

RUSTY LUCAS
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July 7, 2011

HKS, Inc.
1919 McKinney Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201
ATTN: Retractable Roof Department

Dear HKS:

I really enjoy grilling meat with my family and friends during the summer. Whether it's a cookout, a barbecue, a picnic, a pig roast, or a witch burning, nothing makes for a better party than the smell of fresh meat grilling on an open flame. Every spring, I simply cannot wait for Memorial Day weekend and the first "official" grilling event of the year. Every summer, the biggest party comes around Independence Day. Let me tell you, we are still cleaning up from that one at my house! Every fall, I get a little choked up around Labor Day weekend because I know that it won't be too long before I have to pack up my things and hunker down for the winter.

Living in Ohio, I can never be sure what the weather is going to be like when I cook out. We have had some Memorial Days that were freezing cold and some that were blazing hot. We have had some Independence Days that were beautiful sunny days and some that were torrential downpours. We have had some Labor Days that were clear and peaceful and some that were overrun with swarms of insects.

It's amazing what a really cold day or windy and rainy day or a plague of bugs will do to a barbecue. I can't tell you how much I hate those elements out of my control when it comes to planning the perfect outdoor gathering with 150 of my closest friends. The recent holiday feast went quite well, but that didn't keep me from worrying about freak thunderstorms or buzz-swarms. I still always look for ways to improve my outings. There has to be a better way to handle the cold, the rain, and the bugs and still be able to cook my meat outside. That's when I had a vision of putting a retractable roof over my deck. Something that I can open and close with the flip of a switch if a storm squalls up without warning out of nowhere. I'm not talking about those flimsy sun awnings. I'm talking about hardcore hardware! I don't know why I never thought of this before!

I did some research and discovered that your company built the new Cowboys Stadium, including the huge retractable roof. I figure if you're good enough for America's Team, you are good enough for America's warm weather holidays. Do you think the NFL is going to get this lockout solved and play some football this fall? My wife says that this is a maniacal way to select a company to do major renovations to our house and deck. I told her that I allow her to pick knick-knacks for inside the house and so she needs to let me pick the retractable roof company for the deck outside the house.

Outdoor cooking is a family affair and I cannot wait to pass the tradition and knowledge on to my little one. My four year old daughter is already starting to identify her meats. She says to me just the other day, "Daddy, sausage patties come from a pig. Roast beef comes from a cow. And chicken comes from

chicken." She is a bright one and she makes me proud.

I can't wait for the day that she and I will cook side by side with a spray bottle of mesquite flavoring and a combination spatula/basting brush/electric tongs. But darn if she doesn't get that fair skin that runs in her mom's family. She burns up like a turnip if she's out in the sun too long without a hat or sunscreen. I don't know which burnin's worse on a four year old. The slow burn of the hot sun on unprotected pale skin or the sudden and unexpected greasy pop/hiss splatter straight from the searing hot grill to the exposed bare skin. I figure the retractable roof might help keep her from getting a bad sunburn and I'll just have to invest in some protective clothing to keep her safe from grease burns.

Please let me know what you would charge to look at my house and deck and draw up some plans for installing a retractable roof over the deck. I will also need some drape netting to run the whole perimeter around the base of the roof to make sure the bugs stay out. I'll need that to pull up into the roof when I open everything up. Do you do retractable netting too, or are you strictly roofers?

Sincerely,



Rusty Lucas

p.s. Does HKS have any free baseball caps available? Please send me matching father/daughter HKS baseball caps if you happen to have any extra ones that you aren't using. If you only have HKS baseball caps for adults and not for children, I would still be interested. So don't hold back in that case thinking that I would feel insulted if you only sent me one without the other. But it would be especially nice if you could send me both father and daughter HKS baseball caps.