

Products | by Patrick McCombe

Soft Touch.

Imagine batt insulation as soft as an old pair of jeans. Made from cotton, *UltraTouch* is nonirritating and noncarcinogenic, and contains no formaldehyde. It's fire- and pest-resistant and provides R-values similar to those of more conventional fiberglass batts. I found a 106-square-foot package of R-13 selling for \$65 on the Web.



Bonded Logic, 480/812-9114, bondedlogic.com.

Get your Fill.

Owens Corning's *AttiCat* blow-in fiberglass insulation expands to 18 times its packaged volume. According to the maker, it's less dusty than cellulose, making it a good choice for occupied spaces. My local Home Depot lends the *AttiCat* blowing machine for free to buyers of 10 or more bags (at about \$27 each); other places charge a rental fee of up to \$100 per day.



Owens Corning, 800/438-7465, owenscorning.com.

Hole Sealer. Air-sealing and fire-stopping probably don't rank high on your list of favorite tasks, but at least you can do both jobs at the same time with *Gun Foam II*. Identified as a fire-stopping material by its bright orange color, the product satisfies ASTM-814, UL-1715, and the IRC. It dries tack-free in about 10 minutes and has a shelf life of 18 months. It costs \$16 per can.

Touch 'n Seal, 800/325-6180, touch-n-seal.com.



Easy Roller. Dispensed from a 9-inch paint roller, *Quick Shield* self-adhering film promises to be a fast and easy way to prep for painting and remodeling projects. At project completion, the film removes without leaving a residue, says the maker. A 100-foot roll sells for \$7.50.

Surface Shields, 800/913-5667, surfaceshields.com.

Products

Maximum Efficiency. With an AFUE rating of 98 percent, the York *Affinity* is the most efficient furnace in the hvac industry, says its



maker. Its variable-speed ECM blower and modulating burner can save homeowners \$70 to \$300 per heating season compared with a similar-sized model with a 96.7 percent efficiency rating. At 33 inches tall, the unit's cabinet suits tight spaces.

The manufacturer declined to provide pricing.

York, 800/910-9675, yorkupg.com.

Off the Wall. Field Controls' *SWG Power Venter* can replace leaky or space-hogging flues (masonry or stainless), or it can be used



for long runs when atmospheric venting is impossible. A safety interlock ensures that the unit is powered and operating before the burner

fires. Power venters are approved for all natural-gas, propane, and oil-fired heating equipment. The 4-inch stainless steel model shown (SWG-4HDS) lists for \$359.

Field Controls, 252/522-3031, fieldcontrols.com.



Running Hot. Heat Transfer's new *Evacuated Tube Collectors* deliver nearly 40,000 Btu per panel per day, making them a good water-heating option for cold climates. Each panel has 30 individual tubes mounted on a stainless-steel rack; the completed assembly weighs about 210 pounds. Trade prices start at around \$2,100 per panel.

Heat Transfer, 800/323-9651, htproducts.com.



Uncommon Logic. You're probably the first person your clients will turn to when they can't figure out how to adjust or program their new high-tech thermostat. You can eliminate a lot of those calls by installing a Honeywell *VisionPro 8000*. With menu-driven touch-screen programming and an easy-to-read backlit display, it's one of the most intuitive programmable thermostats on the market. Prices start at about \$100.

Honeywell, 800/328-5111, honeywell.com.