

Kitchen & Bath | Showers | by Dave Holbrook

Wood Touch. The *Teak Shower Tray* adds a perfectly fitted, saunalike touch to an MTI shower base. Burmese teak slats — spaced $\frac{1}{8}$ inch apart — provide a comfortable, nonslip surface. The insert costs between \$325 and \$780, depending on size.

MTI, 800/783-8827, www.mtiwhirlpools.com.

Circle #1



Water Tower. Assisted by a full reservoir basin and a powerful pump, the *BodySpa* — which requires much less water than a tub — takes the whirlpool in a vertical direction. A soft-starting electronic touch pad allows the user to recirculate basin water at up to 80 gpm; an integral heater maintains water temperature. Normal showering is also possible, with the drain kept open and the pump shut off. The 10-jet tower (shown) costs about \$9,500 without accessories, and up to \$22,200 with all the bells and whistles.

Kohler, 800/456-4537, www.kohler.com. **Circle #2**

Big Splash. For your next custom installation, consider the water-conserving *Monitor 1800 Jetted Shower* or *Jetted Shower XO*. According to the manufacturer, the individual droplets produced by these units are fatter than normal, so they hold heat better and make a bigger splash. As a result, says the company, a 1.6-gpm spray feels like a 2.5-gpm spray. The Victorian Jetted Shower in chrome (shown) lists for \$470; the Shower XO — which includes a hand-held wand — lists for \$600 in a pearl nickel finish.

Delta Faucet, 800/345-3358, www.deltafaucet.com. **Circle #3**



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Block Kit. With a predesigned *Glass Block Shower System*, you get everything you need — blocks, shower base, and door — to create a custom-look enclosure. The blocks are positioned in molded channels on an acrylic shower base — available in three standard and five designer colors — and can be installed with a proprietary mortar-free system or with glass-block mortar. Stalls come in three styles: a 48-by-48-inch square with door and base; a 52-by-52-inch corner unit with door and base; and a 72-by-51-inch doorless version (shown). The manufacturer's suggested retail price ranges from \$2,500 to \$3,500, depending on style.

Pittsburgh Corning, 800/624-2120, www.pittsburghcorning.com. **Circle #4**

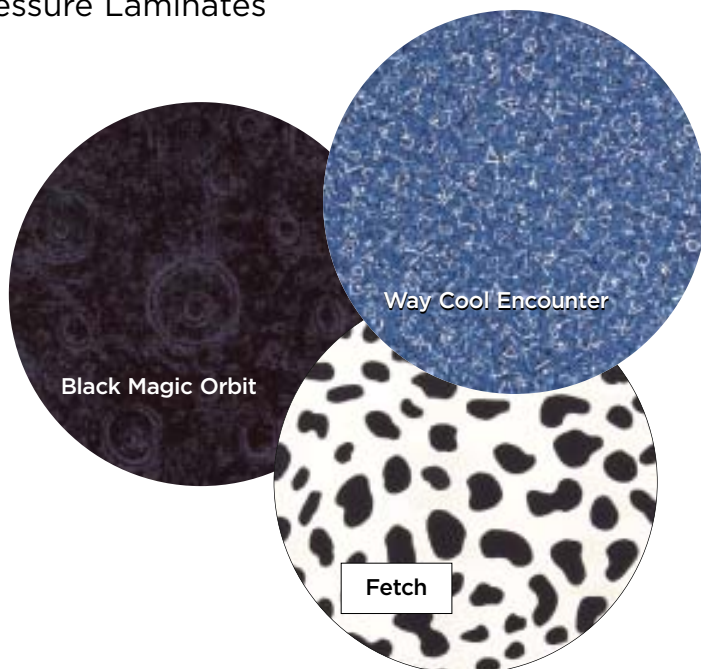


Kitchen & Bath | High-Pressure Laminates

Get Funky. *Fetch, Black Magic Orbit, Way Cool Encounter:* When it comes to playful patterns, nothing beats laminate. These countertop designs feature “armored protection” — a face layer of aluminum oxide particles meant to provide better scratch resistance — and install for around \$35 per linear foot, says the maker.

Nevamar, 800/638-4380, www.nevamar.com.

Circle #5



Natural Look. The six designs in the HPL collection offer low-luster texturing in subtle, well-weathered finishes. The *Riverwash Crete Series*, for instance, mimics exposed-aggregate concrete, and the *Riverwash Rust Series* (shown) is designed to look like oxidized metal; both build on the popularity of previous nature-inspired collections by this maker. Costs run approximately \$18 per square foot.

Formica, 800/367-6422, www.formica.com.

Circle #6



Sprayable Bond. If you’ve been brushing or rolling your contact adhesive, you’re going to like the new *Z Solvent-Free Postformable Adhesive System*. The adhesive comes in a canister that delivers 35 pounds of material through a hose and gun. According to the maker, you get more coverage for your money than with traditional solvent-based adhesives — and superior bond strength to boot. The product is due on the market in late summer; exact price has not yet been determined.

ITW TACC, 800/503-6991, www.taccint.com.

Circle #7