

NEB's pick
of curious,
interesting
and useful
products.

Paint Ripper

by Kate O'Brien



Non-toxic chemical removes paint down to bare wood. Rip-Strip paint remover forms a film that adheres to the existing paint while it reacts chemically. The water-soluble product contains a heat catalyst that quickens the dissolving process but retards evaporation. It can be used on exteriors or interiors, and works on various painted surfaces, including wood, masonry, stone, plaster, metal, and cast iron. The product has a mild odor but has reportedly removed up to 35 layers of paint in one application. The job usually takes one to three days, but can take longer in really tough cases. For more information contact Diedrich Chemicals, Restoration Technologies, Inc., 7373 S. 6th St., Oak Creek, WI 53154; 800/323-3565 and 414/764-0058.



Bug Barrier

Acrylic latex-based coating kills insects by contact. Effective for both exterior and interior use, Bug Bar can be applied with a brush, roller, pad, compressed air, or airless sprayer. The coating is available in clear, semi-gloss, or flat finish, and includes Chlorpyrifos (Dursban) which is effective against various insects, including roaches, spiders, and carpenter ants. In new construction, the company recommends painting the inside wall, prior to installing insulation and drywall. Contact Barrier Coatings, Inc., 200 East Main St., Port Jervis, N.Y. 12771; 914/856-6633.

Lead Detective



Kit reveals the presence of lead in paint. In at least one state, (namely Massachusetts) remodeling contractors finding lead paint are required to remove it. In that case the *Lead Paint Tester* will come in handy. The kit features a dry chemical agent packaged in a plastic bottle that you add water to and drop on a painted surface. (In cases where you suspect that previous layers contain lead, chip off a small patch to expose the old paint). If the liquid causes the exposed paint to turn black, lead paint is present. For more information write to the Lead-Free Program, P.O. Box 932, Worcester, MA 01613.

Safe Sight



Protect your crew's eyes with fashionable aviator-style safety glasses. Sideshields and browguard gives wraparound protection. *Aerosite* glasses comes in five colors, and are self-adjusting. For info contact: Safety Source, Inc., P.O. Box 280, Camden, ME 04843; 800/888-8604.

Helpful Carry-alls

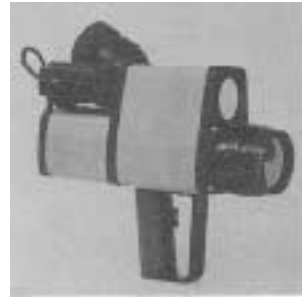


Avoid stress and strain with two new carriers. The Carrymate (top) is designed to help tradespeople carry plywood, plaster board, or heavy doors without help, and without strain. The handle is made from rustproof sheet steel, has a non-slip carrying lip, and a easy-grip handle. For more information contact Eversafe, P.O. Box 86729, 100 East 1st Street, North Vancouver, B.C. Canada V7L 4L3; 604/986-5674.

On a smaller scale, the Plan Handler (bottom) can handle rolled-up plans and blueprints. Made from

Naugahyde, the carrier uses a Velcro strap system to keep papers in place. For information contact Intellect, 18828 Woodcrest Lane, Perris, Costa Mesa, CA 92370; 714/780-7634.

Temperature Scanners



Scan for hot and cold spots with new infrared equipment. Two companies supply equipment to help inspectors or insulation contractors find insulation voids, settled insulation, air leakage, and other energy wastes. I.S.I. sells *Model 94 VideoTherm* (top), a handheld portable infrared camera system. The camera converts infrared radiation to black and white images showing gradations in temperature. *Model 94* provides a readout of the actual temperature, and other graphics features. The camera can be connected to a video recorder for recording of all or part of the infrared survey for later analysis or review. For information, contact I.S.I. at 211 Conchas S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; 505/298-7646.

Specialty Tools sells *Microscanner II* (bottom), a high resolution infrared heat scanner. The device measures temperature differences, radiation heat transfer, total energy radiation, and comes with an optional lens kit. It fits in your shirt pocket. For this and information on other inspection equipment, contact Specialty Tool, Co., Inc., 94 Limekiln Rd., Redding, CT 06896; 203/938-2100

Safety Mitt



Cutting drywall has just become safer. The *Whizard Safety Glove* is made of super-tough Kevlar fabric combined with a stainless-steel core, and is cut resistant. Designed for use where knife blade accidents can occur. The glove is sold per hand (unless you're a two-fisted slicer) and is available in several sizes. Contact Bettcher Industries, P.O. Box 336, Vermillion, OH 44089; 800/321-8763 or 216/965-4422.

Tapeless Measurement



Ultrasonic devices provide special features while computing room dimensions. Several ultrasonic measuring units are out on the market now, which when pointed at the far end of a room being measured, will calculate and display the distance. What makes *Dimension Master* (top) different, according to its manufacturer, is its three ultrasonic sensors that create an "ultra-narrow beam," which is stronger, and more accurate than its competitors. The device can measure distances up to 60 feet, and rooms with furniture can now be measured with greater precision. It provides measurement readings in either feet/inches/fractions or metric; built-in conversions to several dimension formats; temperature compensation (room temperature will not affect accuracy), automatic area and volume, and memory. The *Dimension Master Plus* model features a full dimensional feet/inch/fraction calculator, and a spotlight to help users aim more accurately. For information, contact Calculated Industries, Inc., 22720 Savi Ranch Parkway, Yorba Linda, CA 92686; 714/921-1804.

Meanwhile, *Ultra Measure* (bottom) will only measure linear distances from 2 to 35 feet. But it does talk in several languages: feet/inches, feet/tenths, and metric. The user holds the device against a wall, pushes a button, and the distance to the opposite wall is announced over a built-in speaker. Manufactured by ETEC, 3208 Commander Dr., Carrollton, TX 75006; 214/733-1010.

Handheld Hauler



Anti-spill cradle hauls shakes, shingles and other tear-off materials. Made from Cordura fabric, the *Tear-Off Cradle* promises light weight and durability, and can be rolled up when not in use. Non-slip wood handles provide three hand-hold positions, and allow for single or double carriers. Contact Eagle Eye Creations, P.O. Box 6704, San Jose, CA 95150; 408/448-2320.