

Products

by Pete Young

Extreme Temp Acrylic Caulk

Hot weather can cause water-based caulks to slump and separate from surfaces to which they are applied, and below-freezing weather usually prevents water-based caulks from curing correctly. Two new water-based caulks extend the range of acceptable working temperatures. *Solar Caulk* can be used up to 120°F, while *Polar Caulk* cures at temperatures as low as 15°F. Both can be painted over with acrylic paint two hours after application (oil-based paint must wait three days). Solar and Polar caulks both retail at \$3 per 10 oz. cartridge.

Contact: Red Devil, P.O. Box 3133, Union, NJ 07083; 800/423-3845; www.reddevil.com.



Automatic Fan Light

Activated by built-in humidity and motion sensors, the *QT100LHM SmartSense* fan light (\$185) serves multiple purposes. Automatic ventilation protects against mold and mildew; automatic lighting can be both a convenience and energy-saving feature. A separate *VS-95* wall switch (\$16) makes it possible to activate the unit for odor ventilation, night-lighting, or continuous lighting. Although optional, the wall switch is a must if the fan is to be used for odor control. Other models in the SmartSense line offer just one of the automatic ventilation or lighting features and are available for between \$20 and \$50 less.

Contact: NuTone, Madison and Red Bank Roads, Cincinnati, OH 45227; 800/543-8687; www.nutone.com.



Graffiti Removers

Both Hilti and Enzone USA offer graffiti removal spray and gel products; although claims made for effectiveness and environmental safety differ.

Hilti's biodegradable *So-Safe* graffiti remover (\$20.50 per quart) is said to remove spray paint, marker, pen, glue, and grease from both nonporous and porous surfaces. The light-duty spray is intended for nonporous surfaces such as painted metal, while the heavy-duty gel works better on hard-to-clean porous surfaces such as concrete block. A disclaimer says that *So-Safe* can dull the finish of certain painted surfaces and plastics, and recommends preliminary testing on an inconspicuous area.

Enzone boldly claims its *Graffiti-Eater* will remove almost any material from any surface. The company also recommends using the spray system (\$10 per 16 oz. can) on nonporous surfaces; the gel (\$45 per gallon) is better for porous surfaces because the solvents remain in contact with the surface longer and penetrate further. No environmental claims are made for the multiple solvent-based formula used in *Graffiti-Eater*.

Contact: Hilti, Inc., P.O. Box 21148, Tulsa, OK 74121; 800/879-8000; www.hilti.com.

Contact: Enzone USA, Inc., 10165 USA Today Way, Miramar, FL 33025; 800/448-0535; www.enzoneusa.com.





Anti-Vibration Gloves

Gloves can offer some protection from prolonged exposure to impact and vibration. Available in several full- and half-finger models, the *Anti-Vibration* line of gloves has padding in the palms and fingers that absorbs and dissipates shock and vibration. The gloves (\$30 to \$38 per pair) have Velcro straps and are washable.

Contact: Valeo, Inc., W229 N1680 Westwood Dr., Waukesha, WI 53186; 800/634-2704.

Masonry, Stone & Concrete Cleaner

The acids and solvents usually used to clean old masonry, concrete, or stone can now be replaced with a new environmentally safe product that uses oil-slick cleanup technology. *Safe n' Easy Restoration Cleaner* (\$125 per 5-gallon bucket) creates a super-active cleaning action by combining colloids with hyper-wetting agents. The manufacturer claims that Safe n' Easy lifts, separates, and emulsifies carbon buildup and other atmospheric pollutants, chalking, efflorescence, mold, and mildew without etching, pitting, or damaging surfaces.

Contact: Dumond Chemicals, Inc., 1501 Broadway, Suite 515, New York, NY 10036; 800/245-1191.

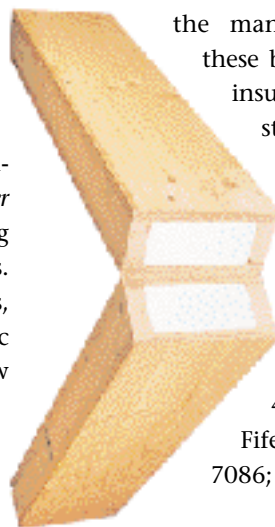


Insulated LVL Beam

The *Insul-Beam* is an engineered box beam made with rigid foam insulation sandwiched between laminated veneer lumber sides and solid-sawn tops and bottoms. Originally intended as headers for walls built using structural insulated panels (SIPs), the beams are being produced in standard sizes suitable for conventional stick framing as well.

Available in lengths up to 16 feet, the manufacturer claims that these beams not only provide insulation but are slightly stronger than solid-sawn headers. For 2x4 and 2x6 walls, the Insul-Beam costs between \$6.40 and \$6.80 per linear foot.

Contact: Premier Building Systems, 4609 70th Ave. East, Fife, WA 98424; 800/275-7086; www.phspanel.com



Sticky Roofing Prep Spray

A fast-drying asphalt-based aerosol is now on the market for use in prepping areas before applying coatings, cementitious products, or self-adhesive products. *Surface Prep* can be used on plywood sheathing, gutters, pipes, flashing, masonry, concrete, or composition roofing. Used as a primer, Surface Prep enables stronger adherence with both hot- and cold-applied materials and membranes. A 12-oz. can (\$5.25) produces a 4-inch-wide spray covering 70 linear feet (23 sq. ft. total).

Contact: Roofmaster Products Company, 750 Monterey Pass Rd., Monterey Park, CA 91754; 800/372-6409.

Steel Protection Plate for Framing

Working with both metal and wood framing, *Caddy* plates provide quick and cheap protection for wiring and plumbing. Caddies (about 25¢ each) press into place over studs, and breakable tabs allow multiple plates to be ganged. Predrilled holes are located on the legs and surface of the plates for optional nailing or screwing.

Contact: Erico, Inc., 34600 Solon Rd., Solon, OH 44139; 800/813-3378; www.erico.com.



Air Bag Lifting

As an alternative to standard hydraulic or mechanical jacks in situations where



space is tight, try a *MaxiForce* air bag. Available in sizes ranging from 6 inches x 6 inches to 3 feet x 3 feet with lift capacities of 1.5 to 72 tons, these Kevlar-reinforced bags fit into insertion spaces as tight as 1 inch and require a 100-psi air source. The manufacturer claims that the bag surface creates a strong friction grip even on slippery surfaces. For spaces that are too big for a single bag, two or more bags can be stacked on one another.

Contact: Simplex, 2525 Gardner Rd., Broadview, IL 60153; 800/275-5225; www.tksimplex.com.

