Snap-in Steel Studs

by Clayton DeKorne

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

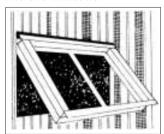
necessary. The supports are non-corrosive, non-magnetic, and non-conductive, and they absorb vibration. They are available for pipe sizes up to 4 inches. For more information, contact Litchfield International, Inc., P.O. Box 1007, Torrington, CT 06790; 800/345-2542 (203/489-7765 in Conn.).



Framing with steel studs can be simpler and faster using Clinch-On Eliminator Tracks. The tracks serve as the top plate of non-load-bearing walls. Studs fit into precut holes along 8-inch centers (for both 16- and 24-inch layouts) and snap into the slot. According to the manufacturer, no other fastening is necessary. On standard height walls, studs do not have to be individually cut to allow for discrepancies in the floor or ceiling levels because the studs extend up through the track.

The track has a built-in edge molding that eliminates the need for J- or L-bead on the top edge of the drywall. This molding also serves as the wall band for suspended ceiling tiles. If wall framing is needed above the ceiling grid for fire or sound control, longer studs can be used and the track pushed down and leveled at the ceiling height. These features allow interior partitions to be knocked down and reassembled without disturbing the ceiling grid. Thus they are especially useful in commercial offices where spaces are changed as tenants come and go. For more information, contact Clinch-On Products, 5201 Program Ave., Mounds View, MN 55112; 800/523-4642 (612/786-6024 in Minn.).

Retrofit Windows



Installing windows in steel-sided structures can be a grueling task. But Quick Fit Commercial Windows enable an installer to fit in windows after the siding is up, rather than cutting the siding to fit. A U-channel along the top of the window slips around the header and the window is pivoted into the opening. The top

channel directs water down the sides of the window, so flashing is reportedly not necessary. The window is trimmed out so J-channel is unnecessary, too. Both single glazed and insulated glass panels are available. The insulated units have a urethane foam break between each pane that prevents thermal bridging. For more information, contact A-J Industries, Inc., 1217 Oak St., Bloomer, WI 54724; 800/328-9448 (715/568-2204 in Wis.).

Industrial Coatings



Property managers, maintenance personnel, and commercial contractors should find this free catalog from Revere Products useful. The company offers asphalt and concrete repair compounds, epoxy sealants and adhesives, industrial paints, roof coatings, floor matting, and safety products. Of particular interest is a line of water-based, environmentally safe coatings, including a rustproofing enamel paint, a urethane floor coating, and a stone and tile sealer. Also worth noting are a variety of plastic utility carts that might make useful jobsite workstations and organizers. To order a catalog, contact Revere, P.O. Box 39188, Solon, OH 44139; 800/321-1976.

Mechanical Support



Pipes and conduit can be installed quickly using clic pipe supports. These nylon plastic clips are screwed to a wall or ceiling and the pipe is pressed into place. The jaws of the support snap closed, but can by reopened if

Energy-Use Meter



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m T}$ ime-based systems and surveys may not be the best way to keep track of a tenant's electricity use. For an accurate account, the Register Energy Meter can be installed directly to a tenant's circuit breaker to monitor the amount of electricity used. The current is measured in kilowatt hours. kilowatts, or cumulative kilowatts. Each measure is shown by an LCD read-out. Also, the meter can be programmed at a set electric rate to simplify billing. The kilowatt measure has a coded reset so it is tamper-proof. For more information, contact Robinton Products, Inc., 580 Maude Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; 408/738-8330

Emergency Pig



These sausage-shaped socks absorb hazardous chemicals and materials that are accidentally spilled. Pig Absorbent Socks are available in a 5-gallon plastic container that gives a new meaning to the term ''mud bucket.'' Each bucket is mounted on a visible, bright yellow sign. When these socks have soaked up their fill of nasty fluids, they can be safely handled and disposed of in the bucket. For more information contact New Pig Corporation, 1 Pork Avenue, Tipton, PA 16684; 800/468-4647.