

NEB's pick
of curious,
interesting
and useful
products.

House Sealers

by Kate O'Brien



Imports help tighten U.S. houses. Resource Conservation Technology sells several imported products for use in energy-efficient construction. *Tenoarm* is an 8-mil-thick air/vapor barrier from Sweden. It is transparent like polyethylene, but unlike poly is very durable. Tenoarm comes in four widths designed to fit ceilings, walls, and floors. The company also sells *Teno Sealant* to be used with the film EPDM building gaskets for various applications, and air/vapor barrier boxes for use with both metal and plastic receptacles. For more information about these products, contact Resource Conservation Technology, Inc., 2633 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21218; 301/366-1146.

Aluminum Siding Revisited



Reflective insulation uses aluminum foil to stop heat loss and radiate heat. *Foil Ray* is a 1/4-inch-thick double polyethylene bubble pack with aluminum foil bonded to both sides. In addition to its reflective and insulative value (R-7.5), its manufacturer claims the product can serve as a barrier to moisture vapor and air infiltration. Contact Energy Saver Imports, Inc., P.O. Box 387, Broomfield, CO 80020; 800/288-3645.

Responsive Register



Works like a thermostat. The *Air-Qualizer* uses a bi-metal control coil, which opens or closes the register automatically depending upon the

room temperature and the register's setting. Installation requires no wiring or electronics, and is done by removing the existing register and snapping the new register in place. Contact Advanced Design and Development, 895 Hampshire Rd., Stow, OH 44224; 216/928-0808.

Advanced Applicator



Dispensing tool promises to keep you from getting tangled in your weatherstripping tape. Besides saving time and labor, *Weathertrac* allows for a precision not possible with manual installation. Although its distributor Denarco makes its own weatherstripping tapes (Ultra-Seal and Sure-Seal), the tool can be used with any foam or putty tapes. It works less well with butyl tapes, but the company hopes to remedy that prior to coming to market in mid-August. The tool holds up to four 1/2-inch wide rolls, and dispenses a range of thicknesses and widths. For more information, contact Denarco Sales Co., 12710 Idlewild St., White Pigeon, MI 49099; 616/641-2206.

Wall Blanket



Designed to end wall voids and provide sound insulation this product is spray-applied. *ThermoForm* is a cellulosic insulation treated for fire retardancy that contains its own adhesive. Once applied, the insulation is "scrubbed" level with the studs. Based on ASTM testing 2.5 inches of the product has an R-value

of 8.8 (with a density of 2.63 pounds). Tests also show that after five years the product has not aged. According to its manufacturer, using ThermoForm eliminates the need for air wraps, and for taping joints on the exterior sheathing seams. For more information contact: ThermoCon International, Inc., 2508 New Marlin Hwy., Waco, TX 76705; 817/756-3713.

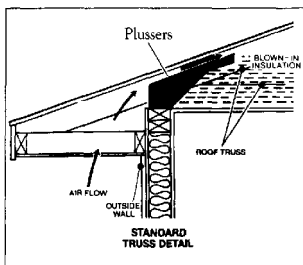
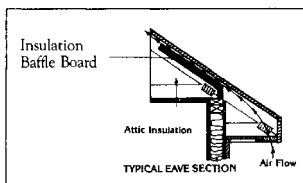


Insulation Stick-Up

Install insulation that won't sag or fall down with Stic-Klip. Designed to attach both thermal and acoustic insulation, up to 5 1/2 inches thick. Stic-Klip can be used to install insulation in tight spaces where stapling is awkward or impossible—you just need a putty knife to apply the adhesive. According to the manufacturer, the adhesive can bond to a variety of surfaces—including masonry, concrete, metal, wood, cement, cinder block, and tile. More info on the fastener and adhesive system is available from Eckel Industries, Inc., 155 Fawcett Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617/491-3221.

Insulation Enhancers

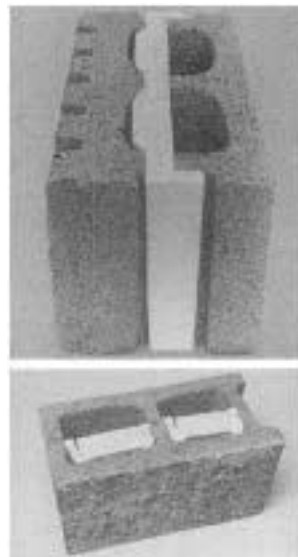
Maximize the value of attic insulation, without hampering proper ventilation. Both the new *Plusser*, and the *Insulation Baffle Board*, are designed to be installed between the rafters over the top plates of exterior walls (see illustrations). But they are of very different materials. The *Insulation Baffle Board* is made of heavy corrugated stock (cardboard) and relies on tabs and slots to assure proper fit, and to provide a 2-inch air chute. The *Plusser* is a polyurethane rigid foam wedge,



shaped to conform to the space, with molded nubs that keep the wedge away from the roof sheathing. In addition to acting as an insulation stop, and providing a 1-inch space for air flow, the wedge provides a minimum R-value of R-30. This eliminates the need for "high heel" trusses, sometimes used to allow for extra insulation. For information on the *Plusser* contact R-Plus Industries, 3616 14A St. S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2G 3L2, Canada; 403/265-1700. For information on the *Baffle Board*, con-

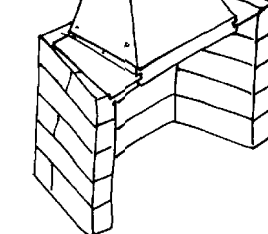
tact Edwil Manufacturing Co., 8404 Sanford Drive, Richmond, VA 23228; 804/262-8504.

Energy-Efficient Walls



Masonry units that insulate can be used above or below grade. *Insul Bloc* (top) may be used in single-wythe, cavity, veneer, or surface bonded masonry wall construction. The unit is available in 8-, 10-, and 12-inch widths. Exterior units come in four facade types—split-ribbed, split-faced, scored, or smooth-faced, and can be painted, integrally colored, or left in their natural state. Standard *Insul Bloc* units can be used to produce insulated foundation walls. Depending on the block and the system used, R-values vary from 7.9 to 13.4. A new product from this company is *Polycore* (bottom) which is an expanded polystyrene insert for standard concrete masonry blocks. Contact *Insul Block Corp.* at 865 Memorial Ave., P.O. Box 1162, West Springfield, MA 01090; 413/781-0010.

Hearth Revival



Deteriorated, unsafe heat-circulating fireplaces can be restored with *Tess Replacement System*. Rusty or warped metal fireplace linings can be replaced without disturbing the outside face, mantel, or existing chimney. Pre-engineered masonry components interlock within the firebox structure. The old steel core is removed and the structure is topped with a stainless steel smoke chamber. For more information, contact: TESS, Inc., RR1, Box 3, Beanville Rd., Randolph, VT 05060; 802/728-4485.