

Products

by David Frane

Waterproof Box Cover

About a year ago, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association began to require exterior electrical boxes to be waterproof while in use. Many companies make waterproof covers, but Leviton says its *Raintight While-In-Use Cover* is the easiest to install correctly. The gasket is permanently attached to the base, so it's impossible to put it on backwards. It's good for retrofits because it fits on an existing box without removing the receptacle. The covers are made from gray or clear polycarbonate and are available for single, duplex, or GFCI outlets. The cost at electrical supply houses is about \$10.



Contact: Leviton Manufacturing Co., ED Division, 59-25 Little Neck Pkwy., Little Neck, NY 11362; 800/323-8920.

Weight Lifter

My back aches when I think of all the times I hauled a girder or a bundle of shingles up a ladder. Little did I know there was an easier way to do it. The *Superlift Contractor* is a crank-operated forklift that allows a single person to lift up to 650 pounds. The smallest model lifts 6 feet; the largest, 24 feet. Wheels and rollers make loading and unloading a one-man job, and all models fold small enough to fit in the back of a pickup. The 12-foot model weighs just over 200 pounds and retails for around \$1,200.



Contact: Genie Industries U.S.A., Box 97030, Redmond, WA 98052; 800/536-1800.

Low-Profile Radiant Heat

Radiant floor heat is rapidly gaining popularity. Unfortunately, most installations significantly increase the thickness of the floor finish or require access to the joist bays below. *Warm Touch TF2000S* low-temperature electric heating mats are $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick and fit in the thinset mortar bed holding tile to the floor. The system adds between $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the floor thickness. While Warm Touch is capable of providing all the heat in small, well-insulated rooms, it's more often used to supplement existing heat systems by warming particular sections of floor. The manufacturer says 30 square feet of mat (enough for the average bathroom) running for two to three hours twice a day will use 20 cents' worth of electricity. A 30-square-foot mat costs \$341; a timer and thermostat cost \$140.



Contact: Domoteck, 176 Abbeywood Circle, Streamwood, IL 60107; 800/875-5285.

Tougher Blades

As recip saws gain power and add features like orbital cutting action, the life expectancy of the blades goes down. Because standard metal blades are floppy, they wander or whip back and forth in the kerf, producing sloppy cuts and causing the teeth to dull faster. Now, the makers of Lenox-brand blades have introduced the bimetal *Demolition Blade*, which is thicker and wider than a standard blade, so it cuts straighter and lasts longer. The new blades are available for cutting heavy-gauge metal or nail-embedded wood.



Contact: American Saw and Manufacturing, 301 Chestnut St., East Longmeadow, MA 01028; 800/628-3030.



Print Protector

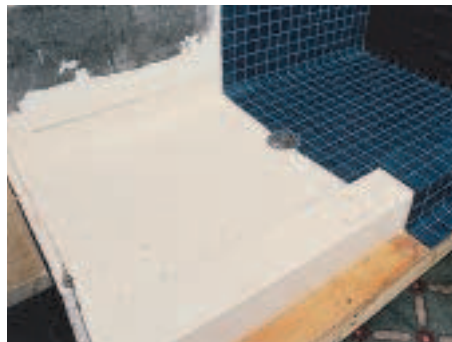
This zippered ring-binder lets you take prints, photos, and papers on site without fear of loss or damage. The clear plastic sleeves in the *Blueprint Caddy* are waterproof and protect documents from fading caused by UV light. Notes and measurements made on the surface with a grease pencil can be wiped off later. Each binder comes with four pages for prints, plus additional pages for business cards, 3x5 photos, and 8¹/₂x11-inch papers. Extra sleeves are available and hold three sizes of prints: 18x24, 24x36, and 36x48. Prices range between \$80 and \$120.

Contact: Bolder Marketing Co., 23 12th Ave. South, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572; 888/532-5300.

Quick Shower Pan

Bathrooms take less time to complete when you can avoid fabricating and mudding shower pans. *Tile-Redi Waterproof Shower Modules* take the place of copper and vinyl pans, but take just ten minutes to install and result in a more regular tile job, according to the manufacturer. Tile adheres directly to the plastic pan and can be set as soon as the module is in place. The back and sides are 6 inches tall and have a 1/2-inch lip to receive cement board or drywall. There's a 4¹/₂-inch preformed curb on the front, and the bottom slopes to a molded drain. Modules come in a number of sizes and have a lifetime guarantee against leakage. A 37x37-inch unit costs \$270.

Contact: Tile-Redi, 2570 N. Powerline Rd., Suite 504, Pompano Beach, FL 33069; 888/445-8453.



Premium Deck Lumber

Pressure-treated lumber isn't the prettiest material I've ever seen, but it resists rot because a preservative is injected deep into the wood. Stain finishes, on the other hand, look good, but are only skin deep, so they need frequent renewal, especially on high-traffic areas like decks. Now you can get the best of both treatments with *Kodiak Preserved Wood*. Like most pressure-treated lumber, it's made with Southern Pine, but the preservatives used are said to be less toxic than the those used in standard PT lumber. Plus, the treatment gives the wood a cedarlike color that won't wear off, because it goes deep below the surface. First distributed in New England, Preserved Wood will soon be available in the South and Midwest. Number one 5/4x6-inch decking retails for about \$1 per linear foot.

Contact: ISK Biosciences Corp., Industrial Bioscides Division, 6075 Poplar Ave., Suite 306, Memphis, TN 38119; 800/556-3425. ■

Nonyellowing Sealant

Silicone sealant is great stuff, but it sticks to wood poorly and won't take paint. *Polyseamseal Clear Caulk* is an elastomeric polymer sealant that won't yellow and can be applied at temperatures as low as 40°F. Once cured, the sealant can flex 25%, less than you'll get from silicone, but far more than you'll get from latex or acrylic caulk. Unlike silicone, Polyseamseal is paintable and can be applied to wet surfaces. A 10¹/₂-ounce cartridges retails for about \$5 and comes with a 50-year guarantee.

Contact: Darworth, 7405 Production Dr., Mentor, OH 44060; 800/624-7767.

Circle #5



Instant Access Panel

Access panels are a necessary evil; most builders install them, but hope they never need to use them. Not so with *Fluidmaster Access Panels*, which



are designed to provide easy access to in-wall plumbing and wiring. Made from high-impact nonyellowing plastic, the panels don't require any framing support: Just cut the proper-size hole in the drywall and the panel is held in place by spring-loaded clips. The panels can be painted or papered. They are available in two sizes — 8x8 and 14x14 — and sell for around \$15.

Contact: Fluidmaster, Inc., P.O. Box 4264, Anaheim, CA 92803; 800/631-2011.