

Products

by Dave Crosby

Better Ventilation

Remotely-mounted fans provide strong, quiet, dependable ventilation for bathrooms, clothes dryer vents, range hoods, heat duct boosters, fresh air supplies, and just about anything else you can think of. Approved for residential or commercial use, the epoxy-coated steel *Continental AXC* fans are rated for 100,000 hours of continuous operation, and carry a five-year warranty. A 6-inch fan installed six feet away from the grille on insulated flex duct has a reported noise level of just 0.2 sones. Solid-state variable speed controls and sound attenuators are also available. Competitively priced starting at \$160, the fans are available in sizes from 4 inches (106 cfm) to 12.4 inches (1,198 cfm).

Contact: Continental Fan Manufacturing, Inc., 2296 Kenmore Ave., Buffalo, NY 14207; 800/779-4021; www.continental-fan.com.



Laminate Floors

A four-ply, high-density fiberboard core makes *Traffic Zone High-Performance Laminate Flooring* a durable alternative for kitchens and family rooms. The material is said to be easier to install and repair than other floating laminate flooring because it is glued only at the upper edge of the tongue.

Available in more than 60 styles, including 32 wood-plank patterns, the flooring can be installed over a foam backer on any sound, level subfloor. Material cost ranges from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per square foot.

Contact: Bruce Laminate Floors, 16803 Dallas Pkwy., Addison, TX; 800/722-4647; www.bruce laminate floors.com.

Flexible Gas Piping

A corrugated stainless steel gas tubing called *Diamondback* requires 75% fewer fittings than black iron pipe, so it installs up to three times faster and with fewer leaks, according to the manufacturer. Flexible enough for 3-inch-radius bends, the tubing uses multiport manifolds for easy remodeling, retrofit, or expansion. No special tools are needed for installation, and

although the flexible tubing is more expensive than black iron pipe (\$2.42 per foot for 1/2-inch-diameter up to \$4.95 per foot for 1-inch-diameter), the extra cost should be more than offset by the decrease in labor.

Contact: Metal-Fab, Inc., P.O. Box 1138, Wichita, KS 67201; 888/807-6253; www.mtlfab.com.



No Chalk Line Required

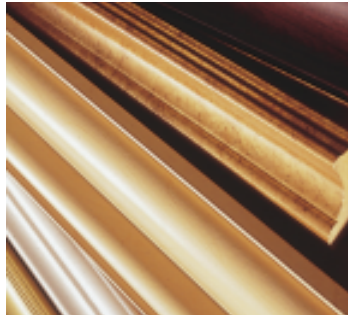
Designed by a carpenter, this brand of OSB has a measuring grid printed on every sheet. *Visual Precision* is intended to increase productivity by eliminating the need for measuring and marking panels prior to cutting. Standard on-center layout markings also help you locate fasteners fast. Currently being test marketed in select areas of the country, nationwide availability will vary with demand. The price is expected to be 50¢ to 75¢ per sheet higher than plain OSB.

Contact: Louisiana-Pacific Customer Service, 111 SW Fifth Ave., Portland, OR 97204; 800/547-6331; www.lpcorp.com



MDF Molding

Wouldn't it be great if you could always afford to buy straight, blemish-free molding? What if it was also primed, paintable with oil or latex, and came in a wide variety of stock or custom profiles and sizes? Add environmentally friendly to the list, pay about 30% to 50% less than finger-jointed wood, and you've got MDF molding. *Will-Trim* and *SierraPine Moulding* are base, chair rail, crown, casing, jamb, and stool moldings in 16-foot lengths that won't cup, shrink, warp, or twist like wood. Both products can be installed with standard woodworking tools. SierraPine also offers a formaldehyde-free product line for use where indoor air quality or artifact preservation is a concern.



Contact: Willamette Industries, P.O. Box 1067, Albany, OR 97321; 541/924-5373; www.wii.com.

SierraPine, 2151 Professional Drive, Suite 200, Roseville, CA 95661; 888/633-7477; www.sierrapine.com.

Remodeler Rescue

After resurfacing an existing wall, the difference in wall thickness can be trouble when you try to reinstall the electrical outlets, switches, and cover plates. The UL-listed *Carlton Box Extender* fits over existing electrical devices and slides into the existing box, with no disassembly required. The PVC extender adds up to 1¹/₈ inches of depth to the box and can be ganged for double boxes. Retail price is \$1.29.

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



Glueless Laminate Flooring

Here's a floating floor system that goes down fast, can be walked on immediately after installation, and can actually be disassembled and reused. The *Quick Step Uniclic* system consists of laminate flooring strips that have an innovative positive locking tongue-and-groove design. The manufacturer recommends using a proprietary waterproof membrane underlayment. Shims are included for spacing the laminate pieces away from the perimeter of the room to allow for expansion and contraction. Suggested retail prices range from \$4 to \$5 per square foot.



Contact: BHK of America, P.O. Box 37, Central Valley, NY 10917; 800/663-4176; www.bhkofamerica.com.

Low-VOC Adhesive

This new weatherproof adhesive is formulated to provide fast grab and high bond to wood, metal, masonry, tile, and drywall. The solvent-based *Pro-Series SF565 VOC Compliant Sub-Floor & Construction Adhesive* also bonds to wet, frozen, or pressure-treated lumber, and meets both California and new federal low-VOC requirements. Retail price will be about \$3.50 for a 29-ounce cartridge.

Contact: OSI Sealants, 7405 Production Drive, Mentor, OH 44060; 800/321-3578; www.osisealants.com.



Reflective Insulation

Three foil-faced products can be used to reflect radiant energy into or away from living space. *Astro-Foil Reflective Insulation* (35¢ per sq. ft.) sandwiches polyethylene air pockets between two layers of foil. Rolls come in various widths, with or without edge stapling tabs, and provide R-15 when used as ground cover, R-7.3 on walls, and R-5.4 in attics.

Perforated *R+ Heatshield* (15¢ per sq. ft.) can be laid over existing attic floor insulation, where it reflects heat while allowing moisture to escape. A solid version serves as a vapor barrier when attached to rafters, kneewalls, and attic gables, or between floor joists and subfloors.

Contact: Astro-Foil, 10653 W. 181st Ave., Lowell, IN 46356; 800/745-3645.



Two-Part Spray Foam

You may have seen an insulation subcontractor installing spray foam insulation and wished you had access to a true spray system for detail work. The *Froth-Pak 12* kit comes with two 12-ounce cans that together make up a two-component urethane foam mix. The cans attach to a housing where their contents are mixed into tubing that connects to a hand-held, trigger spray applicator. A shoulder strap allows one-handed foam application, and a thumbwheel dispenser acts as the on/off control and spray strength adjuster. The kit (\$25) comes with several disposable tips that can be easily replaced if one clogs up after extended use or improper cleaning.

Contact: Flexible Products Co., 2050 N. Broadway, Joliet, IL 60435; 800/800-3626; www.flexibleproducts.com.



One Strong Lock

If your clients want extra security for their entry doors, the *MacLock 1500* could be the answer. With more than 28 inches of steel-to-steel surface contact between door and frame, this lock is up to ten times stronger than the average deadbolt, and exceeds the highest ASTM and ANSI standards by 600%, according to the manufacturer's in-house testing. The lock installs easily in wood, fiberglass, and wood-edged steel doors with no special tools and accepts standard Kwikset keying. Available as a DIY kit in hardware stores nationwide for \$79.95, the lock is offered at a discount to the trade.

Contact: MacLock, 1601 Osprey, Suite 204, DeSoto, TX 75115; 888/622-5625; www.maclock.com.



Point-of-Use Water Filters

Pure, clean, odor-free water can be hard to come by in some places. If your customer is tired of lugging jugs, the *Rainsoft* water purification system comes with a lifetime warranty and provides compressed carbon, UV, or reverse osmosis water purification without countertop clutter. The filtration unit fits neatly into the sink cabinet, and the faucet can be mounted near the existing fittings. Prices for the point-of-use systems range from \$400 to \$1,500.

Contact: Aquion Partners, Rainsoft Division, 2080 East Lunt Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007; 800/642-3426; www.rainsoft.com.



Big Doors

If your design calls for 8-foot-tall outswinging exterior doors, here are three units to choose from: Andersen's *Frenchwood Outswing Patio Doors*, Vetter's *Outswing French Door*, and Stanley's *Sta-Tru Premium Steel Door System*. Available in wood, fiberglass/urethane composite, or steel, each manu-



facturer offers its own multiple-point locking systems, and vinyl or metal cladding in a variety of stock or custom colors. Glazing options include low-E, tempered, and insulating glass as well as energy-efficient weatherseals, grilles, sidelights, transoms, and ADA-accessible sills. Average price is about \$2,500.

Contact: Anderson Windows, 100 Fourth Avenue North, Bayport, MN 55003; 800/426-4261; www.andersenwindows.com

Vetter Windows & Patio Doors, 888 Southview Drive, Mosinee, WI 54455; 800/838-8372.

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

Get Steamed

Residential steam bath generators with enclosure capacities from 65 to 1,275 cubic feet are now available with built-in low voltage controls, an electronic timer, and a safety backup. *Mr. Steam* features 100% stainless steel construction, LED indicators, and an Auto-Flush option that guarantees fresh water for each steam bath. Electrical requirements range from 120v 15A up to 240v 125A, with models suitable for new construction or retrofit. Priced from \$595 to \$1,800, these units come ready to install, complete with controls and steam head.

Contact: Sussman Automatic, 43-20 34th St., Long Island City, NY 11101; 800/767-8326; www.mrsteam.com.

