

BY LAUREN SHANESY



2



1. Hands-Free Faucet Control

Grohe's foot-control technology lets users operate kitchen faucets without touching the fixture, which purportedly helps reduce the spread of bacteria. A tap of the foot on an activation plate installed in the toe space of a cabinet switches the water flow on and off. The hands-free option is available for two of the company's faucet models: the LadyLux 3 Café and K7. Pricing varies. grohe.com

2. A Versatile Shower System

Lenova's Thermostatic Shower Panel stabilizes water temperature and pressure even when the showerheads' different sprayers—which include a rain shower top, multiple sprayers, and a hand-held shower—are used simultaneously, according to the maker. Traditional shower systems reportedly have a 3°F to 5°F variance when users switch between sprayers, while Lenova says its system maintains the temperature within 1°F when the water pressure changes. The panel measures 50 by 8 inches with a 19-inch showerhead depth and is available in a chrome finish for \$850. lenovasinks.com



3. A Door With Extra Integrated Locking Hardware

The vinyl Inovo Patio Door from Simonton integrates added security with a triple-point locking system upgrade—which provides locking at three locations along the door—and a footbolt option installed at the bottom of the sliding panel for even greater security. The door slides on a monorail system in a sill welded with a fiberglass overlay that provides a tight barrier from the elements. The door is available in two-, three-, or four-panel configurations with multiple colors and handle finishes. Pricing varies by door. simonton.com



4. Quick and Easy Closet Organization

ClosetMaid's new ExpressShelf is a prefabricated solid shelf and rod system that provides an affordable alternative to traditional, painted-MDF or particle-board plank and pole systems. ExpressShelf installs quickly, and can be mounted directly to wall framing or attached to drywall using easy anchors with no need for cleats. The customizable system has color and upgrade options and is pre-painted with trim, requiring no re-caulking and low maintenance, according to the manufacturer. Pricing varies by configuration. closetmaid.com

Products

5. Hidden Tank and Flushing System

Geberit has updated its Sigma 2x4 in-wall concealed tank and carrier system for wall-hung toilets to fit a standard 2x6 frame, which the manufacturer says will make it easier to prep walls during installation. The new tank allows more space for removal and replacement of fill and flush valves, without tools. The single-piece system has L-supports for added stability for long or narrow bowls, and adjustable legs to accommodate floor construction up to 8 inches. The system retails for \$650. geberitnorthamerica.com

6. Durable Trim Enamel

Designed for painting cabinet-door and trim projects for which hardness, adhesion, and durability are priorities, Emerald Urethane Trim Enamel from Sherwin-Williams combines the look and feel of an oil-based enamel with the convenience and easy application of a water-based paint. The enamel can be used for both interiors and exteriors and resists yellowing and cracking while maintaining its bright color and sheen, according to the manufacturer. Pricing varies by retailer. sherwin-williams.com

7. Premium OSB Floor Sheathing

Weyerhaeuser's new Diamond Floor Panels are "engineered to compete with the best subfloor panels on the market," which we read to mean are intended as a competitive alternative to Huber's AdvanTech. The new panels have tongue-and-groove edges and self-draining openings to reduce ponding. Weyerhaeuser warrants panels "against delamination for the lifetime of the home" and provides a 500-day warranty "against the need for edge sanding due to edge swell caused by water absorption." The panels were just introduced mid-March; pricing is not yet available. weyerhaeuser.com

8. Cabinet Hardware With a Small Footprint

Traditional cabinet doors that swing open can take up a lot of space, something that not all kitchens have available. Hafele's Frontino coplanar door hardware (shown) slides open, providing full access to everything in the cabinet without taking up any extra space while open. The hardware is available for both upper and base cabinets, and has integrated soft-open and soft-close for doors up to 88 pounds each. The company also offers a line of cabinetry that can be lifted, tilted, swiveled, or folded above the user in smaller kitchens; some versions come with a touch-to-open feature. Pricing varies. hafele.com



9



9. A High-Efficiency Minisplit Heat Pump

The Climate 5000 Ductless Minisplit Heat Pump from Bosch Thermotechnology Corp. provides heating and cooling in single and multi-zone applications in a temperature range of -13°F to 122°F. The systems have a “silent mode” that lets the heat pump operate at a sound level equivalent to a whisper, the manufacturer claims. The indoor air handler can be programmed to automatically regulate temperature levels in each room, and the “Follow Me” feature uses a remote sensor to heat or cool to a set temperature based on a user’s location. Pricing varies. boschheatingandcooling.com

10



10. Sleek Yet Tough Garage Doors

Clopay’s Canyon Ridge Modern Series faux-wood garage doors feature contemporary designs constructed in a durable, low-maintenance composite material that won’t rot, warp, or crack, according to the manufacturer. An energy-efficient, 2-inch-thick polyurethane foam core provides a 20.4 R-value. Options include horizontal-grooved and flush panel designs, two wood grains, and three stain finishes. Doors can be customized with window packages or aluminum accents. Pricing varies. clopaydoor.com

11



11. A Recycled Noise Barrier

Blue Ridge Fiberboard’s new Soundstop acoustical shielding product, Sound Abate, is designed to reduce noise by 75% when applied in wall cavities. It reportedly works by providing an acoustical barrier that stops sound transfer through the studs and wall. Made with recycled acoustical-grade polymer, it improves HVAC efficiency, is mold and mildew resistant, and meets the ASTM one-hour fire test, according to the company. Pricing varies by distributor. blueridgefiberboard.com

12



12. Roofing Shingles With High Wind Resistance

The Cambridge IR With ArmourZone roofing shingles from IKO are durable shingles that the maker says can resist winds up to 130 miles per hour. The shingles feature ArmourZone technology—a tear-resistant, reinforced woven band that provides fastening strength over a greater surface area to help keep the nail heads from pulling through—and a resilient, heavyweight fiberglass mat coated with an extra-thick layer of IKO modified asphalt for elasticity. ArmourZone shingles have dual nailing lines that can speed up installation. The lines are 1¼ inches apart to help installers place fasteners correctly with the shingles’ wider nailing surface. Pricing varies. iko.com