



NEW CONSTRUCTION

December 2023

Products

**10 Backyarding
Trends for 2024:
The TurfMutt
Foundation
Shares Its
Predictions**

**New Tub O' Towels®
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Delivers Powerful
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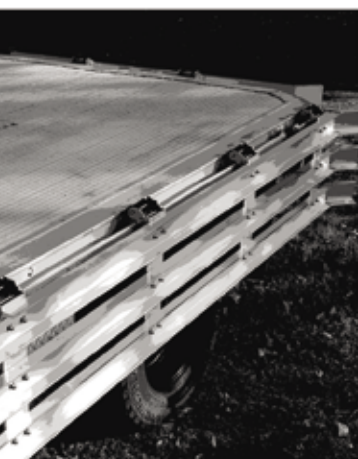


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"Previously I had wooden side gates on my work truck. To remove them, you had to pick them up, set them to one side, and put them back, usually requiring two people — they're heavy! With HingePost, I just fold them down."

*— Mathew Hughes, Uncle Shuck's Corn Maze
Dawsonville, Georgia*

Introducing a new chapter in stake-post evolution, rights-holder HingePost has made a dramatic break with traditional designs. The main focus of this newly patented device for flatbeds is its automated locking mechanism and its speed of operation in folding downward 180°. Even its ease of installation and removal from flatbed pockets is notable.

Necessity: the Mother of Invention

HingePost is based in Dahlonega, Georgia and established in early 2023 by Bobby Anderson. The concept was motivated by the desire to accelerate loading times and, also, to contain the payload safely. HingePost uses aluminum, mild steel, and high carbon steel—all 3/16in thick. **The first of its kind**, this new stake post defines a new direction in combining side gates with flatbed platforms.



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“Backyarding” – the act of taking activities typically associated with the indoors outside into the green space around us – will continue taking root in 2024, according to the TurfMutt Foundation, which advocates for the care and use of green space, including our own backyards, community parks, green space, and school yards. But next year, the TurfMutt Foundation expects the practice of “backyarding” to evolve into an ongoing sustainability practice.

“Now more than ever, homeowners are recognizing the power of their yards and parks doing environmental good, as well as benefitting their health and well-being,” says Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation and its parent organization the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). “Homeowners are making improvements in their yards with many goals in mind, thinking about what’s good for their families, pets, and our planet.”

The TurfMutt Foundation predicts these 10 backyarding trends for 2024:

- Improving Existing Space (Rather Than Moving to a New One). High interest rates and low housing inventory mean more homeowners have chosen to renovate rather than move into a new home. With interior improvements complete, the focus turns to backyard improvements that customize the outdoor space and artfully merge indoor and outdoor living.
- Seeking a Home Near a Park or Nature. Even homeowners looking to downsize still want to maintain a connection with nature. They know backyarding can happen in any size yard and seek additional connection to nature through community parks, school yards, and other green space.
- Return of Neighborhood Parties...in the Backyard. Over the last several years, homeowners have invested in their outdoor living areas, and now they are using that space to bring back neighborhood block parties in their own backyards.
- Creating a Backyard Oasis for Fun. From parents looking for ways to lure their kids away from screens to neighbors wanting to connect with friends, homeowners are turning their backyards into a place for fun and games. Some go all out to install a pool or pickleball court while others take a simpler approach like designating a strip of grass for cornhole or a small soccer pitch.
- Taking Better Care of Living Landscapes. Since homeowners have come to value their lawns, trees, and plants more than ever, they are investing in their care like never before. This means investing in equipment for DIY work and calling in professionals, as needed, for pruning, rescuing diseased trees, and revitalizing turfgrass, just to name a few.

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- **Choosing Real Grass.** The trend of ripping out real grass and replacing it with fake, plastic alternatives is fading as homeowners and communities recognize the limitations – and downsides – of plastic grass. Synthetic turf is hard to clean, hot on feet and paws, and difficult to recycle.
- **Planting for Pollinators.** Once a niche practice, planting for pollinator support is omnipresent. Homeowners understand the importance of their backyards to provide food and shelter to pollinators like birds, butterflies, and bats year-round. And they are selecting plants for their yards with pollinators in mind.
- **Adding Drought Tolerant Plants.** Plants that are especially adapted to drier landscapes are better for water-stressed areas in our environment. Homeowners are doing their research and selecting plants that will thrive in their micro-climates.
- **Mixing Materials.** As outdoor living has become incorporated into daily life, homeowners are taking care to design cohesive outdoor spaces. They factor in landscaping, hardscaping (patios, outdoor kitchens, etc.), and natural aesthetics (trees, boulders, etc.).
- **Backyard Birding.** The birdwatching craze really took flight during the pandemic, but it's not a fleeting fad. Birdwatching is not only relaxing; it is a great way to connect with nature right outside our back doors.



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For more, sign up for Mutt Mail, a monthly e-newsletter with backyarding tips and all the news from the TurfMutt Foundation here. To learn more about creating the yard of your dreams, visit TurfMutt.com. Look for Mulligan the TurfMutt on the CBS Lucky Dog television show.

About TurfMutt

TurfMutt was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) TurfMutt Foundation and has reached more than 70 million children, educators and families since 2009. Championed by Foundation spokesdog, Mulligan the TurfMutt, and through education partners such as Weekly Reader, Discovery Education and Scholastic, TurfMutt has taught students and teachers how to "save the planet, one yard at a time." Today, TurfMutt is an official USGBC® Education Partner and part of their global LEARNING LAB. TurfMutt has been an education resource at the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, Climate Change Live, Petfinder and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2017, the TurfMutt animated video series won the coveted Cynopsis Kids Imagination Award for Best Interstitial Series. TurfMutt's personal, home habitat was featured in the 2017-2020 Wildlife Habitat Council calendars. More information at www.TurfMutt.com •

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Manufacturing Plant**

*Heavy Duty Spray Helps Maintain Clean Working Environment, Facilitate
More Complete Jobs without the Harsh Industrial Cleaner Smell*

Tub O' Towels® has expanded its revolutionary heavy duty cleaner product line to include a cleaner and degreaser in a spray bottle, ideal for grease and grime found at the job site, home/job repairs, manufacturing plant floors and more. Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaner and Degreaser spray is now available to ship nationwide.

"Customers have been asking us for years to offer Tub O' Towels as a spray," said Ashley Szeremet, director of marketing for Tub O' Towels. "It's not as easy as just squeezing the solution from our wipes into a spray bottle. Our chemists have created an incredible formula that has the same level of performance as Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaning Wipes that our customers have come to expect from the brand, including its fresh citrus smell."

The powerful cleaner and degreaser – specifically formulated to perform like the company's popular Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaning Wipes product – is ideal for any contractor, plant manager or tradesperson as it quickly tackles any oily, greasy job, removes paint, caulk, gas, leaks/drips and solves so many other messy situations on the job site. Always refer to product directions before use.

Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaner and Degreaser spray works hard to remove the oil, grease, dirt, gas, paint, caulk, glue, and adhesive residues that are seen daily. With this powerful, heavy duty cleaning spray, it is easy to keep work areas, machinery, plumbing, electrical, and construction sites clean, often helping to avoid accidents and to increase repair speed and job completion.

Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaner and Degreaser spray features a unique formula that combines the cleaning power of Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaning Wipes with the convenience of a spray. Similar to Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaning Wipes, Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaner & Degreaser spray is alcohol and solvent free, has a pleasant citrus scent, and is proudly made in the U.S. It quickly dissolves grease and grime and can be used in conjunction with Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaning Wipes for an extra deep (and easy) clean.

Like all Tub O' Towels products, Tub O' Towels Heavy Duty Cleaner and Degreaser spray is free from harsh chemicals, allowing for use everywhere – from any job site to industrial work environments.

The spray is now available in a 24-ounce bottle and 1-gallon jug. For more information about Tub O' Towels, please visit tubotowels.com.

About FedPro, Inc.

FedPro, originally founded as Federal Process, manufactured its first can of Gasoila® Pipe Thread Sealant in 1915. Small batches were made to meet the high-quality standards set by its founders. FedPro brands, including Tub O' Towels, Free All®, and Gasoila have earned a reputation for being the products of choice in the automotive, hardware, petroleum, plumbing, LP Gas, HVAC, and general industrial markets.

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-James "Jim" Bonner

*Compliance Coordinator- Retired
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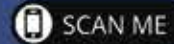
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