

Products

by Pete Young

Wet- and Cold-Weather Gloves

Imagine how your hands usually feel on a cold, wet, and windy job site — as soon as they get wet, fingers go numb and dexterity is completely lost. *SealSkinz Waterproof Gloves* seem like a great solution. Aside from keeping hands dry, these gloves are windproof, breathable, and form-fitting. The palms and fingers have gripper dots to help you hold onto tools and materials. At a suggested retail of \$30, these gloves are worth a try.

Contact: DuPont SealSkinz Waterproof MVT Products, 1002 Industrial Rd., Old Hickory, TN 37138; 800/868-2629; www.sealskinz.com.



Cementitious Colored Topping

Concrete, masonry, asphalt, wood, metal, and plastic exterior and interior surfaces can be coated with *Micro-Top* using a variety of design and color combinations. Marketed as a durable, high-strength detailing material, this trowel-on topping can be applied to either horizontal or vertical substrates. Micro-Top looks like a cement surface and costs between \$5 and \$10 per square foot, depending on the number of colors and the complexity of the design. Distribution is limited to

licensed contractors.

Contact: Bomanite Corporation, P.O. Box 599, Madera, CA 93639; 209/673-2411; www.bomanite.com.



Large Flat-Roof Skylights

Light aluminum frames with thermal breaks minimize condensation and maximize glass space in the *Classic Skylighting System*. The frames come with concealed fasteners, and the integral condensation gutters channel excess moisture to the exterior. Available in square pyramid, hipped-end, double pitched, and octagonal pyramid models, these flat-roof skylights use high-performance insulated glass and are available in many sizes. A 5x5-foot pyramid unit carries a contractor price of about \$2,800 and requires about 10 hours of labor to install.



Contact: Wasco Products, Inc., P.O. Box 351, Sanford, ME 04073; 800/388-0293; www.wasco1.com.

Patching Stucco

Using a pneumatically assisted caulking gun along with cartridges of aggregate material, stucco surfaces can be repaired efficiently without bringing elaborate equipment onto the job site. The *Stucco Patch Gun* (\$120) comes with two tips for either fine or heavy texture materials and an additional tip for caulking. Premixed acrylic-based cartridges are available (\$16 ea.), but a reusable cartridge is included that can be filled with up to one quart of either acrylic- or cement-based material.

Contact: Homax Products, Inc., P.O. Box 5643, Bellingham, WA 98227; 800/729-9029.



Convincing Grout Lines

Low-budget bathrooms and kitchens often call for panels that simulate real tile. *E-Z Tile* is one such product that seems to offer higher quality. The polyester panels have bullnose edging, and the grout lines were convincing in the sample we received here at *JLC*. In addition, kits are designed for standard showers and tubs so that joints fall only at wall corners. *E-Z Tile* panels cost around \$5 per square foot.

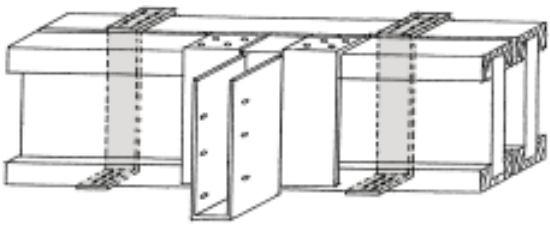
Contact: Better Way Products, Inc., 70891 County Rd. 23, New Paris, IN 46553; 219/831-3340.



Load-Sharing in Built-Up Beams

Where point loads are carried by doubled-up joists, trusses, or engineered wood beams, the *load share clip* establishes a connection between the bottom of one member and the top of an adjoining member. Available for standard widths and depths, the clip comes with either 3- or 4-inch flanges rated for allowable loads of 1,390 lbs. and 1,980 lbs., respectively.

Contact: Cleveland Steel Specialty Company, 14400 So. Industrial Ave., Cleveland, OH 44137; 800/251-8351.



ADA Access Door Opener

The *MA900* is a retrofit automatic door opener that works with hinged or offset-pivot doors in both in-swing and out-swing applications. Running on a regular 15-amp circuit, a control is programmed to activate by lightly touching the door or by pushing wall or jamb switches that can be either hard-wired or wireless. Several different adjustable features — time delay, opening angle, open time, lock delay — can be programmed to suit a particular installation. When power fails, the door can be operated manually. In addition, the opener can be switched off and used as a simple manual closer. To ensure safe passage, the door stops moving if obstructions are encountered at any point in its swing. All these features don't come cheap, though — the *MA900* retails for about \$2,300.

Contact: The Stanley Works, 1000 Stanley Dr., New Britain, CT 06053; 800/782-6539; www.stanleyworks.com.



Vinyl Cladding for Door Trim

An exterior vinyl cladding system called *Perma-Trim* snaps into place over the jambs and brick-mold of prehung entry doors. Kits are available in standard and custom sizes. A standard kit for a 3-0/6-8 single door has a contractor price of \$28; prices increase for larger or custom sizes. Special colors, styles, and shapes are also available at additional cost.

Contact: Benjamin Obdyke, Inc., 65 Steamboat Dr., Warminster, PA 18974; 800/346-7655; www.obdyke.com.

