

Recycled Foam

by Sal Alfano



A new rigid insulation board called *Amofoam-RCY* is a "green" product in more ways than one. Not only is it green in color, it's made with a minimum of 50% recycled polystyrene resin recovered from disposable cups, plates, bowls, and other packaging that would otherwise be discarded and end up in landfills. According to the manufacturer, the foam exhibits the same compressive strength, R-value, and resistance to water absorption as its other extruded polystyrene products. The company was also the first to eliminate CFCs from its manufacturing process. *Amofoam-RCY* comes in 2x8 and 4x8 sheets in thicknesses of 1, 1½, and 2 inches. To find a distributor, contact Amoco Foam Products Co., 400 Northridge Rd., Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA 30350; 800/241-4402.

Earth-Safe Adhesive



A new adhesive has a solvent content so low that it meets all VOC requirements in every regulated state, according to the manufacturer. *PL Premium* is said to be waterproof and insensitive to temperature extremes, so you can apply it in almost any kind of weather. The manufacturer also claims it won't shrink, it cures up to three times faster than any other construction adhesive, and it's compatible with virtually all building materials, including rigid foam. Another product, *PL500 Outdoor Project Adhesive*, is specially formulated for use with pressure-treated wood in exterior

applications. It can be applied on damp or frozen surfaces, but it is not compatible with foam products. For more information, contact ChemRex, 7711 Computer Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55435; 800/828-0253.

Professional Shims



Whenever we couldn't find a shim shingle on the site, we used to joke about cutting "professional shims" from scrap lumber. But now that *Sure Fit Shims* are on the market, the joke's on us. Made of recycled high-density polyethylene, each *Sure Fit Shim* has two interlocking parts. In a typical installation — at a door or window jamb, for example — first nail the short (3½ inches) base section to the rough opening. Grooves along its edges interlock with the long (7½ inches) section to keep it from falling out at the crucial moment. By sliding the sections together, you can adjust the shim from 3/16 to 7/16 inch, and they can be used piggy-back to fill wider spaces. You can score and crack off the excess just like wood shims and use the cutoffs as spacers, but the tongue-and-groove feature works only with full pieces. Unlike wood shims, these plastic shims won't crack and are unaffected by cold and moisture. But they can't be used to shim structural members, and prolonged exposure to UV will cause them to deteriorate. They are available in six-packs, or in quantities of 100 pairs (\$16) or 300 pairs (\$45). For ordering information, contact *Sure Fit Shims*, 2590 Beaumont St., Green Bay, WI 54301; 800/236-5262.

Quick Stop



When you need to shut off the water supply to a fixture in a hurry, nothing beats the *Quarter Turn Water Supply Stop*. A 90-degree turn of the acrylic handle realigns a hole in the middle of its cylindrical stem to control the water flow. With fewer working parts than most shutoffs and no packing nut to tighten, it is virtually maintenance-free. The fitting is available in polished brass, antique brass, and chrome from Brass Craft, 100 Galleria Office Centre, Southfield, MI 48034; 313/827-1100.

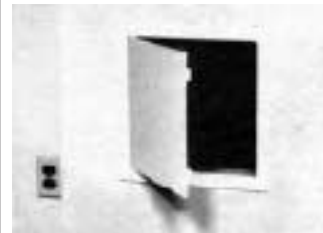
Seamless Tub Walls



Most one-piece tub surrounds come with the tub. But even if you could get one sized properly for a retrofit, how would you get it through the bathroom door? The *Shelter Cove Seamless One-Piece Tub Wall* solves the problem with a tub wall that folds up to a size that fits in a carton less than 5 inches wide. Vacuum-formed out of high-gloss thermoplastic ABS, the seamless radius bends at the corners are flexible and can be folded many times without breaking, according to the manufacturer. By adjusting the size of the radius, you can make the white or almond surrounds fit alcoves from 57½ to 60 inches wide and 28 to 32 inches deep. Trim caps are provided to cover any excess at the edges, and corner caps close the gap between the curved tub wall corner and the inside angle of the alcove. The tub walls are available in four surface patterns and include shelves on all three walls. Three

models are 58 inches high, and an 82-inch-high model offers optional mirrors and other accessories. The *Shelter Cove* should be installed with a panel adhesive that is compatible with polystyrene. For more information, contact Lyons Industries, P.O. Box 88, Dowagiac, MI 49047; 800/458-9036.

Quick Access Panel



How do you patch the hole after you've broken through the wall behind a tub to replace a shower faucet? If you want to make the job easier next time, install the *Easi-Access* panel. The plastic 14x14 panel has a hinged door that can be completely removed if necessary. Two recesses on the door's edge accept a coin or screwdriver for easy opening, and two molded clips hold it closed. On existing work, glue the flange directly to the wall or ceiling surface for a clean finish detail. In new construction, you can flip it around and mount it with the flange against the studs. Then bring the drywall over the flange and cap the edge with L- or J-bead. The panel is slightly textured to help hold paint or wallpaper. For more information, contact Karp Assoc., 54-54 43rd St., P.O. Box 5, Maspeth, NY 11378; 800/888-4212.

Hidden Clips



When you install plate mirror with *E-Z Mount Mirror Clips*, all you see is the mirror and a tiny sliver of the nickel-plated steel retaining arms. The fasteners are hidden because two clips in every package of four are spring-loaded, so you can install all of the clips before you seat the mirror. For a list of suppliers, contact C. R. Laurence Co., P.O. Box 21345, Los Angeles, CA 90021; 800/421-6144. ■