

Products

by Pete Young

Temporary Dust Barrier

Remodelers often need a temporary dust barrier that is both easy to install and does not damage ceiling, wall, or floor finishes. *ZipWall* seems to fit the bill. Each telescopic pole has a top plate that securely friction-seals plastic, canvas, or dropcloth material against the ceiling; non-marring feet do the same on the floor. The poles are extendable to 12 feet and retail as a pair for \$139.

Contact: ZipWall, 20 Summer St., Stamford, CT 06901; 800/718-2255; www.zipwall.com



Romex Connectors

Made of non-conductive plastic, *NM94* and *NM95 Black Buttons* snap into 1/2-inch (7.5¢) or 3/4-inch (15¢) knockout holes with light finger pressure. They accept a wide range of single and doubled-up cables and are both UL and CSA listed. A second cable can be added later without removing the first. Black Buttons are available through electrical distributors.

Contact: Arlington Industries Inc., 1 Stauffer Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18517; 800/233-4717.

Aluminum Toeboards

The *Roofmate* line of duty-rated toeboards comes in various single fixed-length and tandem adjustable-length configurations ranging from 4 feet to 23 feet. Multiple sections can also be arranged to interlock and run continuously. These toeboards are 30% lighter than wood and require 60% less storage space. They support 250 lbs. between standard 2x6 roof brackets spaced at 6 feet and have a non-skid surface. List prices range from \$7.50 to \$9 per foot.

Contact: ReechCraft, Inc., 2001 1st Avenue North, Fargo, ND 58102; 888/600-6160; www.reechcraft.com.



Whole-House Ventilation

Ventilation is one important way to ensure high indoor air quality. In an average 2,500-square-foot house, the *Perfect Window Fresh Air Ventilation System* can provide a complete air exchange in around two hours. Because the central fan is installed in a utility space, the system is very quiet. The more economical *HRV* model has an aluminum heat transfer core with an 80% heat transfer ratio. This means that during winter 80% of the heat in outgoing air is recovered, and during summer 80% of the heat from incoming air is kept outside. The *ERV* model employs a cellulose transfer core which also has an 80% heat transfer ratio, but in addition transfers 30% of humidity. This helps keep homes dry during times of humid weather and comfortably humid during times of dry weather. All units have washable prefilters and are available with options such as a whole-house air cleaner that can capture up to 94% of common household dust, and a humidifier that augments the indoor humidity during dry weather. Estimated consumer prices range from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Contact: Honeywell Inc., P.O. Box 524, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0524; 800/345-6770; www.honeywell.com.



30-Minute Caulk

If you can't wait two hours before painting over fresh caulk, try a fast-drying variety called *Quickpaint*. The 40-year siliconized acrylic caulk can be painted over with latex paint 30 minutes after being applied; oil-based paint still requires a two-hour waiting period. The manufacturer claims that the caulk is not prone to cracking or excessive shrinking, and that it sticks to most indoor and outdoor surfaces. A 10.1-ounce cartridge costs about \$2.50.

Contact: Red Devil, Inc., 2400 Vauxhall Road, Union, NJ 07083; 800/423-3845.



Odorless PVC Cement

Here's a PVC cement that is odorless, non-toxic, non-flammable, non-staining, fast setting, and easy to clean up with just water, according to the manufacturer. Compared to conventional PVC cement, *Gorilla PVC* is said to fill larger gaps and have a longer shelf life, plus it applies in one step with no primer needed. Packaged in wide-mouthed 16-oz. cans with an applicator built in to the cap, *Gorilla PVC* costs \$12.95.

Contact: The Gorilla Group, 122 Powers Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93103; 800/966-3458; www.gorillaglu.com.



Paint Saver

Storing expensive leftover finishing products often leaves you with an unusable can of cured, thickened, or dried out paint or stain. Now there's a way to preserve finishes that cure with oxygen. By spraying *Bloxygen's* mix of heavy gases (carbon dioxide, argon, and nitrogen) under the slightly ajar lid of a paint can immediately before storing, the oxygen is displaced and the can may be sealed shut oxygen-free on the inside. Each \$10 can protects about 75 quart or 32 gallon cans.

Contact: IronWood Designs, P.O. Box 13838, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3838; 805/542-9219; www.bloxygen.com.



GFCI with Alert Light

The *GF15* and *GF20* (15 and 20 amps, respectively) are unique electrical outlets because they have an LED indicator that lights only when the GFCI is tripped. This feature is consumer friendly and also ensures proper installation. With two backwiring holes at each outlet termination, leads do not need to be pigtailed. The low-profile (1.2 inches deep) receptacles include a built-in wire stripper.

Contact: Eagle Electric, 45-31 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101; 800/441-3177; www.eagle-electric.com.



Vinyl Column Cladding

Designed for use with 4x4 or 6x6 treated wood posts, the *Sheerline Column Clad* system improves the appearance of wood columns while creating a maintenance-free surface. The vinyl panels interlock around a post, one after another. The final seam is either nailed, screwed, or glued into position and holds the entire assembly together. Extruded ribs allow for air flow between the wood and panels to prevent excessive moisture buildup. The panels come in 8¹/₂- and 10-foot lengths at costs ranging from \$40 to \$60.

Contact: L.B. Plastics, Inc., 482 E. Plaza Dr., P.O. Box 907, Mooresville, NC 28115; 800/752-7739.



Antique Floor Planking

Heart pine, Douglas fir, white pine, oak, chestnut, and hemlock are some of the species available in the *Antique Country Plank Flooring* line. This wood comes from recycled timbers that have been salvaged from demolition sites, then milled into both solid-wood and multi-layer veneer flooring. Different grades are available in plainsawn and quartersawn cuts in widths ranging from 2¹/₄ to 8¹/₄ inches. Prices vary greatly by species, width, and grade. Antique Heart Pine, for example, retails for between \$4.49 and \$11.49 per square foot. Discounts are available for larger orders.

Contact: The Joinery Co., P.O. Box 518, 105 Creek St., Tarboro, NC 27886; 800/726-7463; www.joinery.com.



Stainable Vinyl Windows

Although several window manufacturers have introduced designs that use interior wood laminates, two new lines of vinyl windows apply *CertaWood* technology, which uses interior extrusions made with a composite of wood-fiber and vinyl. The stainable and paintable material is an integral part of the sash and frame, so the surface is durable and will not peel, crack, warp, or rot, according to the manufacturer. The *New Haven* and *Haverford* window lines also use energy-efficient materials, such as low-e glazing films and low conductivity spacers.

Contact: CertainTeed Corporation, 750 E. Swedesford Rd., P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0101; 800/233-8990; www.certainteed.com.

