

# Products

by Dave Holbrook

## Fall Protection

If you're on the roof, you need fall protection year-round. *Guardrail 2000* adjusts to 4/12, 8/12, and 12/12 pitches, as well as 90 degrees, and eliminates the need for safety harnesses and lanyards. The system can be moved up the roof behind you as you shingle, or hung from the wall plate at the eaves. OSHA-compliant aluminum brackets fasten to the roof on 8-foot centers through easy-to-install (and remove) eyelets using 16-penny nails. An attachment for scaffold mounting is also available. Cost is \$79.95 each, or about \$11 per linear foot of protection — cheap insurance.

**Contact:** Reichel Corp., 2320 Larch Ln. N., Plymouth, MN 55441; 612/557-8943; [www.guardrail2000.com](http://www.guardrail2000.com).



## Let It Slide

What happens when you're presented with a door you can't even lift, and you're supposed to make it slide? You can handle it with *200SD* heavy-duty hardware for doors weighing up to 300 lbs. Four 1-inch-diameter nylon wheels per ball-bearing hanger provide



smooth, rolling action on extruded aluminum I-beams up to 16-feet long. Folding doors up to 150 lbs. use *200FD* hardware. In either case, the door hangs by the hardware attachment screws, so I've got one word of caution for you: Predrill. Kits cost from \$62 to \$181 depending on door size and style.

**Contact:** L. E. Johnson Products, 2100 Sterling Ave., Elkhart, IN 46516; 800/837-5664; [www.johnsonhardware.com](http://www.johnsonhardware.com).

## Wood Protection

This clear, 100% acrylic coating for exterior wood is claimed to last three to five times longer than oil-based finishes, even in severe environments. Applied to water-prepped wet wood (including pressure-treated), *Tropitech*



## Ladder-Day Saint

Perhaps due to the slow onset of "geezer-itis," I find anything that lightens the load to be a wonderful thing. The *Ladder Caddy* puts wheels under one end of a long, heavy extension ladder for one-man transport. And — talk about teaching an old dog new tricks — with wheels, that same ladder becomes a functional wheelbarrow, sort of. The 20-inch inflatable tire(s) can be quickly attached to the ladder, and left on during normal use. Three models are available from \$100 to \$175.

**Contact:** Sur-Loc, 3560 E. Swager Dr., Fremont, IN 46737; 800/223-7517; [www.surloc.com](http://www.surloc.com).



*Spa-N-Deck* works with moisture in the wood to improve penetration of the coating and save application time, according to the manufacturer. Spills and equipment can be cleaned up with soap and water. Available in six color tones, and premium priced at retail outlets.

Contact: The Flood Company, P.O. Box 2535, Hudson, OH 44236; 800/321-3444; [www.floodco.com](http://www.floodco.com).

## Mortarless Brick

Your mason may feel a little under-appreciated if he sees you handling your own brick veneer, but hey, that's progress. The high-strength concrete *Novabrik* siding system uses screws to attach the 3- by 8-inch (face dimension) inter-



locking bricks to conventional wall framing without mortar or a supporting ledge. No additional framing reinforcement is required on platform-framed walls up to three stories high. At 2,750 lbs per square, it sure seems like a lot of weight to hang from the wall, but

the UBC-approved installation has been tested to resist both high wind and seismic activity. The bricks are available in six colors and produced regionally, so the price varies by location.

Contact: Allan Block, 7400 Metro Blvd., Suite 185, Edina, MN 55439; 612/835-5309; [www.novabrik.com](http://www.novabrik.com).

## Easy Squeezer

There are plenty of caulking jobs that leave you with a partially used and useless 10-oz. cartridge. The compact *FormFill Caulking Gun* works like no other gun on the market, by putting the squeeze on 4.5- and 5-oz. tubes, without the repetitive trigger action of regular guns. Its smaller size gets it into tighter spaces, too. Snap



the cap back on, and save the leftovers for the next job. The all-plastic gun will cost you \$19.95.

Contact: Unika USA, 2657 Gravel Dr., Bldg 1, Ft. Worth, TX 76118; 888/536-0042; [www.unika-usa.com](http://www.unika-usa.com).

## Hands-Free Anti-Scald Faucet

Public bathrooms use touchless technology to control water usage and prevent the transmission of communicable diseases. The *Touchless Smart Faucet* converts most standard faucets to hands-free operation, and includes an



electronic mechanism that automatically shuts off water flow when the temperature exceeds a user-determined preset limit, to prevent scalding accidents. Battery operation (1.5V and 6V combined) eliminates wiring and the risk of shock. The cost is \$299.

Contact: SmartWave Technologies, Inc., 151 Carlingview Drive, Suite 3, Toronto, ONT Canada M9W 5S4; 800/649-9283; [www.smartwave.ca](http://www.smartwave.ca).

## Hydronic Vent

Air trapped in water lines, or entrained in the water, makes for noisy operation in closed-loop systems, slows circulation, decreases system efficiency, and accelerates internal corrosion. Bleeding the system is standard procedure in new installation and maintenance, but it can be next to impossible to get it all out. Install a 3/4- or 1 1/4-inch diameter *Spirovent Junior* in the hot water line from the boiler, and even micro-bubble and dissolved air is continuously vented out automatically. Startup venting is eliminated, making both new and revision work a (noiseless) snap. The 3/4-inch model retails for about \$68 (\$130 for the 1 1/4-inch), at well-stocked plumbing suppliers.



Contact: Spirotherm, Inc., 25 N. Brandon Drive, Glendale Heights, IL 60139; 630/307-2662; [www.spirotherm.com](http://www.spirotherm.com).



## Air-Cushioned Crawlers

The foam in some knee-pads thins out during use, reducing the cushion. I recently took a pair of inflatable *Air Knee* pads for a comfortable test crawl. Adjustable straps with click-connecting buckles cross behind the knee, and seem to



keep the pads from shifting around during use. Although they survived repeated, deliberate, and painless knee-drops onto a couple of 8d common nails driven halfway into a piece of wood, I'm still concerned about

the possibility of a puncture — after paying \$40 per pair, this could be a truly deflating experience. So, if they make a cushioned hardhat, will they call it Air Head?

Contact: Air Knee, 333 E. Stuart Ave., Unit F, Redlands, CA 92374; 877/247-5633; [www.airknee.com](http://www.airknee.com).

## Balusters Revisited

When it comes to exterior decks, one small substitution can make a big difference in appearance and quality. Instead of plugging wood balusters into your next deck railing, show your customer *Deckorators* 6063-T5 aluminum balusters. The balusters have a baked-on enamel finish in black, green, pewter, or white. Six different decorative centerpieces, and a



pineapple post finial, are available as options. Balusters insert in 3/4-inch-diameter holes site-drilled into the top and bottom wood railings, and come in three lengths (custom lengths available): 26-inch (\$1.69); 32-inch (\$2.50); and 36-inch (\$2.80).

Contact: Deckorators, 376 Fee Fee Rd., Maryland Heights, MO 63043; 888/662-3325; [www.deckorators.com](http://www.deckorators.com).

## Modular Access Ramp

To comply with accessibility requirements in residential and commercial applications, you have to provide a sloped transition over door thresholds and elevation changes. The *EZ Edge Modular Ramping System* makes this, uh, "e-z," with cut-to-fit compression molded rubber-urethane mats designed to ease the bumps over obstacles as



high as 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>-inches. They can be permanently applied with commercial-grade silicone adhesive. The price varies by model, anywhere from \$56 to \$392.

Contact: The Access Store, 820 W. Seventh St., Chico, CA 95928; 530/893-1596; [www.accessstore.com](http://www.accessstore.com).

## Shortbed Stretcher

Do the standard-bed truck guys snicker when you load your shortbed at the lumberyard? Well, haul out your Hitchhand and have the last laugh. If you've got a Class IV trailer hitch, you can slide in 38 extra inches of payload support beyond your dropped tailgate. Fully adjustable for bed



height and cargo widths between 27 and 49 inches, the square steel tubing breaks down for compact storage. Weighs 46 pounds, supports 750 lbs (don't exceed receiver rating), and comes with a snappy red caution flag, for around \$150.

Contact: Happy Hollow, 2185 Goreville Rd., Goreville, IL 62939; 800/863-9836; [www.hitchhand.com](http://www.hitchhand.com).

