

Stops Termites, Guaranteed

A fine-woven stainless steel screen called *Termi-Mesh* is guaranteed to stop termites for the life of the home with no chemical treatments. Used as a continuous foundation wrap, or embedded in the foundation and slab at pipes, conduit, and other pene-



trations, the mesh has been independently tested by the USDA and rated 100% effective as a physical barrier to termites. Over the life of the structure, this material is less expensive and more effective than chemical treatment, according to the manufacturer. For example, the installed cost for a 2,000-square-foot slab-on-grade foundation in Florida is said to be from \$600 to \$1,500. First developed in Australia, Termi-Mesh conforms with, or is a suitable alternative to, the requirements of the *Standard Building Code* and the *CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code*, according to SBCCI Report No. 9713.

Contact: Termi-Mesh USA, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 3300, Houston, TX 77027; 713/402-6105; www.termi-mesh.com.

ICFs Without Foam

Made of recycled wood fiber and Portland cement, a permeable insulating concrete form system called *Durisol* is suitable for above- or below-grade applications. The material is highly resistant to the passage of termites, vermin, and other insects, does not support fungus growth, will not rot or decay, and carries a four-hour fire

New Tools & Materials for

Our annual roundup
of products designed
to help you work
faster, better, and
more profitably



rating, according to the manufacturer. The forms provide an excellent mechanical and chemical bond for stucco or plaster without the need for lath; with drywall and wood or composite siding, there is no need to locate fasteners at nailing strips, since the material will accept nails or screws anywhere. Standard blocks are available for straight walls, corners, and lintels in 8-, 10-, and 12-inch thicknesses. Prices range from \$2.10 to \$3.90 per square foot, plus rebar, concrete, and labor. The soundproof material is also used for roof panels, acoustic facing panels, noise barriers, retaining walls, and waffle floor forms, and can be cut with a carbide blade in a circular saw.

Contact: Durisol International, 67 Frid St., Hamilton, ONT L8P 4M3; 905/521-0999; www.durisol.com.

Anchor Bolt Layout

Used to hold sill plate anchor bolts in position during the concrete pour, the *Anchor-Mate* helps to ensure that bolts are placed at the correct height and offset from the form while also protecting threads from concrete splash. Color-coded for 1/2- through 7/8-inch bolts, the reusable plastic clips are priced from 50¢ each in bags of 25 or buckets of 150.

Contact: Make-It Manufacturing, 109 Calle Propano Bldg. B, Paso Robles, CA 93446; 888/662-5348; www.anchormate.com.



STRUCTURE & FRAMING

No-Swell Subfloor

This structural subflooring is engineered for fast installation and greater weatherability than plywood. Four-foot-wide *Advantech* panels come in thicknesses from 19/32 to 1 1/8 inch and lengths up to 16 feet, and are guaranteed not to need sanding due to moisture absorption. With nail withdrawal resistance equal to or better than plywood, this competitively priced material will not delaminate, buckle, or sag, according to the manufacturer.

Contact: Huber Engineered Woods, 10925 David Taylor Drive, Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28262; 800/933-9220; www.huberwood.com.



Plastic-Coated Lumber

Specially formulated to bond to treated lumber, a flexible, abrasion-resistant, seamless membrane called *21 Poly* provides protection from salt, sun, marine life, and harsh chemicals, and prevents leaching of treatment chemicals. Available in a choice of dimensions and colors, the material meets all code requirements and can be worked with stan-



dard carpentry tools, according to the manufacturer. The coating is said to extend the life of treated lumber indefinitely, and has a 100% limited lifetime guarantee.

Contact: Northstar Vinyl Products, 175 Town Park Dr., Suite 260, Kennesaw, GA 30144; 800/558-6702; www.northstarvinyl.com.

Metal Web Trusses

With a 3½-inch-wide nailing surface and standard depths of 7¼, 9¼, 11¾, and 15¾ inches, *Posi-Strut* trusses are designed to be interchangeable with dimensional lumber for clear-span design flexibility in conventional framing applications. The 20-gauge steel, open-web configuration also offers top chord bearing capability, and



eliminates the need to cut and drill for plumbing and electrical systems. Truss ends are available with trimmable 12-inch solid blocking for easy custom fitting on site. Average price is \$1.25 per foot.

Contact: MiTek Industries, P.O. Box 7359, St. Louis, MO 63177; 800/325-8075; www.mitekinc.com.

Four-Inch Foam Forms

Typically, floor systems are connected to ICFs with a ledger board and anchor bolts, or set on a concrete ledge. *Blue Maxx Four-Inch Forms* are designed to interlock flush with the outside edge of forms having 6-inch or

8-inch cores, providing a material cost savings and a simplified floor connection detail at the top of foundation walls. Priced competitively with insulated CMU construction, the 77⁄8-inch-wide blocks correspond to standard CMU sizes to help builders and designers maximize useable interior space.

Contact: AAB Building System, 840 Division St., Cobourg, ONT K9A 4J9; 800/293-3210; www.bluemaxxaab.com.



DOORS & WINDOWS

Operable Sidelight Door

This entry door comes with a 14-inch-wide sidelight that operates like a French door, adding up to 40% to the clear opening of a 3-0 door. The *Furniture Door Entry System*, which is available in a variety of sizes as a steel panel inswing or outswing door, has a polyurethane core and a low-maintenance vinyl frame; clear or decorative insulated glass is available. Retail cost starts at \$1,342; upgrade options include a three-point locking system and flush bolts for added security.

Contact: Weather Shield, P.O. Box 309, Medford, WI 54451; 800/477-6808; www.weathershield.com.



Replacement Windows

Eliminating the mess, inconvenience, and expense of a complete "tear out," these fully assembled replacement windows fit into existing sash pockets in about 30 minutes with no damage to wallpaper, paint, or plaster, according to the manufacturer. Factory-tested *Precision Fit* windows are designed to offer the energy-saving performance of a new window while matching existing architecture with several double-hung sash options. Sized in ¼-inch increments from 18¾ x 33¼ inches up to 44¾ x 77¼ inches, the wood interior can be painted or stained to match existing trim, and both sashes tilt on a center pivot for easy cleaning from inside the house. Suggested retail price is between \$350 and \$550.

Contact: Pella, 102 Main St., Pella, IA 50219; 800/847-3552; www.pella.com.



ROOFING

Durable Roofing

In profiles replicating tile, shakes, slate, and Victorian-style shingles, this steel roofing has a ceramic granule topcoat, and offers 100% UV protection under a 50-year limited warranty. *Dura-Loc* is said to resist



120-mph winds, hail, algae, and most airborne pollutants. At less than 1.4 pounds per square foot, the material can often be applied over existing roofs. The manufacturer claims that the mounting battens offer additional insulation, ventilation, and earthquake protection not found in other roofing products. Cost ranges from \$200 to \$425 per square, installed.

Contact: Dura-Loc Roofing Systems, P.O. Box 220, Courtland, ONT N0J 1E0; 800/265-9357.

Metal Roof Attachments

The attachment points of antennas and other hardware to standing-seam roofing are often the source of leaks, maintenance problems, and warranty violations. With the *S-5! Clamp*, the manufacturer says you can attach almost anything to the vertical seams without piercing the panel, making these simple, quick attachments as dependable as the roof systems they complement. Suggested



retail is \$7.85 each, in boxes of 30.

Contact: Dynamic Fasteners, 9911 East 53rd St., Kansas City, MO 64133; 800/821-5448; www.dynamicfastener.com.

FINISHES

Hidden Access

The *Access Door Panel* installs and finishes like drywall. After attaching the glass-reinforced gypsum panel to framing at the edges, tape and finish as you would a regular seam. The result is a smooth, monolithic



access door that blends with the surrounding drywall ceiling. Available in five sizes from 9 to 30 inches square, with list prices between \$50 and \$100.

Contact: Chicago Metallic, 4849 South Austin Ave., Chicago, IL 60638; 800/323-7164.

Odorless Paint

With virtually no odor and a fast drying time, this paint is ideal for jobs such as restaurants, hotels, or health care facilities, where air quality or facility downtime is a concern. The 100% acrylic latex *Pristine Eco-Spec* is a complete low-VOC paint system that includes a primer and flat, eggshell, or semigloss finishes in more than 1,000 custom colors. The manufacturer says that with this paint, a space can be put back into use within two hours, with no paint smell. Price to the trade is about \$15 to \$20 per gallon.



Contact: Benjamin Moore & Co., 51 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Montvale, NJ 07645; 800/622-0550; www.benjaminmoore.com.

Abuse-Resistant Gypsum Panels

Engineered to provide increased resistance to abrasion, dents, and holes on interior walls and ceilings, *Fiberock VHI Panels* are intended for high-traffic areas. Made of perlite, cellulose, and fiber-reinforced gypsum, the 4-foot-wide panels are available in 1/2- or 5/8-inch thicknesses in lengths up to 12 feet. The 5/8-inch size is certified by UL as a Type X panel and can be used in most fire-rated assemblies. The panels have no paper facing on either side, but are sup-



posed to finish as easily as regular wall-board while offering better flexural strength and screw or nail withdrawal properties. The price is 40% higher than regular drywall, but the installed wall is less expensive than the concrete block wall that this material typically replaces, according to the manufacturer.

Contact: United States Gypsum, P.O. Box 806278, Chicago, IL 60680; 800/874-4968; www.usg.com.

KITCHEN & BATH

Dishwasher in a Drawer

This ergonomically designed dishwasher uses electronic controls to accurately adjust water volume, temperature, and detergent, replacing mechanical components for precise, quiet operation and maximum efficiency in the minimum amount of space.



The *DishDrawer* features two completely independent wash compartments, each designed to use as little as 2.4 gallons of water to wash up to seven place settings. With independently programmable controls, dirty dishes can be loaded in one drawer before clean dishes are removed from the other, or delicate crystal can be kept separated from pots and pans; separate drawers also make cleanup easier in kosher kitchens. The drawers occupy the same space as a conventional dishwasher but look more like two kitchen drawers, and are available in stainless steel, black, or white finishes; handles and integrated front panels can also be matched to cabinets. Two-drawer units retail for \$1,650 (single-drawer units retail for \$1,049).

Contact: Fisher & Paykel, 22982 Alcalde Dr., Suite 201, Laguna Hills, CA 92653; 888/936-7872; www.fisherpaykel.com.

Green Cabinets

In addition to a full line of conventional custom cabinets, the *Naturals Collection* includes cabinets made with certified sustainably harvested and recycled woods, formaldehyde-free MDF or wheatboard, certified plywood, and environmentally responsible finishes. A variety of door



NEIL KELLY CABINETS

styles and finishes are available through regional distributors or directly from the manufacturer at prices 8% to 10% higher than comparable designs made from standard materials.

Contact: Neil Kelly, 804 N. Alberta St., Portland, OR 97217; 503/288-7461; www.neilkelly.com.

Out-of-the-Way Towel Rack

Whether mounted on the wall or on the door's hinge pins, the *Eurorack* provides 8 feet of towel space without interfering with door closure, and is easily reachable by children and the handicapped. Discounted 30% to the trade, the rack is available in white (\$49.95), polished brass (\$179.95), and stainless steel (\$129.95). UL-listed, 70-watt heated models are also available.

Contact: Hinge-It, 3999 Millersville Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46205; 800/599-6328.



EXTERIORS

High-Strength Coating

This acrylic polymer cement compound is a chemical concrete with over 6,000 psi compressive strength — about twice the strength of regular concrete. The *Perma-Crete Finish System* is resistant to fire, mildew, and water, and can be hand-squeegeed over a solid, clean substrate or applied with a conventional spray-hopper



gun. In addition to its use as a no-lath stucco system for ICFs, the material can be applied in layers as thin as 1/8 inch (to a maximum of 2 inches, depending upon surface conditions) to wood, steel, masonry, concrete, and asphalt. The nonporous finished product is suitable for vehicular traffic, will withstand freeze-thaw cycles, resist chemicals, oil, and stains, and can be cleaned with ordinary household detergents, according to the manufacturer.

Installed only by authorized dealers, the average retail cost is \$4 to \$5 per square foot when applied over ICFs (\$3 to \$8 per square foot for other applications), including most surface prep and cleaning materials.

Contact: Perma-Crete, 501 Metroplex Drive, Suite 115, Nashville, TN 37211; 800/607-3762; www.permacrete.com.

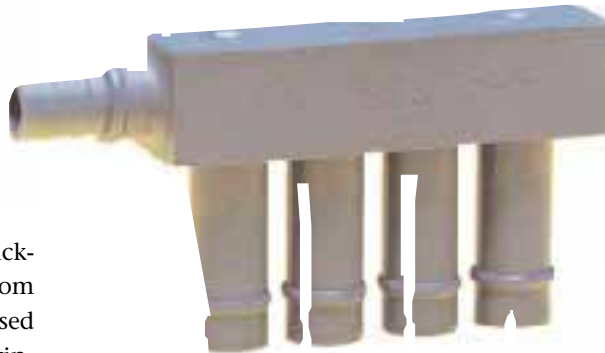
Hardboard Trim

Designed to match clear cedar but without splits or cracks, *Masonite Exterior Trim* is reversible (smooth on one side, textured on the other), factory-primed on all four sides, and treated with a preservative to control wood-destroying organisms. The one-piece, non-laminated, wood composite exterior trim is water-repellant and holds paint better than wood, according to the manufac-



turer. Available in full 4/4 and 5/4 thicknesses, 16-foot lengths, and six widths from 3 to 12 inches, this material can be used with any exterior cladding for fascia, window and door trim, or decorative trim on porches and corners. The manufacturer says price is comparable to cedar of similar dimensions.

Contact: Masonite, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606; 800/255-0785; www.masonite.com.



much as 25%, according to the manufacturer. The device installs in seconds, is guaranteed for life, and does not impede the flushing ability of the toilet. Retail prices start at \$3.50 each, with volume discounts available.

Contact: The Fuller Group, 3461 Summerford Court, Marietta, GA 30062; 770/650-8838; www.aquasaver.com.

Hot Water Circulator

With just one moving part (a small valve), *Just Right* uses convection to eliminate the customary wait for hot water at the tap.



With no need for an electrical hookup, the manufacturer claims easy installation when the hot water line is situated above the heater. Price is about \$75 retail, with discounts to the trade.

Contact: NIBCO, P.O. Box 1167, Elkhart, IN 46515; 800/234-0227; www.nibco.com.

Radiant Heat Subfloor Panel

A new radiant heating system combines APA-rated composite subflooring and heat-transfer plates into a single 1³/₃₂-inch-thick 4x8 tongue-and-groove panel. The *Warmboard* has a conductive aluminum top layer permanently bonded to the substrate, and is manufactured with a regular pattern of 12-inch on-center grooves designed for use with 1/2-inch PEX tubing. Panels with 90-degree and 180-degree turns are available for the perimeter, and grooves can be custom cut with a 5/8-inch core box router bit. The PEX is pressed into

PLUMBING & HEATING

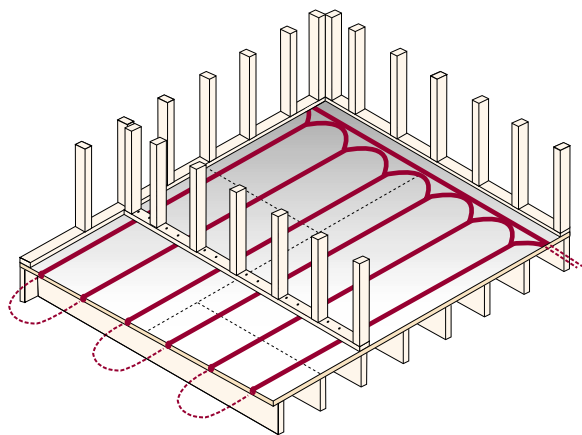
Closet Flange

Invented by two plumbers who needed a solution for difficult installations, this closet flange goes inside the pipe and seals with a tapered thread inside a threaded expansion gasket. The *Twist-N-Set* works with 4-inch service weight, no-hub, and extra heavy-weight soil pipe. Suggested retail is \$21.22 each.

Contact: Oatey, 4700 West 160th St. Cleveland, OH 44135; 800/321-9532; www.oatey.com.

Water Savings

By diverting part of the toilet tank refill water into the bowl refill and overflow pipe, the *Aquasaver* reduces the total water consumption of each flush by as



an adhesive, which aids heat transfer and keeps tubing from moving.

Suitable for new construction or remodeling, this combination subfloor and heating system can be used under wood flooring, carpet, vinyl, tile, or stone. Price is about \$4 per square foot, delivered.

Contact: Warmboard, Attn: Richard Grow, 7067 Southwest Arbor Lake Dr., Wilsonville, OR 97070; 503/694-5089; www.warmboard.com.

Soapstone Fireplaces

In addition to its sheer beauty, soapstone holds heat far longer than brick, and makes for an extraordinarily efficient thermal mass heater, according to the manufacturer. Soapstone *Tulikivi* fireplaces can radiate heat for up to 24 hours after an initial firing of only two to four hours and still remain safe to touch. These stoves don't need continual stoking and are said to provide more complete consumption of the



wood, producing less creosote and only 1.35 grams of particulate emissions per hour, compared with the 7.5 grams per hour for non-catalytic woodstoves. There are 13 basic models to choose from in smooth or rough-cut finish, some with a bake oven and cooktop, weighing between 2,500 and 10,000 pounds; other designs are available by special order. Optional electric heating elements can maintain a set temperature. Each fireplace is built on site by a qualified installer certified by the manufacturer. Prices vary by region, and start at about \$4,950 excluding installation or chimney costs.

Contact: Tulikivi, P.O. Box 4024, New York, NY 10023; 212/721-6722; www.tulikivi.com.

ELECTRICAL

Wireless Motion Sensor

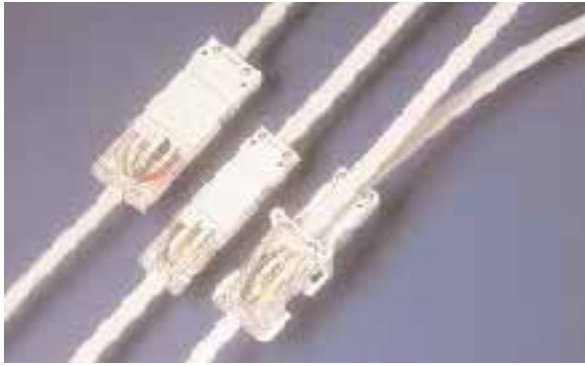
Offering convenience and security, the wireless *HS3600* motion sensor will turn on indoor lights up to 100 feet away. The weather-sealed control can handle 600 watts incandescent or 300 watts fluorescent, or small appliances up to 10 amps, and will shut off lights five minutes after motion has stopped. Suggested retail is \$34.99.

Contact: Lamson Home Products, 25701 Science Park Dr., Cleveland, OH 44122; 800/321-1970; www.lamson-home.com.



NEC-Approved Tap/Splices

According to the manufacturer, these UL-approved devices meet all NEC requirements (Articles 545, 550, and 336-21), and may be used as a fast, reliable means to interconnect two- or three-conductor 12 or 14 AWG circuits without J-boxes, covers, wire nuts, or box connectors. Rated for 20 amps, 300 volts AC, *EnerFlex NM Cable Splices and Taps* have a built-in strain relief and a clear plastic cover to allow visual inspection of the connection. The tap can be fastened to a stud through a hole in the



housing, satisfying the NEC support requirement. Pricing varies with quantity, starting at \$4.79 each for the tap at a 50-piece minimum, and \$2.39 each for the splice at a 100-piece minimum. Lead times may apply for some made-to-order components.

Contact: AMP, P.O. Box 3608, Harrisburg, PA 17105; 800/522-6752; www.amp.com.



transport and store, the brackets can be hung inside or outside, and won't get in the way even when installing rim boards or blocking. Handrail posts are available, and plank height can be adjusted without removing the plank. Each \$399 pair will hold 500 evenly distributed pounds, and meets all OSHA requirements.

Contact: Wing Enterprises, P.O. Box 3100, Springville, UT 84663; 800/453-1192.



TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Cordless Drill Holder

Tools easily snap in or out of the unique soft aluminum hook on *The Bigg-Lugg* tool holder, which is adjustable for any size tool, including cordless drills, nail guns, or staplers. The handy hook clips onto your belt, toolbelt, or pants pocket, and can be swung out of the way when not in use so it doesn't hang up on ladders or other obstructions. Retail price is \$11.95 each.



Contact: Prazi U.S.A., P.O. Box 1165, Plymouth, MA 02362; 800/262-0211; www.praziusa.com.

Hanging Scaffolds

No, not *that* kind of hanging scaffold. The aluminum *WallWalker* scaffold hangs off the top plate or beam and extends more than 36 inches from the wall, leaving working room to do layout, set joists and rafters, cut rafter tails, install fascia boards, and set the first row of roof sheathing. Easy to

Slick Saw Guide

Designed to make perfectly straight cuts using a circular saw, this one-piece extruded plastic guide is a manufactured version of a site-built jig that most remodelers are familiar with. Custom-fitted to every saw, the *Factory Edge* offers clean, straight, precise cuts anywhere a straight cut is needed, without wasted time, material, or effort. By placing your saw on the ribbed surface and cutting off the excess width of the guide, the new edge accurately locates all subsequent cuts. Suggested retail price is \$29.95



for the 8-foot guide, \$19.95 for the 4-foot guide, and \$10.95 for the 2-footer.

Contact: Laaxo Linear, P.O. Box 1048, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557; 508/693-0393; www.tiac.net/users/lakso

Dust-Free Drywall Sanding

For those times when you just can't make a mess, this combination drywall sander and filter could be the ticket. As you sand with a standard abrasive screen, the flexible hose attached to the *Sand&Kleen* pole sander carries dust to your shop vac, but not before it passes through the *Aquair Water Filter*,



which traps 95% of the particles. Users don't need goggles, masks, or respirators, and with no cleanup time, the manufacturer claims the system can pay for itself in one use. Suggested retail for the Combo Pak (sander head, 20 feet of flexible hose, water filter, and a pole sander) is \$119.95.

Contact: Magna Industries, 2201 W. 110th St., Cleveland, OH 44102; 800/969-3334.

Job-Site SUV

If ever there was a big-ticket tool for landscaping, excavating, and other site conditions that demand high maneuverability and productivity with minimal ground disturbance, this is it. The *Bobcat 864 Compact Track Loader* offers a choice of track widths: 12 inches (at 5.5 psi ground pressure) with better traction for digging and general excavation; or 18 inches (at 3.8 psi ground pres-



sure) for improved flotation on soft ground. With 11 inches of ground clearance, a 73.5-horsepower turbocharged diesel, and a rated operating capacity of 2,000 pounds at 35% of tipping weight (traditional skid-steer loaders are rated at 50% of tipping weight), this machine is so new it doesn't even have a price yet. But the manufacturer says you'll be able to get one before the end of this year. Even at just under \$40,000, admit it: You want one.

Contact: Melroe, P.O. Box 6019, Fargo, ND 58108; 701/241-8700; www.bobcat.com.

It's 47 Inches and Two Little Lines Past the First Big Line

Ever lost your cool hearing that from a helper? Apparently, you're not the only one.

To the rescue comes the *Rapid-Read 25-foot* tape measure, featuring convenient 1/8-inch fractional readouts clearly marked on the coated, UV- and rust-resistant 1-inch blade.

Along with an impact-resistant case, a unique rubber grip panel, and a finger groove on the bottom for comfort, the "ControlLok" design provides instant, automatic locking as the blade is pulled from the case, and a thumb release controls retraction speed and quick fine-tuning of the blade's position. Price is about \$5 to \$7.

Contact: The L. S. Starrett Co., 121 Crescent St., Athol, MA 01331; 978/249-3551; www.lsstarrett.com.

