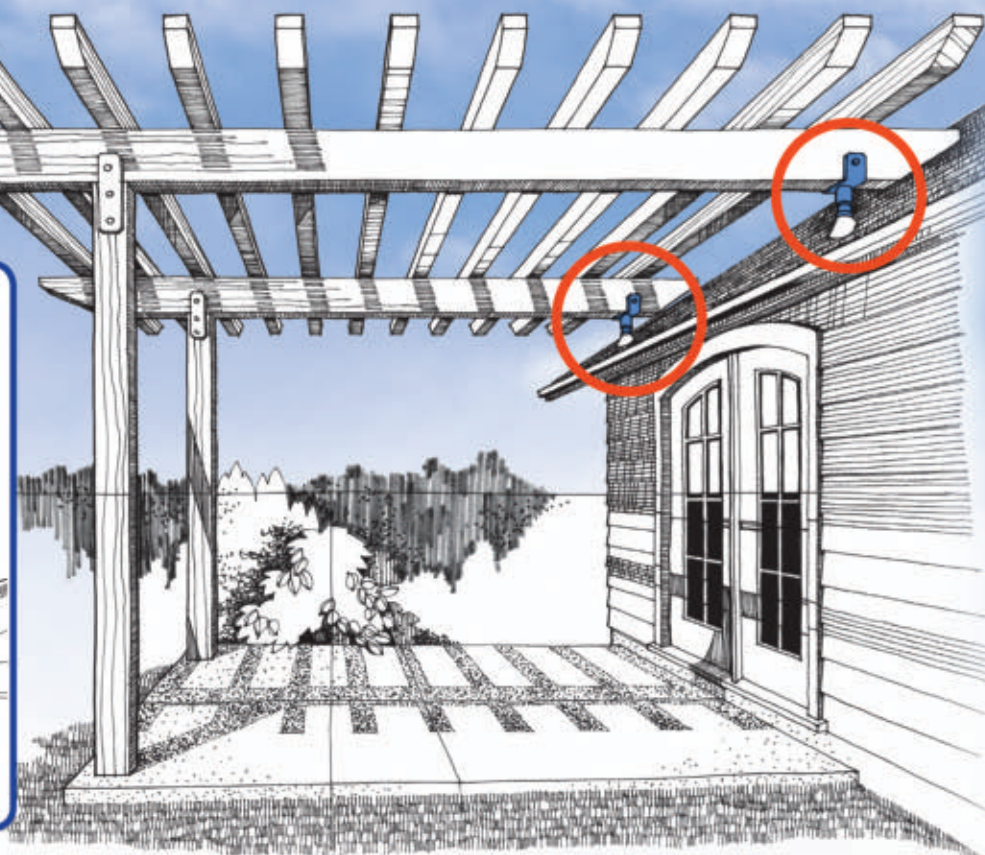
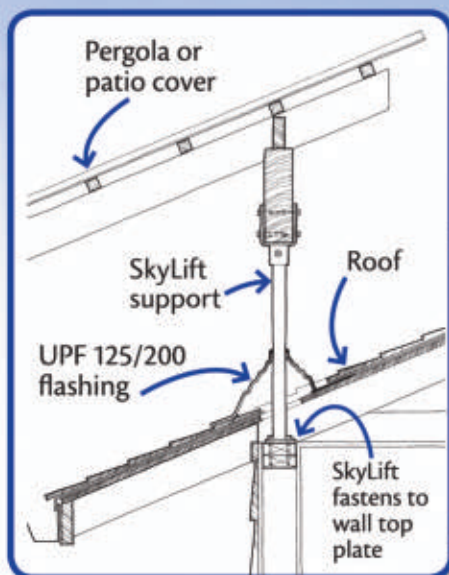
U2 fasteners has raised the bar for quality in the fastener industry, having released its IAPMO (ER 454) evaluation to become one of few fastener companies that are evaluated and comply with the International Building Code and Residential Building Code for corrosion resistance (AC233) and structural strength (AC257). U2 fasteners’ coating was one of the first, if not the only one, which has passed the 2015 requirements, with ground contact at 0.6pcf ACQ treated lumber (ER 454). U2 fasteners is also the



first fastener company that offers a chrome 6-free coating, reducing the risk for end users developing skin cancer through constant use of fasteners with coatings containing chromium 6.

U2 fasteners offers five product lines for residential construction, including the Construction Screw and Universal Screw. The U2 Construction Screw, also known as CS Screw, is the next generation of construction screws that are replacing lag screws. The Universal Screw is just that—universal for many projects and ideal for replacing old deck screws. Features like Tight Star Recess, Reamer Thread, Talon Grip, Tapper Point, and Burrow Pockets set U2 fasteners apart from the rest of the fasteners out there. Visit u2fasteners.com or booth 409.

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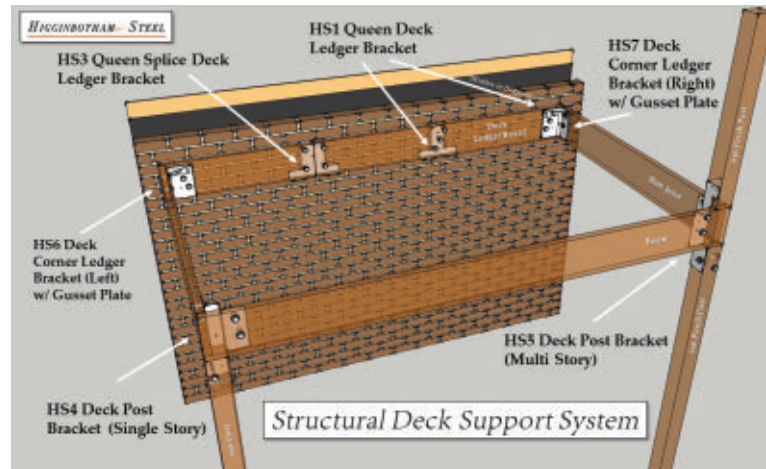
Now available at 84 Lumber Co., EcoLife Stabilized Weather-Resistant Wood (EL2) from Viance is a non-metallic wood stabilizing preservative system offering advanced weathering protection with improved dimensional stability to make every outdoor living project look better for longer. EcoLife's built-in wood stabilizer repels water on all surfaces, which reduces



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HIGGINBOTHAM STEEL'S STRUCTURAL DECK BRACKET

The HS Deck Ledger Brackets (#HS1-HS3) are structurally designed to securely attach decks to building frames. Exceeding code requirements, this unique system strengthens and reinforces wood deck and porch framing components. The brackets connect the deck structure to the adjacent building's floor structure. It reinforces 4x4 handrail post connections, and is offered for multistory applications as well. Higginbotham Steel's HS brackets can also be applied for energy Foam/Siding Deck Ledger Board attachment applications. Depending on the size and



design of the deck, 2x4 knee bracing may be eliminated. American-made (designed, engineered and fabricated in USA), the Steel Bracket Components are laser cut from 12 Gauge steel plate and are available in multiple coatings. Visit www.higginbothamsteel.com or booth 1919.

ZIP-UP UNDERDECK

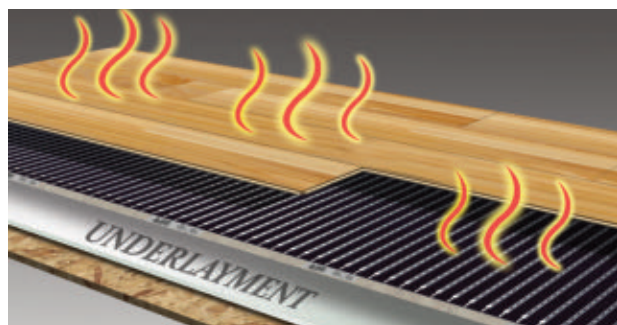
Transform the underutilized area beneath a raised deck into dry outdoor living and storage space while maintaining maximum headroom and accessibility to the underside of the deck. Available in three finishes and backed by a 25-year warranty, Zip-UP UnderDeck is made from durable interlocking PVC components engineered to fit together easily. Creating a watertight barrier that channels water for effective drainage, the system provides a flat, grid-free, non-corrugated, washable and paintable "ceiling" surface that is mold- and mildew-resistant. The panels do not kink like aluminum, they look nicer, are easier to work with and unzip for quick access to the bottom of the deck. Suitable for both residential and commercial installations, Zip-UP UnderDeck meets Class A Fire Rating and has passed Dade County, FL, standards for



hurricane testing, which is the “gold” standard around the country. This screw-in/zip-in-place system installs with five components: wall trim that attaches to walls or joists around the perimeter, main rail that runs the length of the deck, 1-ft. wide panels that are the visible surface of the system, and pitching rails that drain water. The main rails and panels come in 12- and 16-ft. lengths, and an average size deck can easily be completed in one day. Visit www.zipupceilings.com or booth 1316.

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thinner than a credit card, QuietWarmth installs quickly without messy mortar or glue. QuietWarmth systems are available in two applications; mats designed for floating floors and for traditional tile. Radiant Heat Film is engineered for floating floors, including laminate, engineered wood, hardwood and luxury vinyl. For traditional tile, the conductive ink film is embedded in a peel-and-stick mat that is easy to install, requiring no messy self-levelers or glue; simply roll it out, cut it to fit with a pair of scissors, and run wires to a thermostat for control. Visit www.quietwarmth.com or booth 1316.

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PULSE ShowerSpas introduces the new Aquarius Shower System, an innovative retro-fit shower that replaces your old shower with a chrome 8-in. “rain style” showerhead and handheld. The pivoting showerhead allows you to move it left or right for personal



adjustment. The handheld is conveniently attached to its holder with magnetic technology and features a soft grip that easily twists the water on and off. This easy-to-install shower utilizes your existing valve and has a diverter that makes it easy to switch the showerhead from on to off position. Visit www.PulseShowerSpas.com or booth 2022.

AGS STAINLESS RAILING WITH HIGH-POLISH FINISH

AGS Stainless announces the availability of a new high-polish finish option across their entire product line-up of custom-made, prefabricated stainless steel railing systems suitable for residential or commercial.



AGS Stainless provides beautiful interior and exterior stainless steel railing systems that have long been well-revered throughout the industry. This new product is made from the same A316 marine-grade stainless steel as all the other high-quality AGS Stainless products, but in addition to its gorgeous finish it provides additional corrosion protection for projects located within harsh coastal environments. With the usage of stainless steel exploding in popularity as a high-quality material for railing systems, this new high-polish finish offers another option for architects and designers wanting a unique look when it comes to railing systems adorning outdoor living spaces, common areas, rooftop decks and more. Visit www.AGSstainless.com or booth 1909.

HITACHI CB18DBLP4 CORDLESS BAND SAW

Covered by Hitachi's Lifetime Lithium Ion tool warranty and equipped with a brushless motor technology, the CB18DBLP4 is a cordless band saw with a 3-1/4-in. cut capacity. It is designed to cut in place, overhead or in hard-to-reach spaces. It cuts materials such as conduit pipes, steel pipes, power cables, aluminum window frames and various plastics. Impressively lightweight at 6.45 lbs. (without battery), this cordless band saw features an on-tool battery charge indicator, an auto-mode function to automatically adjust the blade speed to the application, and it has a convenient tool-free blade change to reduce user downtime. This brushless band saw is compatible with all Hitachi 18V Lithium Ion slide-type batteries. Visit hitachipowertools.com or booth 1822. **EHT**



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POCKET GUIDE TO POCKET DOORS

Pocket doors have long been popular because they “disappear” into a wall, so there’s no swinging door in either adjoining room. The “disappearing” aspect of the doors presents a neat aesthetic option to a home, and for certain floor plans this feature is critical to avoid doors that interfere with the natural flow of foot traffic. The space-saving design of a pocket door can be a handy solution for small living areas, such as bathrooms, where a hinged door might occupy too much floor place.

A pocket door slides into a frame of metal and wood that is installed when the wall is constructed. In place of solid studs, the pocket-door frame utilizes “split studs”—one on each side of the door—which the door slides between to open and close.





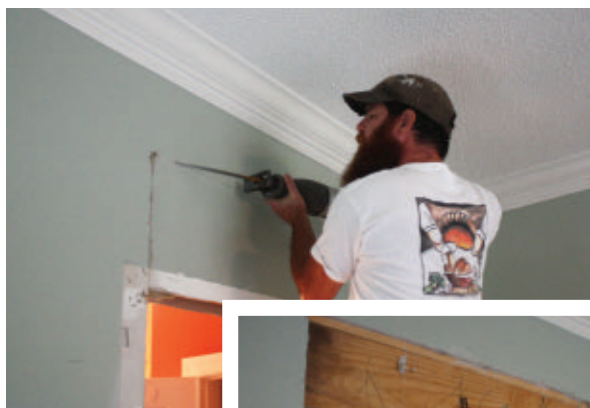


Today's pocket-door kits include all the framing components and hardware necessary to complete the installation. For this project, we used the 1500 Series Pocket Door Frame from Johnson Hardware.

DESIGN OPTIONS

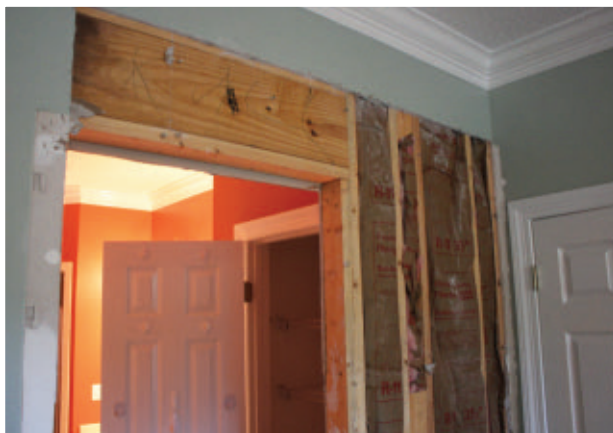
These days, pocket door hardware is sold in kits with all the components you need for installation. You can buy a kit that includes the door, but the hardware will typically work on any

door—solid or hollow core or flat or paneled—that is slim enough to fit between the split studs. Pocket door hardware kits are usually available for doors 1-1/8 inches to 1-3/4 inches thick by 6 feet, 8 inches high. Look for a high-



For a retrofit, cut away the wallboard in an orderly fashion that minimizes airborne dust and the related mess.

Shown is the existing wall frame that must be removed and rebuilt to the rough-opening dimensions specified by the pocket-door kit.



quality pocket door frame with durable hardware.

If you'd like to repurpose an existing door as a pocket door—no problem. You can remove the door knob and replace it with a recessed handle in a wide array of styles and finishes. The recessed handles fold flat against the door to fit between the split studs. Instead of a door latch, you can remove the lock mechanism and replace it with a flip-out metal pull, so you'll have a handle to tug the door closed when it's fully recessed in the open position. You'll also find options such as "soft close" actuators as well



The plan for this project was to reuse the existing paneled door as the pocket door, which provided a baseline for measuring the pocket-door frame.

as kits that hide the door-guide hardware.

To order a single pocket door, first determine your door size (door width, door height and door thickness). Next, select a frame kit that accommodates your door size. Keep in mind that if you don't see your exact door size, the frames can be cut down to accommodate a smaller size door. Just order the next larger frame size for your door and follow the instructions.

Although pocket doors are usually built when the wall is framed,

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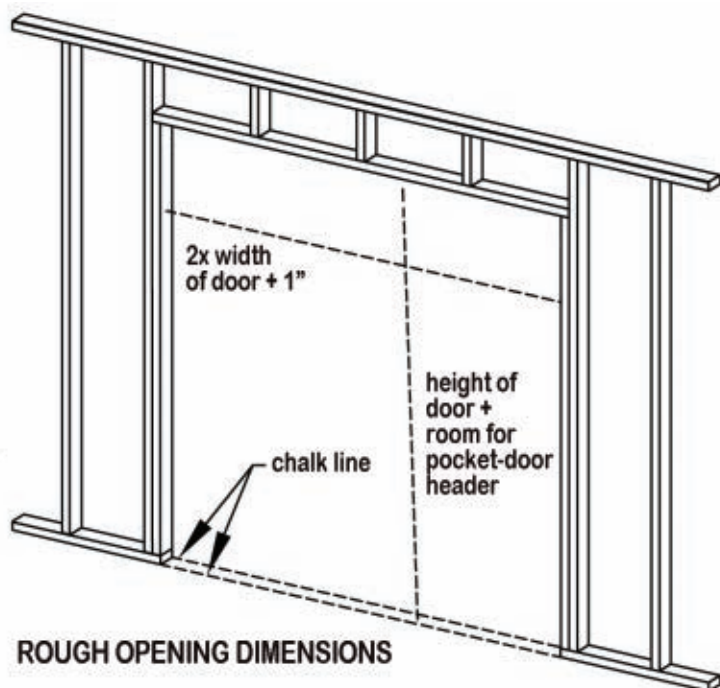
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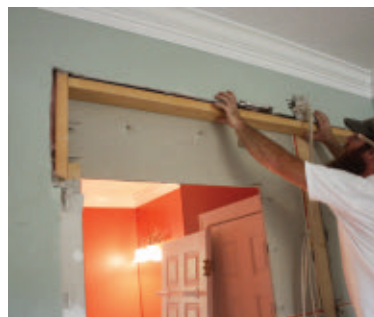
POCKET GUIDE TO POCKET DOORS



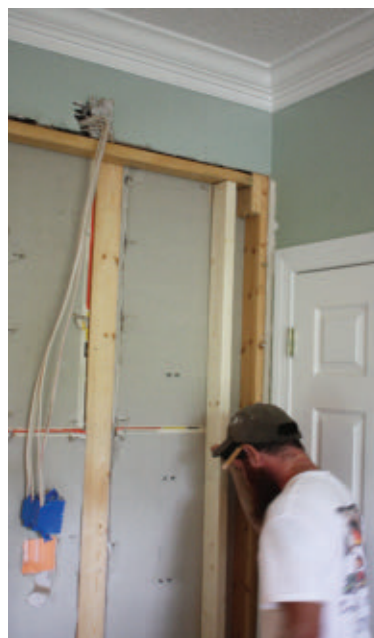
ROUGH OPENING DIMENSIONS

Remove the floor plate for the rough opening and construct a new door frame according to the kit's instructions.

you can always open a wall and reframe it for a pocket door, as shown throughout this article. When planning the project, keep in mind the various application options, particularly if installing two doors. For example: Will two doors butt together in the middle of the opening? Or will they be built as bypass doors that slide past each other on separate tracks? Your answer will determine the frame kit you need.



First install the header of the rough opening, which must allow for the height of the door plus room for the pocket-door header that contains the door track.



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SINGLE-DOOR INSTALLATION

Generally speaking, pocket doors all install in the same way, but there might be discrepancies between the kits of various manufacturers, so read the instructions before beginning. It is critical for proper door operation, however, that the frame is always installed square, level and plumb to the wall studs.



Make sure the opening is square and plumb.



Cut the pocket-door header to size according to the door size. The kit instructions will explain this in more detail.



Because the pocket-door header contains a metal channel, we cut the metal separately using a hacksaw.

For a retrofit project, you first must demolish the existing wall in an orderly fashion. If it's covered in drywall, expect to generate a lot of dust, so protect the surrounding living area. Rather than bashing the drywall with a hammer, cut it out in large sections to reduce airborne dust. You'll need to remove all the existing studs, plates and sills, as well as any electrical and plumbing.

Using 2x4 studs, frame a new rough opening to fit the dimensions for the door jamb indicated by the manufacturer of the pocket-door kit. Note that any load-bearing wall will need the ceiling above it to be adequately supported during remodeling, and a new load-bearing 2x header must be constructed above the rough opening.

To help guide installation of the frame, snap a couple of chalk

Reattach the metal end-brackets to the cut side of the pocket-door header.



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Make sure the header is perfectly level and square to the studs.

Screw the end-brackets securely to the jamb.

lines on the floor even with the side jambs.

Next, install the pocket-door header (with track assembly) to the jamb of the rough opening by screwing the supplied end-brackets to the wall studs. As mentioned already, this may require you to cut an oversized kit header to length, then reattach the bracket on one end. Carefully level the header before fastening to the brackets to the studs.

The split studs attach to each side of the pocket-door header at the top; at the bottom, they're mounted to the floor with a metal bracket that maintains the correct spacing for the door to pass through. Each stud comes wrapped in heavy-gauge steel for extra strength and rigidity. Carefully plumb the split studs and screw

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them to the header and to the floor. Your kit will contain at least two pairs of split studs. One pair should be located at the edge of (what will be) the door opening, and the second pair should be located halfway between the first split studs and the jamb of the doorframe.

With the studs in place, you can slide the wheel hangers into the metal track that's inside the header. The solid nylon wheels attach to hanging hardware mounted on top of the door, so it rolls smoothly across the overhead track. Adjust the hangers until the door is plumb.

Note that if your door is not already finished, you will need to paint or stain all edges and faces to prevent it from warping. A warped door won't open and



The metal-encased split studs allow the door to pass through them. Attach the metal floor bracket at the bottom of a pair of studs. The bracket will hold the studs the correct distance apart for proper door passage, plus it will serve as a mounting plate to the floor.

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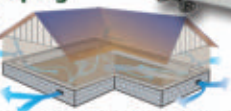
Room-to-Room

Level-to-Level



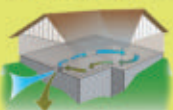
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For More Information

POCKET GUIDE TO POCKET DOORS

close properly inside the wall pocket.

Test the door to make sure it opens and closes smoothly, then remove it and install wall-board over the door pocket.

Use construction adhesive and 1-inch drywall screws. (If the screws are too long, it will interfere with the door's operation.) Finish the wall to match the surrounding room.

Finally, re-hang the door and then install the door guides on the inside and outside of the door at the mouth of the pocket. The adjustable guides center the door in the opening with enough clearance for it to slide smoothly.

Install door casing to the jamb and split studs, and add a full-width strike jamb on the opposite side.

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Install the two pairs on split studs on either side of the header channel and make sure they're plumb.

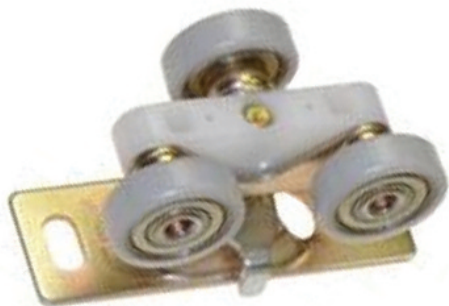


One pair of the studs must be located at the edge of the door opening. Screw them into the header.



Screw the split studs to the floor through the floor plate.

Complete the job by attaching any hardware accessories to the door, such as fold-down handles or decorative pulls. **EHT**



Solid nylon wheel hangers allow a pocket door to open and close.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to professional remodeler Ritchie Hamilton for help with this project.



Slot the wheel hangers into the metal header track.



Metal lock tabs are mounted to the top of the door will connect to the hangers.



Screw the lock tabs to the door 2" from each edge.



Rehang the door and test its operation. Once satisfied, add the door guides at the bottom. This essentially completes the functional aspect of the project. Everything else is cosmetic: wallboard, trimwork, paint and details. The installer will need to repair the hinge mortises, install a recessed handle and add an edge-pull to the old door to give it new life as a door that "disappears."

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*Installing a
door using
barn style door
hardware*

BACK ON TRACK

By Larry Walton
Photos by Mark Walton

I've installed several doors using barn door style hardware recently, which is why I knew it would be a quick and easy solution to keep our new puppy from destroying the furniture in our living room.

Some of the custom home builders we work with use this type of door design to make very cool and different looking door setups. It has several of the advantages of a pocket door without some of the hassles. It can be parked out of the way by sliding it open behind wall tables, easy chairs or sofas staged with backs to the wall.

Unlike pocket doors, it can be easily installed as an afterthought, change of plans or upgrade. It has the advantage of being quite forgiving in specifications because it overlaps the opening and does not need to be sized or aligned perfectly. It is easy to adjust. Plus, you can get to the entire door for touchup or repair.

A barn-style door can be installed in lots of remodel situations as a single door or in pairs. The requirements are few: enough

room to park the doors when open, and sufficient anchor points for the rail brackets.

This project can be very easily reversed, which makes it ideal for a temporary solution such as saving furniture and carpet while you are training a new puppy. Because the hardware on this project requires only three lag screws penetrating the wall, if we decide to remove it the only repairs would be filling the three holes and adding a little touchup paint.

When it comes to doors, you have a number of options including building your own doors to fit, which can be done in a true "barn" fashion. But the simplest approach is to buy an off-the-shelf door blank or two from your home-improvement center. You can match existing doors in the house or, as in our case, match some nearby cabinet doors.

Our lab-mix Buddy figured out how to roll the door open right way, so we put a simple hook latch on the door and a corresponding eye on the wall.

The installation is pretty straightforward, but there are some tips that make the job



BACK ON TRACK

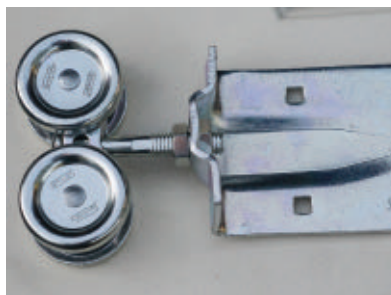
go smoothly and help the doors operate and adjust easily. The Stanley hardware we used for our project was designed for very large, heavy doors, so spanning a hallway opening with hollow-core doors was no problem. We started the project by noting that a 3'0" x 6'8" door would work well to keep dogs from invading the no-dog zone of our house. You can use any one or combination of two doors commonly found in interior applications.



There are a few details to note when assembling the hardware for the doors. One is the difference between these two nuts with the same inside diameter and thread pitch/count but different outside dimensions. The larger one goes on last and fits in the channel of the door bracket. Not only is it kept from spinning by the shape of the bracket, the additional surface area of the nut helps carry the weight of the doors.



Note that the hanger (or trolley) has a stamp indicating the bottom. This is important to get the hanger bolt into the proper position.



With the large nut in the channel, the flat areas on the hanger bolt allows the door to be adjusted for height and level while holding the weight of the doors.



Notice how the shoulder of the door bracket must be held off the door top enough to allow for adjustment to the hanger bolt, which needs room to extend toward the door.



With the door bracket centered on the door stile and allowing for adjustment, I used a combo square to align it and then marked the carriage-bolt locations.



I drilled through the door for each of the carriage bolts.



I placed each of the carriage bolts and started a nut on the underside before turning the door over to tighten the nuts.



When securing the nuts, be careful not to overtighten, which could dent or even break the face of the hollow-core door.



With the door brackets mounted, I installed the hanger and cut off the carriage bolts just outside of

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BACK ON TRACK

the nuts with a reciprocating saw equipped with a metal cutting blade.

I put the box rail in position over the hanger wheels so I could

measure from the bottom of the door to the lag screw hole on the box rail mounting bracket. I added one inch to this measurement to allow clearance between



the bottom of the door and the floor.



I used a stud finder to locate the center of the studs for the rail brackets. It's critical on this installation that the lag screws are mounted solidly into framing.



At one of the stud locations, I measured from the floor to mark the box rail bracket's lag screw location.



Brake Kleen and a rag will help clean the protective oil off the box rail brackets.

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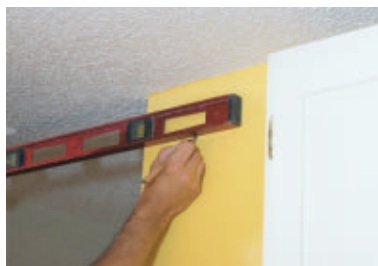
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I transferred the floor-to-lag-screw measurement to the other stud locations with a level.



The lag screw locations should be predrilled to a diameter just under the minor diameter of the lag screw threads. I use the largest drill bit that cannot be seen when lined up behind the screw threads.



I pre-positioned the box rail brackets at the lag screw locations on the box rail.



Starting with the center bracket, I attached all of the box rail brackets to the wall with the lag screws that came in the kit.

A socket attachment on an impact driver works well for this job.

I then rolled the wheels of the hangers into the open end of the box rail.





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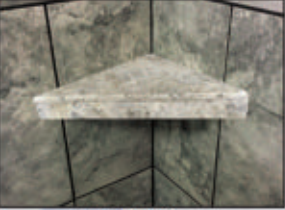
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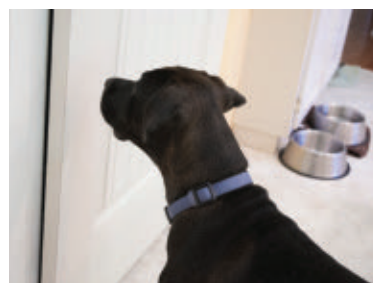
BACK ON TRACK

The end cap for the box rail fits inside and can be driven flush with a hammer. It keeps the hanger wheels from exiting the box rail. It keeps the hanger wheels from exiting the box rail.

If the door isn't already finished

with paint or stain, seal and/or prime all sides and edges to prevent it from warping.

The new door works great for everyone but Buddy. **EHT**



There are lots of door combinations and mounting methods to this type of sliding door setup. A pocket-door track is hidden behind a valance on this set of custom double doors.




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Build a Custom Laundry Closet

Construct a Laundry Room Shelf System for under \$200.



By Rob Robillard

Laudry Rooms are moving up in the world. When I was growing up, the laundry machines were always in the basement—that's just where they lived! While the basement location might have been an afterthought with the advent of indoor laundry, it did have some benefits, such as, less

noise and less damage in the case of a burst water hose.

Over the last 20 years with the introduction of laundry machine drain pans, water shut-offs and stainless steel braided hoses, there has been a growing trend to move laundry upstairs or onto the bedroom level. The advantages of

locating your laundry upstairs is that you eliminate carrying loads of laundry up and down the stairs. When you stop and think that most of the dirty laundry is generated from the bedrooms (clothes and bedding) and the bathrooms (towels), it makes sense to place it near to that location.

DESIGNING A LAUNDRY CLOSET

Laundry rooms always seem to collect clothes, clutter and cleaning supplies. For that reason, you will want to hide it from view at times.

We often add laundry closets, not rooms, to our client's existing living spaces. In these situations, we are looking for a spot that will be out of the way and functional. Many times, we find ourselves retrofitting existing closets or building a new laundry closet. In the latter case, if space allows, I always advocate for a wide enough closet for the machines and try to include space for shelving. When shelving is involved the closet often becomes wider than a normal size door, so we finish the closet with a set of double doors to close off the space.

CREATE ELEVATED LAUNDRY STORAGE

Elevated storage keeps potentially dangerous cleaning supplies out of reach of young children and pets. But it offers more than that; being organized makes any job easier, including laundry.

On this project, we built our laundry room in a large unused hallway. We built a closet with inside dimensions of 32-1/2 x



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PROJECT NEXT

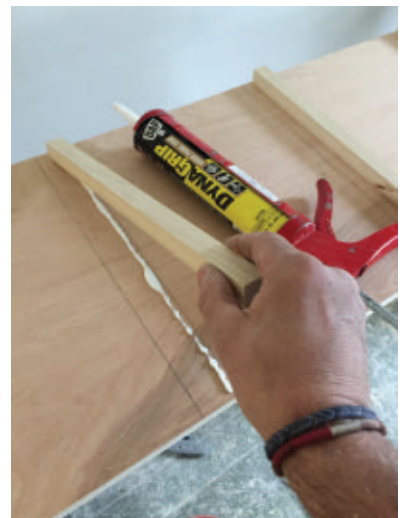
62-1/2 inches. Our client was planning on purchasing a stacking washer/dryer unit and wanted storage shelving for laundry, cleaning supplies and towels.

After leaving ample room for

the 28-in. laundry machines, we had approximately 24 in. of space to the left of the machines to build vertical shelving, plus a top shelf that spanned the entire closet.



After having the lumberyard cut the plywood panels to size, our first step was to lay out and mark the shelf locations.



Construction adhesive is important to anchor cleats that don't cross at least two studs.

CHOOSING MATERIALS

For our shelving unit, we decided to use 3/4-in. Birch plywood for the shelves and vertical side panels. We used solid Poplar for the face frame, cleats and nosing. We chose Birch plywood because it has a smooth, quality finish on both sides, and the wood grain finishes very well. We like to use Poplar because it's durable,

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When spacing the shelves, keep in mind the distance between the shelf nosing that will be installed (1-1/2" in this case).



Fasten the cleats with finish nails while the glue sets.



Dry-fit the components to double-check the shelf size and design before final installation to the wall.

inexpensive, has no knots and also finishes well. Birch plywood in my neck of the woods costs around \$70 a sheet. Poplar is cheap.

SIZING MATERIAL

My lumberyard has a panel saw, so I had them rip the two sheets of plywood into four 24-in. wide pieces. Not only did this allow for easier carrying and transport, but it eliminated the step of my having to cut it down to a narrower width. That saved me time.

SHELF CLEAT DESIGN

For the shelves to be secure, we usually install 1-1/2-in. wide cleats on the wall to support them using two finish nails per stud. The problem for this project was that the cleats were not long enough to hit enough wall studs for proper fastening.

Instead of using wall anchors, we decided to use vertical poplar cleats on both sides of the shelves. This design essentially creates a plywood box, and the poplar gave use solid nailing

throughout the entire length of the cleat. This also allowed us to use narrower cleats, which meant that we could hide them behind our 1-1/2-in. shelf nosing.

LAYING OUT THE SHELVES

We knew the size of the stackable laundry machine units, so we added 8 inches to determine the top shelf height. We wanted to allow plenty of air space for ventilation, at the top and sides.

Working from the top shelf location downward, we started to lay out our shelves. Knowing that the client wanted a laundry basket on the floor, we allowed for 17 inches between the bottom of the first shelf to the finished floor. (Note that the flooring was not finished at this point, so the the thickness of the flooring to be installed had to be calculated).

We the cut our two vertical plywood sides to the height of the top shelf (minus the 3/4-in. top shelf), and then laid out the five equal shelf locations. We

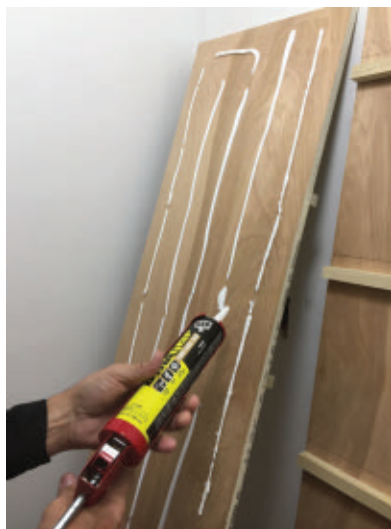
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Use a liberal amount of construction adhesive to fasten the side panel to the wall.



Nail the panel into any studs you can reach while the glue dries.

ended up with 10-1/2-in. spacing between shelf nosings. (We based our spacing off the 1-1/2-in. shelf nosing; the actual spacing between shelves is 11-1/4-in.)

APPLYING THE CLEATS

Once we had our shelves laid out, we started cutting cleats. For the shelves we needed 10 cleats, measuring 3/4x3/4-in. cut to the

depth of the shelves. The cleats, like the shelves will be the same depth as the vertical plywood panels. We used DAP Construction Trim and Panel Adhesive and brad nails to fasten the cleats onto the plywood sides.

CUTTING THE SHELVES

We cut five shelves using a circular saw and rip fence. The

shelves were left at 24 in. and cut to the same depth of the cleats and vertical plywood sides.

INSTALLING THE VERTICAL PLYWOOD SIDES

We installed the inside wall vertical panel first. We used the DAP adhesive and glued and fastened the panel to the one wall stud we could with 2-1/2-in. finish nails.

To install the other panel, we used two short shelves as spacers, fastening them to the shelf cleats with DAP adhesive and brad nails. Once those two shelves were secured, we installed the remaining shelves the same way. The top, longer shelf was installed and fastened to the tops of the vertical panels, as well as a wall cleat spanning from the shelf unit to the opposite closet corner. This cleat was longer and wider than the other cleats (1-1/2 in.) and was fastened to the wall studs with two finish nails per stud.

APPLYING THE FACE-FRAME

The face-frame is 1-1/2-in. Poplar wood. We installed the long parts first, which was the two verticals and top shelf nosing.



The shelves are glued over the cleats. The opposite panel is installed along with two shelves, which serve as spacers, and the cleats on each side provide a nailing surface.



Fasten the shelves over the cleats with finish nails while the glue sets.



The top shelf is supported by a longer, wider cleat that is fastened to the wall studs.

We followed with the five shorter shelf nosings.

INSTALL THE BASEBOARD

A 1x10 baseboard and base cap was installed last and helped

lock in the vertical panel on the back side. On the front side we toe-nailed finish nails into the subfloor to hold the panel in place until the finished wood floor locked it in place. **EHT**



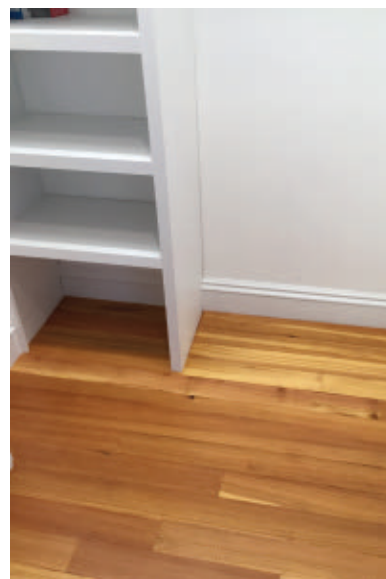
The 1-1/2" vertical face-frames conceal the cleats, and the 1-1/2" shelf nosing conceals the plywood edge of the shelves.



A baseboard installed at the bottom helps to stabilize the middle panel on the backside.



Fasten the face-frames and nosing with combination of glue and finish nails.



Once the flooring is installed, the tongue-and-groove boards lock the bottom of the shelf panels in place.

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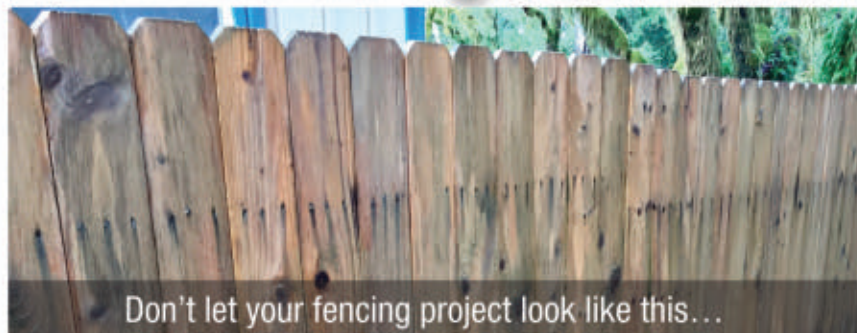
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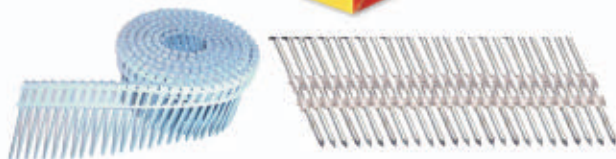
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