

Products

by Dave Crosby

Recycled Underlayment

Designed to be cut with a utility knife and a straightedge for quick, easy installation, this new moisture-resistant underlayment is intended for vinyl, ceramic tile, laminate flooring, and other floor surfaces in wet or dry areas. Said to be superior in performance to plywood, OSB, or lauan, *Fiberock Aqua-Tough* is made from 100-percent recycled gypsum and cellulose, using a by-product of flue gas desulphurization and cellulose fibers from cardboard box manufacturing. It's available in 1/4-, 3/8-, or 1/2-inch thicknesses in 4x4 foot panels, and 3/8- or 1/2-inch-thick 4x8 foot panels. Prices vary with dimension; a 1/4-inch 4x4 foot sheet retails for about \$8.

Contact: USG, P.O. Box 6721, Chicago, IL 60680; 800/874-4968; www.usg.com.



Stop the Bleeding

Tannin bleed occurs when the natural chemicals found in wood are dissolved and carried out by moisture, discoloring the finish. By neutralizing the tannic acid in wood, *Clear Tannin Guard* keeps it from bleeding or wicking through the coating, according to the manufacturer. The penetrating pre-stain conditioner for exterior wood is said to be sprayable and to dry in two to four hours. It's also said to not impart any color to the wood. Price is \$28 per gallon.

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



Keep It Together

The *Original Cargo Gate* conforms to the height and width of your truck bed to keep tools and equipment in place, and it's said to work with or without bed liners. Available in four sizes, suggested retail is \$110.

Contact: Loading Zone, 3500 Western Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035; 888/787-0558; www.loadingzone.com.



Beautiful and Easy

According to the manufacturer, *EPOCH Fencing* looks and feels like real wood, but it doesn't need painting, staining, or sealing. Part of a complete line of fencing and decking products, the recycled plastic and sawdust composite is impervious to termites and other wood-boring insects, and it comes with a 10-year warranty. List price per 6-foot board is \$17.50.

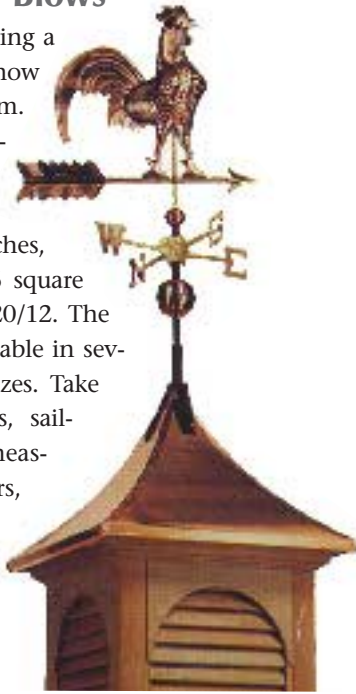
Contact: EPOCH Composite Products, P.O. Box 567, Lamar, MO 64759; 800/405-0546; www.epochwood.com.



Which Way the Wind Blows

If you ever find yourself needing a cupola and a weathervane, now you'll know where to find them. The *Stephenson Cupola* is available with roof widths from 21¹/₄ inches to 46¹/₂ inches, overall heights of 25 to 75 inches, venting areas from 96 to 386 square inches, and in pitches up to 20/12. The *Stephenson Weathervane* is available in several materials, finishes, and sizes. Take your choice of ducks, horses, sailboats, cows, lighthouses, pheasants, country doctors, golfers, and of course, roosters. Prices vary with design, ranging from \$200 to \$900 for the cupolas, and \$200 to \$500 for the weathervanes.

Contact: The Millwork Store, 1315 Airport Rd., Suite D, Martinsburg, WV 25401; 800/670-6455.



Shower Power

Pre-plumbed shower panels ready for vertical installation on flat wall surfaces or in corners can help make quick work of new installations or renovations. The *Pharo* line includes all controls and components for connection to existing plumbing with a flexible supply line. Compact units as small as 14¹/₂ inches wide are available; prices range from \$1,290 to \$3,100.

Contact: Haansgrohe, 1490 Bluegrass Lakes Pkwy. Suite 200, Alpharetta, GA 30004; 800/334-0455; www.hansgrohe-usa.com.



Good Lattice

I'll never forget how bummed out I was the first time I installed lattice and it fell apart. Produced by former contractors who were equally tired of inferior lattice, *Woodway Lattice* was developed to keep you (and the job) looking sharp. It's available in Clear or No. 1 & Better grades in western red cedar, redwood, and CCA-treated hem-fir, in a variety of patterns. Panels range from 4x8 feet to 1x8 feet, with



custom panel sizes, spacing, species, and thickness available by request. As if all this weren't enough, the manufacturer also uses FSC-certified sustainably harvested lumber. Prices range from \$24 to \$89 per sheet.

Contact: LWO Corp., P.O. Box 17125, Portland, OR 97217; 800/459-8718; www.woodwayproducts.com.



Affordable Fireplace

Do your clients want a woodburning fireplace but think they can't afford it? The *Superior BR/BC* line of fireplaces offers a full brick pattern liner and comes in 36- or 42-inch front widths. The BC unit is heat-circulating and has



an optional fan, while the BR is clean-face radiant with no exposed louvers, permitting surround material to be installed right up to the front opening. They use an 8-inch double-wall chimney; options include outside combustion air and deco-

rator glass doors in brass, platinum, and black finishes. A 36-inch BR unit retails for around \$200.

Contact: Lennox Hearth Products, 4325 Artesia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833; 800/854-0257; www.lennoxhearthproducts.com.