

### Deck Accessories

Upselling customers on accessories is an opportunity not only to boost profits, but also to increase customer satisfaction. A logical addition to almost any deck project is outdoor lighting, which makes spaces safer and more inviting. Manufacturers continue to add new styles to the wide range of railing, post, and stair-riser fixtures already available, and most feature user-friendly low-voltage LED lamps, which can be safely installed with minimal help from an electrician.

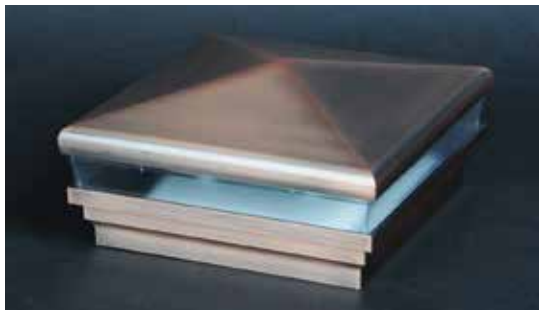
If a deck is elevated, adding an under-deck drainage system will provide a dry area underneath the deck that can be used for additional living space or for useful storage. If the deck is close to the ground, lattice can be added around the perimeter to cover the framing and provide a more finished look.

Finally, don't forget the finish. All decks need regular maintenance, while wood decks need an initial finish shortly after completion and periodic recoating to protect the wood from UV light and the elements.



#### Elastomeric Coating

Superdeck Deck & Dock, an elastomeric coating that's designed to revive cracked and weatherworn wood surfaces, holds down loose wood splinters and fills cracks up to 1/4 inch wide. The coating expands and contracts with the deck's surface rather than peeling or cracking, the manufacturer says, and it contains mildewcides and UV protection. For areas that are exposed to water, the company recommends combining the coating with its Duckback Anti-Skid Additive. Available in four colors, which can be tinted, Superdeck comes with a limited lifetime warranty. Duckback Products, 800.825.5382, superdeck.com



#### LED Post Caps

LMT says it has redesigned its line of low-voltage LED post caps to make them more reliable and less expensive. The lights draw standard household current but convert it to 12-volt direct current. Transformers come in two models: The 12-watt transformer will power as many as 16 lights; the 50-watt model will run 65 lights and has a programmable power supply and a dimmer. Components plug together, so there's no cutting or crimping of wire. Post-cap LEDs come in a variety of sizes and several styles. LMT Mercer Group, 888.570.5252, lmtproducts.com



#### Lighting Strips

Kichler Lighting's TaskWork LED lighting tapes come in strips up to 20 feet long, with different versions for indoors and outdoors. Fully dimmable, the 24-volt light strips are available with a range of white and colored lamps. Whites include a 2,700° Kelvin (K) warm white light, a 3,000-K pure white light, and a 4,000-K cool white light. (For reference, sunlight has a color temperature of about 5,500 K.) Color options are red, green, blue, and yellow. The 200-lumen-per-foot version is best for task lighting, and the 100-lumen-per-foot version is best for accent lighting. Kichler Lighting, 866.558.5706, kichler.com



#### Plug-and-Play LED Kits

i-lighting has simplified the wiring for its LED deck lights. System components plug together with what look like standard SAE connectors, similar to what you'd find on wiring for a boat trailer. The components are not polarity-sensitive, and that should eliminate plugging parts together incorrectly, a common installation problem. Lights are sold in kits that contain all the parts for a single post or a single stair riser, including the light fixture, LED lamp, wire, and fasteners. The company also offers a photocell that can turn lights off and on depending on ambient light, and a remote-control dimmer that can override the photo eye sensor. i-lighting, 888.305.4232, ilighting.co



### Vinyl Lattice

Permalatt says its solid-core vinyl lattice will last longer than wood and will neither fade nor warp. DuraShell, the company's strongest and most durable vinyl lattice, is available in six colors and in both square and diagonal patterns with openings ranging from 1 inch to 3 inches. Its solid-core construction means it won't splinter when cut like hollow PVC sometimes can, according to the manufacturer. The thinner Decorator 3-D lattice, which is also made from solid cellular PVC, is available in six colors and carries a lifetime warranty. Permalatt, 888.457.4342, [permalatt.com](http://permalatt.com)



### Low-Voltage Lighting

Evening Star Lighting manufactures low-voltage accent lighting fixtures for landscape walls, columns, decking, and deck rails. For rail lighting, the company offers models for both intermittent and continuous top rails. The fixed, 30° angle projects light forward onto the deck surface, and a snap-in lamp module allows a change without the use of tools. Kits include a 10-foot wiring harness, a cable connector, and mounting hardware. The 12-volt lamps—available in warm white and “bug light” that wards off flying insects—draw 8 watts and are rated for 15,000 hours. Evening Star Lighting, 800.874.9394, [eveningstarlighting.com](http://eveningstarlighting.com)



### Shade Sails

For providing shade on open decks and patios, Shade Sails are a colorful alternative to a framed roof or a pergola. Shade Sails don't need a full frame for support. Instead, they're tensioned from a few attachment points using the same stainless steel rigging hardware found on sailboats, according to the manufacturer. The knitted cloth comes in 40 colors, is UV-resistant, and carries a 10-year warranty. Sails come in both standard and custom sizes. The company also carries a full line of hardware and offers training and design support. Shazeebo, 760.603.3269, [shazeebo.com](http://shazeebo.com).



### Hemp Wood Preservative

Made from hemp seed oil, Hemp Shield Wood Finish and Deck Sealer goes on in a single coat and resists mold and mildew. Manufacturer Fibre Alternatives says that in accelerated weathering tests, the UV-resistant formulation outlasted a number of petroleum-based finishes on the market. It comes in clear and in four colors. The clear finish contains just 9 grams per liter of volatile organic compounds (many times less than other products labeled low-VOC) and none of the 289 hazardous air pollutants listed by the EPA, according to the manufacturer. Hemp Shield, 541.485.1057, [hempshield.net](http://hempshield.net).



### Under-Deck Drainage

Zip-Up UnderDeck PVC ceiling panels snap into rails that run the length of the deck, and can be easily unzipped and taken down for cleaning or to provide access to utilities in the ceiling, the company says. Components come in white or beige, in two finishes. Main rails and ceiling panels come in lengths of 8 feet, 12 feet, and 16 feet. Wall trim and pitching rail comes in 8- and 12-foot lengths. Installation requires no specialized tools or equipment. The manufacturer guarantees the system for 25 years. Zip-Up UnderDeck, 888.449.4787, [zipup-ceiling-and-decking.com](http://zipup-ceiling-and-decking.com)