

Products

by Patrick McCombe

Clean Machine

The YG2800i generator offers “cleaner” power because its power inverter better stabilizes voltage and frequency than the alternator on traditional generators, allowing users to run welders, battery chargers, and computer-controlled equipment without risking damage from power spikes or drops. The 2,800-watt generator features a 5.5-hp overhead-valve engine, a low-oil warning system, and a 12-hour run time on a full tank. It weighs 66 pounds and has a list price of \$1,545.

Yamaha

800/962-7926

www.yamaha-motor.com

Debris Hauler

Promising to make roof tear-offs quicker, safer, and more profitable, the 11-pound *TarpEase* helps roofers move up to 500 pounds of old shingles and debris in one trip. The 6x6-foot rubber-infused tarp comes complete with gusseted handles and a set of four steel casters to make moving the loaded tarp fast and easy. The maker claims the replaceable tarp will survive 40 to 70 roofing



jobs and cut tear-off time by 35%. It looks good for carrying demolition debris, too.

ToMorrow's Products

866/827-7327

www.tomorrowproducts.com

Cure for Fast Cure

Epoxyes are great for doweling and anchoring, but warm temperatures frequently create shorter working times that clog nozzles or make material too stiff to flow easily. But, at 70 degrees, Red Head's *G5 two-part epoxy* has a 15-minute nozzle life, leaving a little more time to set fasteners without wasting product or money. The odorless formula cures fully in about two hours; it works in damp holes and even under water. A 22-ounce dual-cartridge tube costs \$30.



ITW Ramset/Red Head

800/348-3231

www.ramset-redhead.com

Rugged Window

Coastal areas can put a real beating on typical windows, but *Stormbreaker vinyl windows* use a combination of laminated glass and a heavy frame to meet or exceed the windborne-debris standards established by the Southern Building Code Congress. In order to pass the standard a window must withstand repeated impact from a 9-foot 2x4 traveling at 50 feet per second. The windows are approved in most hurricane-prone areas of the country. They are offered in double-hung, casement, awning, geometric, and picture styles for both new construction and replacement applications. A 3-0x4-0 double-hung lists at \$508; a 2-0x4-0 casement lists for \$566.



Simonton Windows

800/746-6686

www.simonton.com



Products

Recessed Can Pan

Recessed lighting can provide an easy path to a building's next level for flames and heat. Maintaining an adequate fire rating requires some kind of enclosure around the light fixture to prevent flame spread, typically a site-built plywood box. But building enclosures is a time-consuming process, and then you have to convince the inspector that a site-built box hasn't compromised the fire rating. A better solution is to use the *e.z. barrier firebox*. The code-approved sheet-metal pan maintains the fire rating and eliminates the slow process of building and installing site-built barriers. This firebox works with 16- and 24-inch on-center spacing and costs \$42.



Cubicles Plus, Inc.
612/436-0606
www.ezbarrier.net

You're Getting Warmer

It's convenient to have a source of hot water outside, for washing the car, hosing off the kids, or filling an outdoor spa. The all-brass *Model 22 hot-and-cold wall faucet* is offered in freezeless and close-



coupled versions. The freezeless model is self draining and can accommodate a wall thickness of up to 24 inches. A push-and-turn hot water handle prevents scalds and accidental use. The outdoor faucet is offered in vertical and horizontal layouts; rough-in dimensions are shown on the manufacturer's website. Prices start at about \$60.

Woodford Manufacturing
800/621-6032
www.woodfordmfg.com

Faster Fill-Ups

Homeowners with large jetted or garden tubs often complain about the fill times. But *Posi-Temp scald-protection tub and shower valves* promise 34% greater flow (6.3 gpm at 60 psi) and faster tub filling than any other comparatively priced shower valve, according to the manufacturer. The redesigned valves also have rigid mounting aids for direct attachment to the framing without additional hardware. Older Posi-Temp installations can be upgraded with a newly designed cartridge for improved performance. Prices for the valves start at \$117.



Moen
800/289-6636
www.moen.com

New Laser

DeWalt's new self-leveling rotary laser is accurate to within 1/8 inch at 100 feet, and its dot is said to be visible indoors up to 100 feet away without a detector. An impact- and weather-resistant housing and an aluminum cage protect the expensive instrument from impact and falling objects. According to the maker, an intuitive control panel with one-button leveling and a wireless remote control make it easy to use. Complementing the new laser is a waterproof and impact-resistant detector. Capable of withstanding a one-story drop, the detector can be used with any visible or infrared rotary laser. If it drops into a mud puddle or wet concrete, all you have to do is hose it off. The *DW077KD indoor-outdoor kit* includes laser, waterproof detector, battery, remote control, wall mount, and a plastic case for \$1,400. The *DW077KI indoor kit*, without the detector, costs \$100 less. The waterproof detector can be purchased separately for \$250.



DeWalt
800/433-9258
www.dewalt.com

Product Spotlight: Skylights

Skylights increase light and ventilation, make rooms more comfortable and bigger feeling, and offer an unusual view. Manufacturers have improved flashing kits and controls, making today's skylights more reliable and easier to install than those made even ten years ago. When they're well placed, few building products offer greater value to homeowners.

Tubular skylights are the industry's most recent innovation. Advantages like flexible placement, an ability to snake around obstacles, and the elimination of framing

Andersen claims that its fixed skylight can be installed 20% faster than fixed units from other makers. Keeping the frame and sash separate until the final installation step allows the frame to be centered in the opening from the exterior, making it unnecessary to go inside and check the reveal — a nice feature if you work by yourself. The snap-in sash also eliminates cladding removal and reinstallation process and the risk of lost fasteners or cladding parts. Available in 12 sizes, with widths from 16 to 44 inches and lengths from 27 to 72 inches, all have Andersen's low-e, high-performance tempered glass with the option of wind-shield-like laminated glass. List prices start at \$166 with a shingle flashing kit.

Andersen

800/426-4261

www.andersenwindows.com

Self-flashing units, like these from ODL, have aluminum or vinyl frames, and they're the most popular design in areas of the South and Midwest. The integral nailing fin on a watertight curb makes installation easier, according to some. Other installers prefer traditional and time-tested step-flashing systems. Self-flashing units are usually less expensive, and there are no small parts to lose or drop; but residential installations are usually limited to asphalt roofing. Shingles are installed to the bottom edge of the opening; then the unit is



or finishing steps make them ideal for remodeling applications. Unlike conventional skylights, however, their benefits are lost once the sun goes down. Manufacturers have responded with light kits for after-dark illumination and exhaust fans to increase versatility. Self-flashing domes and adjustable tubes make installation easier and less expensive than for a traditional skylight. But price may be an issue for some consumers — even the least expensive models approach \$250, which is comparable to that of a conventional skylight.

placed on top and fastened. Shingling continues on top of the nail fin without additional flashing pieces or trim. The SA series starts at \$100; OG starts at \$200.

ODL

800/253-3900

www.odl.com

Electric operators make opening and closing out-of-reach skylights easy, even from the couch, and features like glass-mounted rain sensors and automatic timers are definite pluses for homeowners. But connecting and fishing the necessary wires can be more aggravation than some installers want to deal with. Manufacturers are finally making the process easier for installers who aren't electricians. Velux's new VSE unit comes with the wiring and motor installed, and a hand-held remote, capable of controlling multiple skylights and shades, eliminates a hard-wired control panel. Running a skylight's 20-foot power supply to a junction box completes the wiring process. Prices for the VSE series start at \$625, including motor, remote control, and a flashing kit for asphalt shingles.

Velux

800/888-3589

www.velux-america.com

To simplify the installation of Pella's electronic operator, its Deluxe Motor System includes a controller that plugs into a standard wall outlet, and two 50-foot ready-made, plug-in cables running between the controller and skylight make the installation more like hooking up stereo speakers and less like complex wiring. The cables can run inside finished walls or be surface mounted with included clips. Although most homeowners would be uncomfortable with



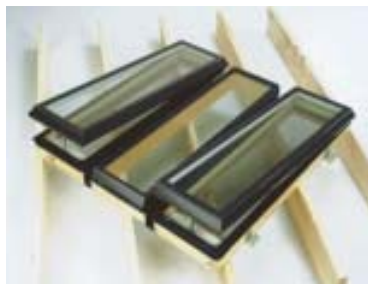
Product Spotlight: Skylights

wires running along their ceiling and down the wall, the slender, 18-gauge low-voltage cables can be hidden behind moldings and trim or fished behind walls, emerging only when absolutely necessary. The Deluxe Motor System can operate up to four skylights or two skylights with shades. With an expanded control unit, it can handle up to eight skylights or four with shades. It comes with two 50-foot low-voltage cables, the controller, and a wall-mounted keypad for about \$700 list. A single skylight drive motor lists for \$168.

Pella

888/847-3552

www.pella.com



While virtually all makers have skylights to fit 24-inch rafter cavities, finding one to fit 16-inch spacing is another story. Roto's Sweet Sixteen needs only 14 inches of space and offers big sky and a breath of

fresh air in return. Roto claims that its ventilating units open wider, allowing more ventilation than competitive units. Although the units are narrow, they can be ganged together for greater light and visual appeal. Sunshades and electronic controls are available. As an option, Roto will install electric controls at the factory, simplifying work on the job site. The fixed model lists for \$200, and the venting model for \$250.

Roto

800/787-7099

www.roto-roofwindows.com

Add-on ventilation kits can vent a bathroom or be an effective part of a larger whole-house ventilation strategy. Solatube's vent kit (\$190), made for its 10-inch Brighten Up tubular skylight, uses an insulated duct separate from the skylight's light tube and a remote inline



fan for quiet operation. The fan intake is part of the skylight lens, and by adding a light kit (\$40) for nighttime use, the skylight can do triple duty and reduce clutter on small ceilings. A 10-inch skylight will illuminate 150 square feet and starts at \$300 without extras.

Solatube

800/966-7652

www.solatube.com

Multiple tubular skylights typically mean multiple rooftop domes, but instead of several acrylic domes poking through the roof, Suntek's Spyder MTS uses a more conventional-looking skylight panel to supply either two or four different tubes with daylight. With only one roof pene-



tration, installation should be faster and less expensive than for individual tubes. The Spyder can accommodate both 10- and 14-inch light tubes; add-on light kits are also available. A double unit with two 10-inch tubes starts at \$250.

Sun-Tek

800/334-5854

www.sun-tek.com

Instead of the rigid metal duct used on most tubular skylights, a 6-foot polyester flex duct makes the Sun Tunnel the easiest to install and offers the greatest problem-solving potential for tight or difficult installations. Available in 14- and 22-inch sizes, the Sun Tunnel can be fitted with a nighttime light kit, and even the larger size can be placed in 24-inch truss or rafter spacing without altering existing framing. Sun Tunnel claims that its product can be installed in less than two hours. Prices for a 14-inch model #350 start at \$260; the 22-inch model #550 starts at \$299.

Sun Tunnel

800/369-7465

www.suntunnel.com

