

BY SYMONE GARVETT



1. Luxurious Laminate

Formica Corp's new laminate countertop offerings in its Living Impressions Collection take inspiration from stones and woodgrains around the globe, from Nero Marquina's black base with white veining to Neapolitan stone's (pictured) blend of whites and grays. In all, the collection has six new 180fx patterns using the company's true-to-scale scanning technology and six new Formica patterns. Two finishes, SatinTouch and Pure Grain, and two edge profiles, Waterfall and Double Radius, were also added. Contact a distributor for pricing. formica.com



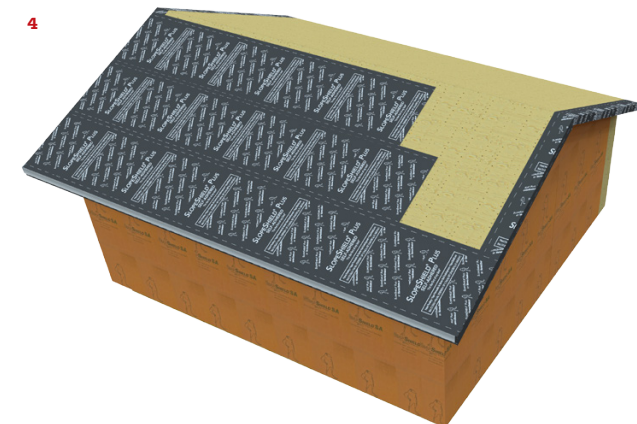
2. Voice-Enabled Lock

The upgraded Lockly Secure Pro smart lock features integrated unlocking options including a new voice control through a virtual assistant. Using their voice or an app, users can lock, unlock, and check the status of their doors through Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant. The Secure locks are available in satin nickel and Venetian bronze finishes and deadbolt or latch hardware configurations. The lock operates on AA batteries, supported by a back-up battery. Pricing starts at \$300. lockly.com



3. Built-in Blinds

Hy-Lite's newest fixed window model, the Vari-Lite, incorporates a set of blinds between two panes of glass. The window is a standard 4'-0" x 4'-0" size and is AAMA certified to DP 100. Fingertip controls on the side of the frame raise, lower, or tilt the blinds. The Vari-Lite window is available in four standard frame colors. Pricing starts at \$750 with a new-construction frame and \$825 with a retrofit frame. hy-lite.com



4. Vapor-Permeable Underlayment

VaproShield has announced it has a new roofing underlayment, SlopeShield Plus Self-Adhered. The water-resistive and vapor-permeable roofing underlayment is made of spun-bond polyester with a polymer composite coating. The manufacturer says it quiets the "concussion effect" of heavy rain and foot traffic during construction. The underlayment is compatible with metal roofing, slate or clay tile with batten or counter-batten substructures, and cedar shingles or shakes with VaproShield's VaproMat. It's designed for use on sloped roofs of 2:12 or greater pitch. Contact a local distributor for pricing. vaprosshield.com

Products

5. Vinyl Privacy Fence

CertainTeed's Bufftech Brookline vinyl fence offers homeowners a durable, contemporary privacy fence with steel reinforcement for added support. The fence itself is manufactured from premium-quality PVC and will not rot, warp, split, or splinter, says the company. Brookline is available in three solid colors and four multi-chromatic color blends, in either a smooth or a woodgrain texture. Contact a local distributor for pricing. certainteed.com

6. Brick-Veneer Connector

Simpson Strong-Tie's BVLZ brick-veneer ledger connector kit provides a code-compliant solution for attaching decks to wood-framed homes that have a brick- or masonry-veneer exterior covering. Fabricated from 12-gauge steel with a ZMAX galvanized coating, the bracket design includes two tension screws that pass through the mortar into the structural framing, allowing the compression strut to transfer forces from the ledger plate to the rim joist. Pricing for a 4-pack kit ranges from \$130 to \$150, while pricing for a 1-pack kit runs about \$35 to \$40. strongtie.com

7. Easy Gate Latch

Designed for ease of installation, the LokkLatch 3 Plus medium-security gate latch features a locking mechanism that is accessible from both sides of the gate. Made of a UV-stabilized polymer with stainless steel components, the gate latch requires only a single hole through the post. Once installed, the latch is easily adjusted both vertically and horizontally for proper gate-to-latch alignment, according to the manufacturer. It's available in black or white and in keyed-alike and keyed-different versions. Pricing ranges from \$56 to \$62. ddtechglobal.com

8. Smooth-Finish Paint

Sherwin-Williams' Supreme High Build interior latex is designed to allow large-scale builders to achieve consistent performance with optimal productivity. Compared with standard interior coatings, the paint requires less labor to deliver a smooth, uniform finish, and its ease of application reduces fatigue, says the manufacturer. It has better washability, scrubability, and hide compared with basic builder paints, according to the company. High Build interior latex is offered in a flat sheen, which diminishes minor flaws, as well as in eggshell and semi-gloss. Contact a local distributor for pricing. sherwin-williams.com



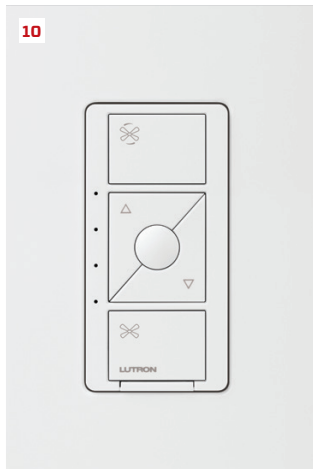
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9. Mechanical Earth Drill

Drilling equipment company Little Beaver offers mechanical earth drills that are ideal for a variety of industries, including fence installers and building contractors. The drills feature a steel torque tube that allows operators to use large-diameter augers without fear of kickback. In addition, its compact design allows access to areas unreachable by skid steer-mounted augers and provides a 360-rpm operating speed for cleaner holes. The tool is available with either a 5.5- or 8-horsepower engine and is mounted on 8- or 10-inch semi-pneumatic tires. Pricing averages around \$2,500. littlebeaver.com

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10. Wireless Fan Control

The latest addition to Lutron Electronics' Caséta smart lighting system is the Caséta by Lutron Fan Speed Control, which allows owners to wirelessly control their ceiling fans from anywhere inside their home. The fan speed control and its smart connections are compatible with most ceiling fans and allow users to adjust to four speeds and designate a favorite setting. The console is easy to install, according to the manufacturer, and does not require the use of a canopy module. It is available in four finishes. Pricing starts at \$80. lutron.com

11. Camouflaged Exterior Vent

The newly patented Hide-A-Vent was designed to blend into a home's siding to camouflage exterior vents. Its customizable cover can be installed to any section of siding, including clapboard, shingles, and vinyl. Models come in two sizes: Model A disguises dryer vents and bathroom ceiling fans with a 4-inch round opening, and Model B fits microwave hoods and most residential kitchen hoods with its 3.25-inch-by-10.25-inch rectangular opening. Pricing ranges from \$40 to \$45. hideavent.com

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12. Combi-Steam Wall Oven

Miele's Generation 6000 combi-steam wall ovens offer the form and function of a steam oven with a wide variety of standard cooking modes. The ovens are equipped with Miele's MultiSteam technology, which uses six to eight steam inlets to facilitate even steam distribution and quick heat-up times. Other operating modes include sous-vide, broiling, reheating, standard convection baking, and combination cooking. The combi-steam ovens are available in a total of 19 models and configurations, with two cavity sizes and a brilliant-white, clean-touch-steel, or obsidian-black finish. Pricing starts at \$4,150. mieleusa.com