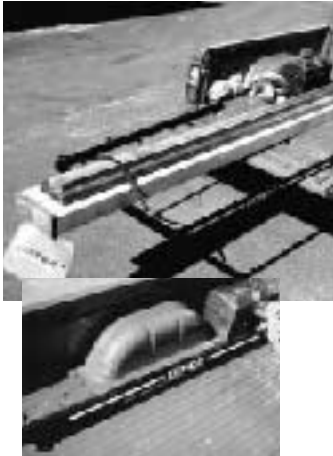


Stretch Your Truck Bed

by Sal Alfano



Transporting oversized material is a problem even if you have a ladder rack on a full-size pickup. Lifting lumber overhead is strenuous and the high center of gravity transforms every curve in the road into an adventure. An alternative is the *Extend-It*, a three-piece, knock-down accessory that uses the strength of the tailgate to hold long loads. After initial setup, which requires drilling two holes in the end of the truck bed (the manufacturer supplies a template to locate the holes), *Extend-It* takes less than a minute to assemble or disassemble and adds about 5 feet to the length of your truck bed. The two rectangular tubular steel rails cantilever off the end of the truck bed, secured with hand-tightened steel clamps. A cross bar at the free end locks into place with pins that also serve to hold all three pieces together for easy storage (see inset). The open frame can also be used as a support for a job-site worktable. *Extend-It* retails for between \$99 and \$149 and can be purchased directly from Construction Accessories Corporation, P.O. Box 123, Cambridge, MA 02140; 617/354-0923.

Groovy Foam



A crosshatched network of channels cut into one side of *Insul-Drain* extruded polystyrene rigid

foam insulation directs ground water away from the foundation wall to the perimeter drain. A nonwoven filter fabric prevents soil from clogging the channels. The 4x8 tongue-and-groove panels come in thicknesses of 1, 1 1/2, and 2 1/4 inches and have enough compressive strength to protect waterproofing membranes from damage. For more information, contact UC Industries, 3 Century Dr., Parsippany, NJ 07054; 201/267-1605.

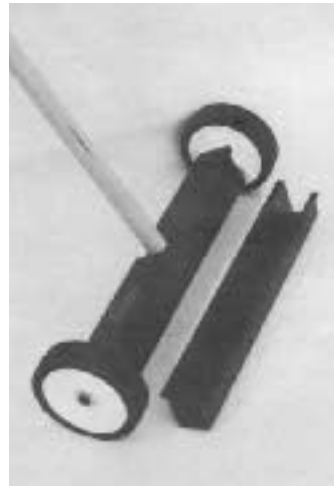
Let There Be Light



Building a well between a skylight on the roof and the ceiling in the room below is one way to bring natural light into a house, but it gets expensive. A clever alternative is the *SunPipe*, which gathers light from above the roof and redirects it to rooms below through a 13-inch-diameter cylinder with a reflective silver lining. Designed to fit between 16-inch on-center framing, it provides between 200 and 900 watts of light on a cloudy day and up to 1,500 watts of light on sunny days with little or no solar heat gain, according to the manufacturer. A clear acrylic dome covers the top, and the adjustable galvanized roof flashing and storm collar fit asphalt and wood shingle roofs up to an 8:12 pitch (they can be modified for steeper pitches). Inside, a white acrylic dome mounted to the ceiling diffuses the light and seals the cylinder from heated or cooled air loss. The basic kit, including 4 feet of pipe, both domes, and all hardware, retails for \$395. Additional pipe is available

in 2-foot (\$104) and 4-foot (\$185) lengths. Other accessories include the "sun scoop" — a reflective backboard that gathers additional light — and the "light regulator" — a damper that allows you to block out the light. A 21-inch-diameter model is also available. For ordering information, contact The SunPipe Company, P.O. Box 2223, Northbrook, IL 60065; 708/272-6977.

Attractive Broom



After reimbursing a couple of clients for tires that had picked up nails in the driveway, I started using a magnet tied to a string to sweep the site. It worked, but I wish I'd had a *Magnetic Push Broom*. The 18-inch-wide model MC-18 has two 2x6x3/4-inch lifetime ceramic magnets mounted at the end of a two-piece handle and between two 5-inch wheels that are perfect for rolling over uneven ground. To dispose of the metal you collect, just slip off the friction-fit plastic cover from the magnet and everything will drop right off. List price for the MC-18 is \$69.95, cheaper than most steel-belted radials. Several other models are also available from Haase Industries, P.O. Box 450, Lake Oswego, OR 97034; 800/547-7033.

Quick Epoxy Anchor

There's nothing quite like epoxy for anchoring rebar in concrete, and the *HAC Hammer Capsule* makes it easier than ever. The two-part epoxy is supplied in glass capsules that match most rebar sizes, including #3, #4, and #5 rebar common in residential work. After dropping the capsule into a vertical or horizontal hole predrilled in the concrete, hammer the rebar into place to mix the catalyst with the resin, which completely fills the space around the rebar. For oversize



holes or extra strength, use more than one capsule. According to the manufacturer, the *Hammer Capsule* differs from other chemical anchors because you don't need to rotate the rebar to get a good mix. Curing is unaffected by moisture and takes about two hours at temperatures above 68°F. At temperatures below freezing, curing takes up to ten hours. Prices range from \$3.70 to \$4.30 per capsule. For more information, contact Moore Construction Products, 250 Barber Ave., Worcester, MA 01606; 508/853-3991.

Modular Surface Drain



If you're looking for an efficient but inconspicuous way to drain surface water from a pool patio or from in front of garage doors, the *PolySelf Trench Drain* may fit the bill. Molded from a dense polymer concrete that resists both chemical corrosion and damage from freeze/thaw cycles, the meter-long modular sections are butted end-to-end and surrounded with concrete to provide a subsurface trough that carries water away to a buried drain pipe. The slotted and perforated friction-fit grates provide a clean finished appearance and keep debris from entering the drain. And they're durable enough to withstand car and light-truck traffic. Outlet caps allow you to connect drain pipe to the end, and you can fashion a dropped outlet by cutting a hole in the bottom of the trough. The system retails for about \$15 per linear foot. To find a distributor near you, contact ABT Inc., P.O. Box 837, Troutman, NC 28166; 800/438-6057. ■