

BY VINCENT SALANDRO



### 1. Energy-Efficient Skylight Insert

There is no need to replace existing skylights to install Crown Electrokinetics' DynamicTint Skylight Inserts. Inserts snap into existing frames—without fasteners or tools. Users can then control the level of tint to manage the amount of light and heat entering a room through the skylight. The company says the inserts can transition from clear to true black in seconds, can lower cooling costs, and can be configured to use either solar power or battery to power the tinting. Pricing starts at \$400. [crownec.com](http://crownec.com)



### 2. All-Encompassing Wood Entry Door System

TruStile's Wood Entry Door Systems encompass a selection of door, sidelight, and transom combinations. Contractors can choose a featured entry system, such as modern, traditional, coastal, or craftsman, or build a custom entry around one of TruStile's 500 door styles. Doors are available with hand-wipe finishes, glass inserts, and more than 60 profile options, as well as in a range of wood species and Tricoya, an engineered, exterior-grade MDF. Pricing varies based on materials, design, and features. [trustile.com](http://trustile.com)

### 3. Weather-Resistant Wall System

Hunter Panels' Xci Aegis Wall System pairs polyiso foam with structural sheathing, a glass facer, and a weather-resistive barrier (WRB). The new Xci panels are available with standard plywood or OSB (Xci NB) or fire-rated ply (Xci Ply and Xci Class A). These are fastened to framing and then the panels are covered with Xci VP-SA WRB—a vapor-open, self-adhering WRB—to protect seams and fastener penetrations. Contact a local distributor for pricing. [hunterpanels.com](http://hunterpanels.com)



### 4. Tankless Gas Water Heater

Rinnai launched the I-Series Boiler, a tankless gas water heater with the ability for simultaneous usage for home heating and domestic hot-water production. The boiler has a bypass servo valve—which enables precise control of hot-water temperature—a 95% annual fuel utilization efficiency, and an outdoor reset that optimizes heating performance, according to Rinnai. It's available in both combi and heat-only models and comes standard with multi-zone heating control. Contact a local distributor for pricing. [rinnai.us](http://rinnai.us)

## Products

### 5. Moisture-Resistant Firestop Sealants

RWC's HoldRite HydroFlame 300 silicone firestop sealants are designed for areas subjected to high levels of moisture, such as bathrooms, water heater closets, and kitchens, or in areas where UL-listed W ratings are required. The self-leveling HydroFlame 300 is designed for floor applications while the caulk-grade HydroFlame 300 is designed for use on both floor and wall penetrations. Both products are quick-curing and both can be used with a variety of pipe types. Contact distributors for pricing. [rwc.com](http://rwc.com)

### 6. Natural Stone-Mimicking Tile

Made with natural materials of variable grain sizes that create a textural, blended surface, Crossville's Laminam In-Side porcelain tile panel mimics the look of deep-blue sandstone. Two color variations, gray and black, are available, in matte and flamed finishes. The panels, which come in 5.6mm-thick 1-meter-by-3-meter sheets, are suitable for interior wall and floor applications and can be installed with minimal grout lines and directly over existing tile or stone. Pricing for In-Side is \$13.95 per square foot. [crossvilleinc.com](http://crossvilleinc.com)

### 7. Fire-Retardant Subfloor Screw

Simpson Strong-Tie's Strong-Drive WSVF subfloor screw features a fire-retardant coating that provides corrosion resistance when used with fire-retardant-treated wood and wood-based materials that might otherwise compromise the performance of carbon-steel fasteners. According to Simpson, the WSVF provides a no-squeak, efficient connector for replacement projects with fire-resistant subfloor materials, and like other fasteners in the WSV line, the WSVF screw has a redesigned tip and thread pattern to provide easy starts, lower driving torque, and faster driving. Contact a local distributor for pricing. [strongtie.com](http://strongtie.com)

### 8. Hammer Drill/Driver

Ridgid's 18V SubCompact Brushless 1/2-inch Hammer Drill/Driver is 30% lighter weight and 30% more compact, with optimized ergonomics, than comparable products, according to the manufacturer. A brushless motor delivers more runtime, power, and a longer motor life while a 1/2-inch single-sleeve ratcheting chuck holds bits tight and secure, according to Ridgid. The tool has an LED light and a 24-position clutch ring, and is compatible with all Ridgid 18V batteries, tools, and chargers. The bare tool retails for \$120, with chargers and batteries sold separately. [ridgid.com](http://ridgid.com)

5



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### 9. Reusable Face Masks

Klein Tools' reusable face mask is designed to offer users basic protections against nonharmful common airborne irritants. The mask, which is not NIOSH-approved, features adjustable head and neck straps and a nose clip to help achieve a proper fit and prevent fogging glasses, as well as exhalation valves that assist in anti-fogging and may increase the user's breathing comfort. The latex- and BPA-free face masks are washable and are sold with one filter and a storage bag for extra filters. Pricing starts at \$20; replacement filters, three to a pack, are sold separately for \$10. [kleintools.com](http://kleintools.com)

10



### 10. Lightweight Quartz Slab Profile

Here's a new option for commercial and residential applications such as fireplaces, backsplashes, and shower and tub surrounds: lightweight 6mm quartz slab profiles from Cambria. The thin slabs work with mitered or reverse-mitered edge profiles only, or Z profiles for any exposed edges, according to Cambria. The company claims that surfaces can be safely disinfected and are nonabsorbent, scratch- and stain-resistant, and maintenance-free. Slabs are available in 10 designs in Cambria matte and high-gloss finishes; pricing varies based on design and finish. [cambriausa.com](http://cambriausa.com)

11



### 11. Low-Impact, Fire-Rated SPF

HandiFoam E84 Low GWP spray foam from ICP Building Solutions Group is nonflammable and uses a low global-warming-potential blowing agent. The new formulation reportedly achieves 30% greater adhesion compared with the previous ICP BSG formulation. After application, HandiFoam E84's color shifts from white to yellow as an indicator of a proper curing profile; the foam achieves a Class 1 fire rating at 2 1/2 inches. The ColorWise nozzle can be converted from a fan spray to a cone spray by snapping off the tip. [icpgroup.com](http://icpgroup.com)

12



### 12. Metal-Look Laminate Surfaces

Formica expanded its DecoMetal Laminate surface line for vertical applications with 13 new metal visuals. Design options now include printed solid metal, rolled steel, polished metal, brushed metal, stainless metal, and copper veil. The manufacturer says the surfacing is lightweight, easy to install and maintain, and best for vertical use. Material costs range from \$5 to \$15 per square foot, according to Formica. [formica.com](http://formica.com)