

Products

by Dave Crosby



Rx for Rot

For those times when removal and replacement of rotted wood isn't the best option, there's the *Rotted Wood Repair Kit*. The chemical stabilizer and two-part filler will create a waterproof surface that can be sanded and painted after 30 minutes. For repairs below the waterline, there's the *Extra-Strength All-Purpose Repair Kit*.

Contact: Bondo, 3700 Industrial Pkwy., Atlanta, GA 30331; 888/442-6636; www.bondomarhyde.com

Exterior Wall System

This wall system offers synthetic stucco cladding with increased durability and improved insulation value, at or below the cost of conventional siding, according to the manufacturer. The *ExcelPlus System* consists of *ExcelBoard*, a structural foam sheathing material reinforced with a wood fiber mat that is applied directly to the framing, and *TPlus* synthetic stucco. Installed cost is said to be about \$2.28 per square foot.

Contact: Excel Manufacturing Group, 1345 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802; 888/522-3564; www.excelmg.com.



Eyewear Retainers

Your safety glasses aren't much good if they keep falling off. *Willson Croakies* eyewear retainers can help prevent this distraction, and maybe even save you some money on replacement costs for those glasses that keep disappearing down between the forms or into the crawlspace. Available in three styles and six colors for under \$3.

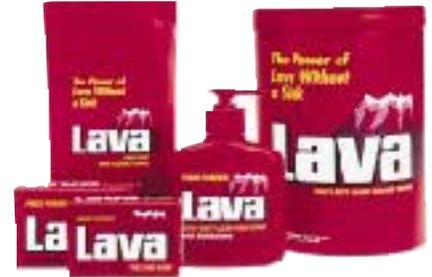


Contact: Dalloz Safety, P.O. Box 622, Reading, PA 19603; 610/376-6161; www.cdalloz.com.

Clean Hands

Sometimes, getting really dirty is just part of the job. But it's a drag at lunchtime when there's no water on site, unless you've got some *Lava Heavy-Duty Hand Cleaner Towels*. With one rough side and one smooth side, the towels contain a waterless cleaning agent to get your hands clean. Available in a 10-pak (\$3) or tub (\$10).

Contact: WD-40 Company, 1061 Cudahy Pl., San Diego, CA 92110; 619/275-1400; www.wd40.com.



Cable Ties

Flexible, plenum-rated cable ties that fasten securely with Velcro are available on rolls, in lengths from 5 inches to 24 inches and widths of 1/2, 1, and 1 3/4 inches. *Flexties* are UL listed and conform to NEC Section 300 Paragraph (c) and (d). Priced from 20¢ each.

Contact: Nelco, 22 Riverside Dr., Pembroke, MA 02359; 800/267-3253; www.nelco.thomasregister.com.



Slide Dimmer Switch

This light switch features a full-size on/off rocker and a dimmer slide with a wide travel range for easy operation, as well as a full-on bypass for extended dimmer life. Equipped with both screw and back-wire terminals, the *Slide Dimmer* retails for about \$18.

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



Polycarbonate Panels

Clear, opaque, and green translucent polycarbonate panels are available for siding or roofing in standard widths of 40 or 42 inches and lengths up to 38 feet. With a flame



spread rating of 6, *Unitrex Polycarbonate Panels* have a service range of -30°F to 260°F , and are said to be virtually unbreakable and UV-resistant. Price starts at \$2.28 per square foot.

Contact: H&F Manufacturing, P.O. Box 85, Feasterville, PA 19053; 800/474-2732; www.hfmfgcorp.com.

Bifold Breakthrough

Bifold doors are sometimes difficult to operate because they have a tendency to come off the track and they don't fully clear the opening. One solution is the *Full Access Folding Door Hardware Kit*, which replaces the standard



bifold track with an articulating control arm that allows the doors to swing clear of the opening and back against the adjacent wall. The hardware is concealed behind the door when closed, eliminating unsightly exposed track, and only $\frac{1}{8}$ inch clearance is required at

the top of the door, so the opening can be framed and finished at the same height as a standard door. The kit fits doors and openings from 18 inches to 96 inches wide, and door panels up to 30 pounds and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick. Retail price is about \$22.

Contact: L.E. Johnson, P.O. Box 1126, Elkhart, IN 46615; 800/837-5664; www.johnsonhardware.com.

Removable Concrete Anchor

The straight-anchor design of this temporary concrete fastener makes it reusable while still performing reliably with minimal spalling. To install the *Redi-Form-Drive*, just drill a $\frac{3}{16}\times\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-deep hole and pound in the anchor, which according to the manufacturer will hold a 2x4 with



tension and shear load performance superior to a powder-actuated fastener. The $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, duplex-headed drive anchors are intended for concrete formwork or other temporary attachment of wood to concrete, and sell for \$28 to \$35 per bag of 100.

Contact: ITW Ramset/Red Head, 1300 North Michael Dr., Wood Dale, IL 60191; 800/354-7432; www.ramset-redhead.com.

Counter Trim Kit

Stainless steel trim strips provide a finished appearance while preventing food scraps from falling into the crack between the countertop and the range. The $\frac{11}{16}\times 20\frac{3}{4}$ -inch T-profile *Counter Trim Kit* can be friction fit, or held in place with double-sided tape. Available in stainless steel, white, or almond, a pair costs about \$6 in hardware stores.

Contact: Vance Industries, 250 Wille Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60018; 847/375-8900; www.vanceind.com. 

