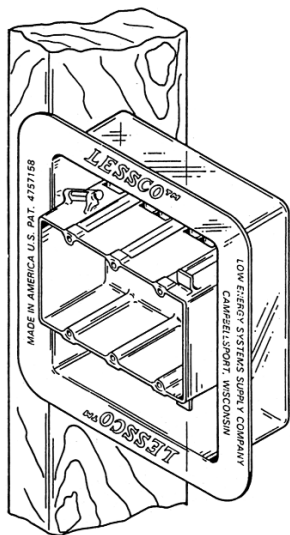


Airtight Electric

by Clayton DeKorne



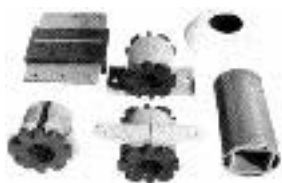
Two innovations might keep vapor barriers intact around switches and outlets. The Lessco Air-Vapor Barrier Box is a polyethylene enclosure that is nailed to studs or joists around electrical boxes. The wiring is brought through a small slit made with a utility knife. This slit is caulked and the wall vapor barrier can be taped to the wide flange to ensure tight sealing. One size—61/2x71/2x27/8 inches—accepts up to three ganged boxes. For more information, contact Low Energy Systems Co., 990 Mink Lane, Cambellsport, WI 53010; 414/533-8690.

An alternative is to seal the face of the box with a Carecover outlet cover. This is ideal for rehab work. The faceplate has two spring-loaded sliding panels that cover the receptacle and a urethane foam gasket that seals the box to the wall. Care must be taken to ensure a tight fit between the gasket and the wall, especially when installed against uneven surfaces. Though developed for energy efficiency, the Carecover is also child-proof. Carecovers are available for about \$3 from Ace Hardware Stores. For more information, contact We Care, Inc., P.O. Box 873, Pierre, SD 57501; 605/224-5304.



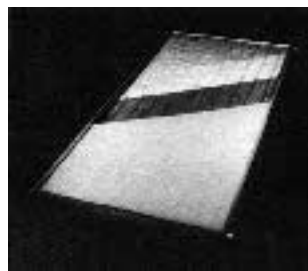
The
Journal's
pick of
curious,
interesting
and useful
products.

Silent Plumbing



Plumbing noises, which can be especially annoying in multi-family housing, might be eliminated or reduced with the Acousto-Plumb System. The main component of this system, the Acousto-lator, is a rigid polyethylene sleeve with a pliable rubber liner that isolates water supply pipes from the building structure. The Acousto-lator can be inserted into a hole drilled through studs, joists, or plates, or suspended in an Acousto-clamp. Other components including special escutcheons, sleeves, and pads can be installed to keep water-supply lines secure but flexibly attached. For more information, contact Tech Specialties, P.O. Box 186, Stanton, CA 90680; 800/854-3215, 800/258-0157 (in California).

Solar Revisited



We hear little from flat-plate solar collectors these days, but they are still a viable source of home hot water. The AE Series Collectors have weathered the abolition of federal solar tax credits and the drop in oil prices of the mid 1980s, so they must be doing something right. These collectors offer high-transmittance, low-iron glass, and a copper absorber plate with a black chrome surface for high absorption and low emissivity. The collectors are constructed of simple extruded aluminum frames that are well insulated with foil-faced polyisocyanurate foam. The joints are held with expansion rivets and sealed with silicon. The mounting brackets are held on the exterior of the frame so installation does not require resealing of the heating chamber. The collectors cost about \$10 a square foot and are fully warranted for 10 years.

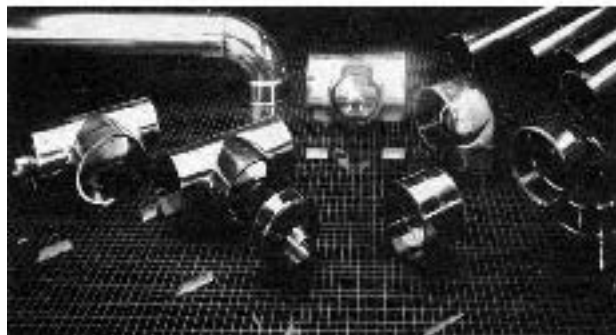
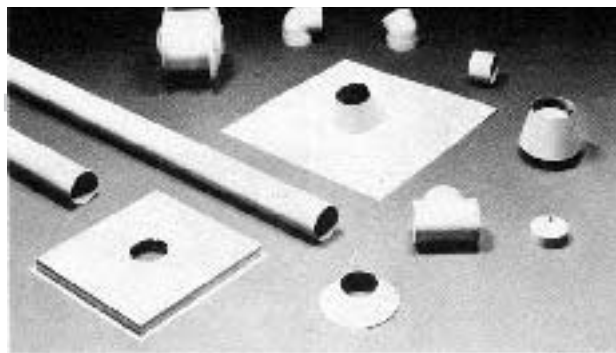
For more information, contact American Energy Technologies, Inc., P.O. Box 1865, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-1865; 904/284-0552.

More Than A Smoke Detector



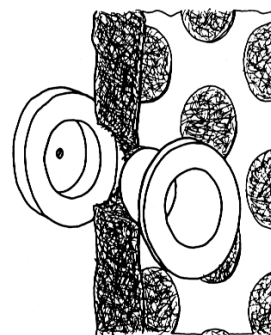
Buildup of methane and carbon monoxide gases can now be detected by the UltraAlert System. Primarily a smoke-detection device, it can be plugged in or hard-wired, and contains a battery backup in the circuitry. For more information, contact BDC Electronics, P.O. Box 5203, Midland, TX 79704; 915/694-7887.

Corrosion-Proof Vents



Two vent systems, Plexco PlexVent and Hart and Cooley UltraVent, make use of the same thermoplastic resin for venting mid-range efficiency (80 to 89 percent) gas furnaces. Unlike PVC, this new resin developed by G.E., called Ultem, will withstand flue gas temperatures to 480°F. Yet it is nonmetallic and reportedly will not corrode from the acidic condensate that collects in efficient gas furnace flues. Both systems offer a full line of

It Whistles When There's Dirt



How often do you think customers will check the filter in that new, high efficiency furnace you just installed? You can expect they never will and install a Furnace Whistle instead. The two-piece plastic whistle snaps together in the filter screen. When the filter is clogged, air can pass only through the whistle and the noise will alert the occupants. Furnace whistles cost 35¢ and are available from Positive Energy Conservation Products, 325 Canyon Boulevard, Boulder, CO 80302; 303/444-4340.

3- and 4-inch fittings, including a discharge fitting for draining off accumulated condensation. The Plexco vent has the added advantage of offering see-through fittings that let you inspect each joint for a tight seal. For more information, contact Plexco, 3240 North Manheim Road, Franklin Park, IL 60131; 312/455-0600; or Hart and Cooley, Inc., 500 East Eighth Street, Holland, MI 49423; 616/392-7855. ■