

No Sweat Pipe Connections

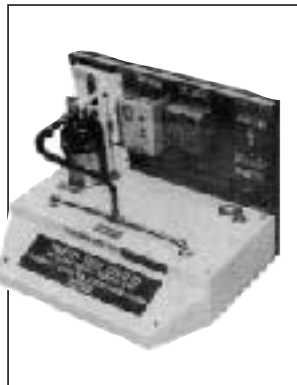
by Clayton DeKorne



If you do a spot of plumbing now and again, you can avoid torch, solder, and flux with *Noble Copper-Bond Adhesive*. Copper-Bond is a two-part epoxy made for joining copper water pipes. According to the manufacturer, the epoxy is made from "food-grade" resins and can withstand temperatures between 36° and 180° F, so it is safe for all domestic water lines. Copper-Bond comes in a syringe-type dispenser that reportedly holds enough epoxy to make 50 to 75 1/2-inch pipe joints.

To test the epoxy, I "sweated" a few connections with the mixture, taking care to apply an even coat to both the inside of the joint and the outside of the pipe. The adhesive dried after about 20 minutes and held under line pressure. The adhesive can be softened with a torch to disassemble a joint, as well. According to the manufacturer, Copper-Bond has been in use for over 20 years. For more information, contact The Noble Company, 614 Monroe St., Grand Haven, MI 49417; 800/678-6625.

Range Hood Fire Extinguisher



According to a 1984 Air Force report, grease fires on stoves have been the leading cause of fires in military housing. In an effort to reduce these fires, the Air Force contracted for an automatic fire extinguisher that would mount in a range hood. Soon after, a commercially available model—the *Guardian Automatic Fire Extinguisher*—was introduced. The

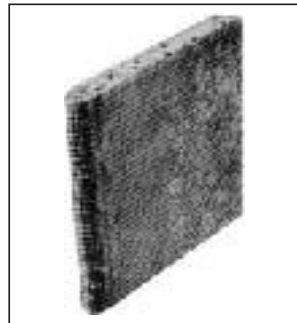
extinguisher holds either a wet or a dry chemical solution, the bulk of which sits in a cabinet over the hood. Two nozzles and a fire detector are mounted under the hood. Two detection assemblies are available. One trips the extinguisher when a low temperature solder melts; the other uses a heat expansive metal. At this point, the National Fire Protection Agency has not written standards for this type of extinguisher, but the Guardian meets interim UL standards. For more information, contact 21st Century Fire Equipment, 3249 W. Story Rd., Irving, TX 75038; 214/252-6201.

Solution for Problem Floors



Rather than tearing out vinyl-asbestos floor covering, it can be covered over with ceramic tile using *Pro-Float*—a plastic lath and fiber-reinforced mortar. The plastic lath is stapled or nailed to the old floor and filled with the fiber-cement mortar. After this mortar has set, the tile can be installed with a thin-set mortar. Two lath thicknesses—1/4- and 1/2-inch—are available. The manufacturer recommends the 1/4 material over asbestos tile. Greater irregularities such as the spalled or cracked surface of a concrete slab must be bridged with the thicker material. For more information, contact Latitec International, Inc., 1 Latitec Park North, Bethany, CT 06525-3498; 800/243-4788.

New Backerboards



Util-A-Crete

Cementitious tile backerboards seem to be replacing mud beds for tile as quickly as plywood once replaced

plank sheathing. A few years ago there was only WonderBoard and Durock. Now a slew of backerboards are appearing on the market. Two of the latest additions are *Util-A-Crete* and *Glas-Crete*.

Util-A-Crete features a "wrapped edge." The fiberglass mesh on the outer two faces of the board wraps over a rounded edge. This reportedly eliminates "blow outs" from nailing close to a factory edge. Standard 1/2-inch panels are available in 3x4-, 3x5-, and 3x6-foot, and 36x64-inch sizes. And a new 1/4-inch panel with an unwrapped edge is due out this year which is reportedly flexible enough to bend around a 30-inch radius curve. For more information, contact W.R. Bonnal, P.O. Box 241148, Charlotte, NC 28224; 704/525-1621.

Glas-Crete is a new backerboard by the makers of WonderBoard. The new panel features a variation on the "wrapped edge,"—the "open-wrapped edge"—that is designed to eliminate taping. The fiberglass mesh on the panel loops out past the cementitious edge to create a loose pocket to hold the conventional latex mortar used to finish most backerboards. According to the manufacturer, no additional mesh tape is needed over the joint, which should save a little time on

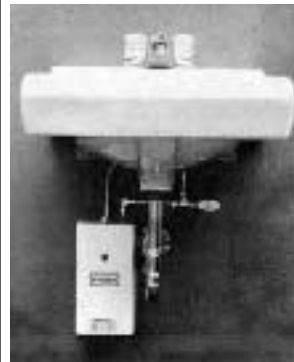


Glas-Crete

installation. For more information, contact Glascrete, Inc., 13001 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach, CA 90740; 213/598-0966.

Point-of-Use Water Heaters

"Point-of-use" electric water heaters can provide enough hot water for hand washing or shaving at a single sink. They are designed primarily for light commercial installations such as restaurants, offices, service stations, and workshops. In such places, which incur only occasional demand, manufacturers claim energy savings as high as 80% compared to standard electric water heaters. The heater doesn't have to maintain the temperature of a large tank, and, because only one cold water feed is needed, no heat is lost in long pipe runs. Installation costs are reportedly much lower than for large heaters, as well. Point-of-use heaters need less pipe and don't require shut-off and relief valves. At least two companies—*Eemax* and *In-Sink-Erator*—make 120-volt models.



Eemax water heater

The *Eemax* model SP3512 is an "instantaneous tankless" type with no storage. When the tap is turned on, a flow sensor activates a 3.5 kw element to heat the water as it passes. This model can heat water all day, but it will not heat enough water at one time to use for a shower. Other models, however, use 208- and 277-volt power and can reportedly be used for higher demand situations. For more information, contact Eemax, 472 Pepper St., Monroe, CT 06468; 203/261-0684.



In-Sink-Erator

In-Sink-Erator makes two models—the *W-152* and the *W-154*—that heat and store a tiny two and four gallons, respectively. Both models have a 1.5 kw element that will heat a tankful of water in three to six minutes. When not in use, the heater can be switched off. For more information, contact In-Sink-Erator Div., Emerson Electric Co., 4700 21st St., Racine, WI 53406; 800/558-5712.

Correction

In the October 1990 *For What It's Worth*, we printed the wrong telephone number for *Furman Lumber*, the manufacturer of *Gypsonite*. The correct number is 800/843-9663.