

Products

by David Frane

Prefab Vinyl Railing

Need a porch railing that lasts? The *Finyl Rail* structural vinyl railing is extruded from rigid PVC and has a hefty wall thickness of $\frac{5}{16}$ inch. The railing system comes in a variety of round and rectangular profiles, and can be custom fabricated to match requirements for



rise/run, stair radius, inside and outside corners, and other design considerations. All components are prefabricated and shipped preassembled; oversize systems are provided in smaller sections that are then fit together on site. The seamless railings are coated with a durable high-gloss finish to resist corrosion, even when exposed to salt air, and are mounted over steel brackets. All fasteners are concealed. Available in white (round stock also comes

in gray), Finyl Rail costs between \$35 and \$53 per linear foot, depending on the style.

Contact: Railing Dynamics, Inc., 135 Steelmanville Rd., Ocean City, NJ 08234; 800/488-7245; www.adnetint.com/railings.

Temporary Door Latch

When the doors are hung before the locksets are delivered, many builders resort to makeshift turnbuckles or bent-over nails to keep the doors closed. But these measures don't hold up well



on site, and the result is often damaged doors and door jambs. One easy fix is the *Sav-A-Door*, a two-piece spring-loaded plastic insert that fits most standard lockset bores. No tools are required for installation — just compress the S-shaped handle section, fit it into the lockset bore, and release. A plastic latch piece slides through the edge bore and is adjustable for both $2\frac{3}{8}$ - and $2\frac{3}{4}$ -

inch backsets. (A bushing is also provided for foam doors without wood reinforcing at the bore hole.) The plastic latches cost 99¢ each.

Contact: Sav-A-Door, Inc., P.O. Box 1176, Ft. Mill, SC 29715; 800/588-3734.

Smart Switch

Designed to monitor spaces smaller than 800 sq. ft., the infrared sensor in the *Decorator Wall Switch* occupancy sensor detects hand and walking movements up to 20 and 40 feet away, respectively.

The device includes a daylight override that keeps the lights off in bright sunlight, despite detecting occupants in the room; an adjustable time-delay feature can also be set to keep the light on for up to 20 minutes after occupants leave the area. Available with three-way switching and in low-voltage models, the switch recesses fully into a standard electrical box and comes with a matching GFCI wall plate in white or ivory. The switch can also be ganged together with standard switches and outlets.



Contact: SensorSwitch, Inc., 900 Northrop Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492; 203/265-2842.

10-Year Smoke Detector

If your customers can't be bothered with changing the battery in their smoke detectors every year or so, point them in the direction of the *Lifesaver Gold*.

The model 916LL smoke detector is equipped with a lithium battery that lasts up to 10 years, according to the manufacturer. In addition to standard features such as a test button, an

LED power indicator, and a low-battery warning "chirp," the device also includes a false-alarm silencing mechanism. Suggested retail price is about \$25.



Contact: Fyrnetics, 1055 Stevenson Ct., Suite 102W, Roselle, IL 60172; 800/654-7665.

Quiet Attic Fan

An innovative housing design is the secret to a new attic ventilator that runs more efficiently and 30% more quietly, according to the manufacturer.

Instead of encasing the fan blade in a solid cylinder, the gable-mounted *Whisper Cool* automatic power ventilator employs a series of rings that are said to allow air to flow with less restriction. The fan

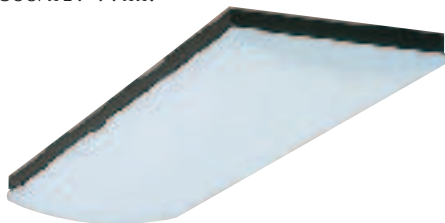
is protected against thermal overload and operates via a thermostat; the premium model employs a humidistat/thermo stat. The preassembled units are mounted on built-in brackets, and standard models are available in a variety of sizes for different size attics.

Contact: Certainteed Ventilation, 7700 Harker Dr., Suite B, Peoria, IL 61615; 800/527-1924; www.certainteed.com/ventilation/ctvent.

Slim Ceiling Fixtures

The ideal ceiling-mounted kitchen light fixture is one that provides ample light without drawing undue attention to itself. The new line of *Wafer* fixtures from Lightolier combine low-profile styling with soft, energy-efficient fluorescent light. The 1x4- and 2x4-foot models are available in white or black, with contrasting white, black, or red accent striping, and use two or four 32-watt T8 (tripphosphor) lamps; the 16x16-inch model uses 27-watt compact fluorescents. Options include a dimming ballast, and prices range from \$110 to \$200.

Contact: Lightolier, 631 Airport Rd., Fall River, MA 02720; 800/223-0726 or 800/217-7722.



Rolling Steel Platform

Tired of losing your footing on narrow stepladder treads? The *Portable Folding Platform* comes with two 9-inch-wide steel planks, each rated for 300 pounds. Two 5-inch-diameter hard rubber wheels turn the tubular steel frame into a convenient rolling staging that folds flat for easy transport and storage. The 3-foot model sells for about \$130; 4-foot (\$160) and 6-foot (\$200) models are also available.

Contact: Advanced Design Products, 2919 Industrial Park Dr., Finksburg, MD 21048; 800/743-8815.



Hardwood Air Register

If you've ever had a client complain that the look of the new hardwood floor was spoiled by an ugly air register, consider using *AirMate Decorative Registers*. Available in 2- and 4-inch-wide models for 10- and 12-inch-long ducts, the steel housing and damper mechanism is capped by a solid oak grille. The floor registers are prefinished in light or medium stain with a clear top coat; an unfinished version can be stained to match surrounding wood.

Steel and aluminum models are also available in three semi-gloss colors (blue, almond, and mauve). Hardwood registers list for between \$43.30 and \$46.80; painted registers, for between \$19.40 and \$22.

Contact: AirMate, 17120 N. Dallas Pkwy., Dallas, TX 75248; 800/992-8368.



Electric Radiant Heat

A new floor-warming product provides a simple solution to radiant-floor retrofits for small areas. The electric *Delta-Warm* floor-warming cable is made from Kapton-insulated resistance wire encased in silicone rubber and wrapped by an aluminum grounding braid; an outer silicone rubber jacket provides additional electrical insulation.

The cable is less than 1/4 inch in diameter and can be placed directly on wood or cement-board substrate; it is then covered with thin-set mortar or lightweight concrete.

According to the manufacturer, Delta-Warm is suitable for use with any floor covering, including ceramic and vinyl tile, marble, concrete, carpet, and wood. Supplied in standard factory-terminated lengths, the installation cost runs between \$4 and \$16 per sq. ft., depending on the size of the area to be heated.

Contact: Delta-Therm Corp., P.O. Box 345, Wanconda, IL 60084; 800/526-7887; www.delta-therm.com.

