

Decked Out With Style

Facts To Help You Fix Your Deck

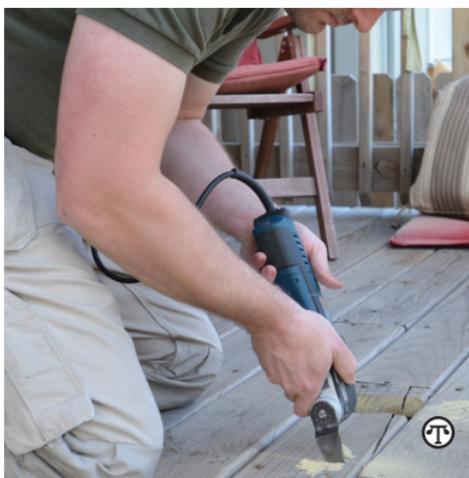
(NAPSA)— It may be easier than you think to do a little fix-up work around the house, especially on that great get-away place—the deck. Decks need TLC, too—particularly if those boards are exposed and regularly face wind, rain and heat. Construction expert Joe Sainz has a few tips for homeowners who want to do their own deck maintenance correctly and safely using a single tool.

Smart Deck Repair

Even the best-protected deck boards are susceptible to twisting, rotting or cupping. And usually it's that board in the middle of a 30-foot run that's the issue. A pry bar or a claw hammer can be used to remove the compromised piece, but it's easy to injure boards around it. The smart option is to do some strategic cutting.

A multi-tool, such as the Bosch Multi-X and its many cutting blades, is well suited for this job. Start by using the tool with a wood-cutting blade to remove a board section between the joists to allow access, then make a quick change to a metal-cutting blade and get between the remaining boards to cut the nail.

Once the board is removed, measure the opening, cut a new piece of treated lumber and attach with a galvanized fastener. Be sure to allow for an 1/8-inch expansion. Now that's a repair that saves both time and money. And this process can be used on handrails, as well.



Fixing up the deck may be easier than many homeowners realize.

Save the Stairs

Stairs face the same heat and weather abuse that deck boards do, so they can easily become cupped, with the front of the step higher than the remaining surface. This is another job for the multi-tool. There are a couple of options for reworking your existing stair. Using the rasp accessory, work down the high spot at the front of the stair, then follow up with a sanding triangle to smooth the surface. An alternative for addressing high corners is to place a segmented cutting blade flat on the stair and then push it toward the high spot to cut away the excess; sand to smooth the surface.

For more details about these projects and additional tips, visit Bosch Power Tools and Accessories at www.bethepro.com and click on the Idea Box. You can also visit www.facebook.com/bethepro.