

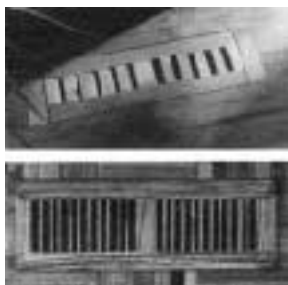
Easy Heat

by Clayton DeKorne



Radiant floor heat may be easier to install than you thought. Instead of using pipes and heating elements embedded in concrete, with FlexWatt you simply staple polyester sheets to the underside of the floor deck and insulate over them. FlexWatt heating circuits are made of carbon ink that is printed on polyester sheets. The system is not intended as a primary source of heat but it may provide an inexpensive amenity in bathrooms or other places where extra warmth is appreciated. Sheets are available for 12-, 16-, and 24-inch joist spacings. Price on a 1,000-watt kit, consisting of a 100-foot roll of 12-inch-wide printed plastic, 100 electrical connectors and insulators, 200 feet of 12-gauge wire, and special crimpers for the connectors, is \$369. A follow-up order without the crimpers is \$319. For more information, contact FlexWatt Corp., 2380 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576; 508/291-2000.

Pretty Grilles



Heating vents don't have to spoil the new floor you just laid. Hardwood floor registers can add a touch of class instead. GrillWorks offers recessed grilles in maple, and red and white oak, in stock sizes (21/4x12-inch and 4x12-inch). For more information,

contact GrillWorks, 22060 Stratford Place, Shorewood, MN 55331; 612/470-9082.

Wood Ventures makes two different types of hardwood registers: a self-rimming model designed to lay over a rough opening, and a recessed, flush-mount model for setting into a finished opening. These registers are available in red and white oak or any custom wood and size. For more information, contact Wood Ventures, P.O. Box 563, Grass Valley, CA 95945; 916/272-4972.

Concrete Mantels



Mantels and hearths cast from glass-fiber-reinforced concrete (GFRC) are lightweight and elegant. A new architectural division of Larson, a manufacturer of artificial rock displays for zoos and museums, offers four mantel styles to fit most zero-clearance fireplaces with 36- and 42-inch openings. The fireplace surrounds can reportedly be installed in 30 to 45 minutes. Construction adhesive holds them to the wall, and the joint between the mantel and the hearth is caulked. For more information, contact Larson Architectural Products, 2555 N. Jack Rabbit Ave., Tucson, AZ 85745; 602/622-1934.

Curved Plywood



Roberts Plywood Company offers a full range of radii and sizes of curved plywood. Quarter, half and full rounds in 1/20, 5/8-, and 3/4-inch poplar plywood are available in 2- to 8-foot lengths. Curved end panels are available in maple, cherry, and oak as well.

They are useful for cabinet work and built-ins. I have also seen one made into an attractive plumbing chase in a kitchen remodel. For more information, contact Roberts Plywood Co., 150 Rodeo Drive, Brentwood, NY 11717; 800/422-4944.

Restroom Wallpaper



This new odor-neutralizing wallcovering from Sincol of America doesn't just overpower odors with its own scent. It is impregnated with neutral odor-absorbing material that is reportedly more effective in neutralizing odors than activated charcoal. The manufacturer claims it is good for about two years, so it may be viable for some commercial interiors. It comes in paper-backed vinyl or fabric, each in a variety of finishes from metallic copper, silver, and bronze to silk and embroidered linen. For more information, contact Sincol of America, Inc., 167 University Parkway, Pomona, CA 91768; 800/726-0192.

Predecorated Wallboard



Garages, basements and attics can be finished inexpensively using Gold Bond Duroform Panels. The 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard comes prefinished with textured prints or wood grain printed paper. The edges are finished too, so the panels can be butted together and secured without taping. Adhesive is recommended but matching nails or color-coordinated battens

are available to secure the 4x8-, 4x9-, and 4x10-foot panels. For more information, contact Gold Bond Building Products, Duroform Inquiry Dept., P.O. Box 667850, Charlotte, NC 28266-9961.

Asbestos Vinyl Overlay



Ever wonder about that old vinyl floor you're ripping up? Chances are it contains asbestos. Asbestos was used in the backing and even in the adhesive for vinyl floors up into the early 1980s. Instead of removing the flooring, Arla EF2, a flexible underlayment material, can be troweled over the old vinyl. Only a thin coat is needed to fill in the recessed parts of the pattern. It sets in two hours. For more information, contact Ardex, Inc., 630 Stoops Ferry Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108; 412/264-4240. ■