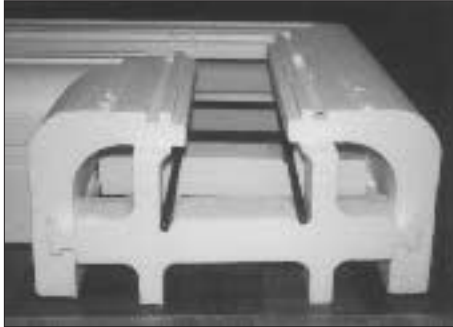


*The Journal's pick of curious, interesting, and useful products*

# Foam Footing Form

by Charles Wardell



**A** Connecticut company has introduced a polystyrene foundation form system that includes a footing block. *Poly Form* footing blocks are 24 inches wide, 12 inches high, and 48 inches long; corner blocks are 24 inches long on a side. The footing blocks are shipped in two halves — an inside section and an outside section — that are joined together during installation using foam separators that slide into grooves on the inside of the blocks. The pre-cut miters on corner blocks can be glued or taped at the corner to form a 90° angle (gluing does the best job). When used with the company's foam wall forms, the result is a solid, no-seam foundation wall that can be poured in one step. The lightweight blocks can be shipped by common carrier to any destination.

Contact: Poly-Forms Inc., P.O. Box 158, Taftville, CT 06380; 800/537-3676.

## Bifold Control Arm



**C**onventional bifold doors can easily slip out of overhead tracks. And when fully open, they stick out from the wall

at a 90° angle, restricting movement in narrow hallways. The *Ezyfold* door control arm solves both problems. The adjustable-length arm, which is fastened to the leading edge of the bifold and to the back of the closet or cabinet, pivots with the door as it's opened and closed. The doors themselves are hung on butt or piano hinges; no overhead tracks or floor pivots are needed. The *Ezyfold* also lets door panels swing neatly back against the wall, and a spring in the control arm holds the doors tightly shut when closed. The *Ezyfold* comes in four colors: white, black, brown, and ivory.

Contact: The Kiwi Connection, 82 Shelburne Center Rd., Shelburne, MA 01370; 413/625-9506.

## Foam Drywall Adhesive



**T**he manufacturer of *EnerFoam* says that it's the first aerosol polyurethane foam to be independently certified as a spray-on drywall adhesive. It meets all ASTM standards for gluing drywall to framing, reduces the number of screws needed by one-third, and helps prevent nail pops. One 32-ounce can of *EnerFoam* produces the equivalent of

40 one-quart tubes of ordinary drywall or panel adhesive, and lists for \$22.50 (the equivalent amount of adhesive costs as much as \$140). It's applied in one of three ways: a reusable straw comes with each can; a throwaway gun that will do 20 to 30 cans costs \$25; a professional applicator gun retails for \$150. EnerFoam also doubles as a foam insulation. Its controlled 25% expansion rate fills irregular voids, but won't deform door and window jambs.

Contact: Abisko Manufacturing Inc., 50 Mural St., Unit 8, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1E4 Canada; 800/567-4447.

### Vinyl-Coated Hybrid Door



The *Acclaim* exterior door combines the look and feel of a wood stile-and-rail door with the strength and dimensional stability of steel. The door is made by laying 24-gauge steel panels over wood stiles and rails. A 10-mil coating of liquid vinyl is baked onto the steel surface, then embossed with a wood-grain pattern. The vinyl surface may be stained and finished to look like wood, and is guaranteed not to

check, crack, or lose adhesion. *Acclaim* exterior doors are available in a height of 6 feet 8 inches and in standard widths. They also come in a variety of styles, including 4-, 6-, 9-, and 12-panel designs. Several sidelight designs are also available.

Contact: Jeld-Wen, 3303 Lakeport Blvd., P.O. Box 1329, Klamath Falls, OR 97601; 800/877-9482.

### Retrofit Toilet Base



Water rates have gone up dramatically during the last few years in many areas, and so has the demand for low-flow toilets. A plumber in Boston, Mass., invented the *Johnny Footpad* after noticing that replacing an old toilet often left a gap in the flooring surface between the outline of the old toilet and the smaller footprint of the new one. This required the customer to choose between looking at the ugly footprint of the old toilet or replacing the bathroom floor. The *Johnny Footpad* is a polypropylene trim ring that's installed in two pieces beneath the new toilet. It covers up the old footprint, leaving a clean line around the new toilet. The \$18 *Footpad* can be trimmed to fit any low-flow toilet on the market.

Contact: Narrow Way Plumbing and Heating, 217 Norfolk St., Dorchester, MA 02124; 617/436-5229. ■