



# THE JOURNAL OF LIGHT CONSTRUCTION

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JLC's

# Letters

## Venting an Island Dishwasher

To the Editor:

Rick Miner's article "Raising the Dishwasher" (*Kitchen & Bath*, 8/00) addresses kitchen industry standards recommending 24 inches of countertop on either side of the sink for usable work space, but gives scant mention to building codes and the proper method of making the plumbing connection. I've built in northeast Ohio (BOCA code), the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas (Southern Standard Building Code), and San Antonio (Uniform Building Code), and in all instances the prevailing practice was to locate the dishwasher adjacent to the sink and to connect the dishwasher drain to the garbage disposal via a looped hose to prevent siphoning. I can understand how such a loop could be extended across the back of cabinets in designs A (L-shaped kitchen) and C (galley kitchen), but I would be interested in how Mr. Miner makes such a connection in the island kitchens (B and D).

Jim McIntyre  
 Signet Homes  
 Streetsboro, Ohio

*Rick Miner responds: There are a couple of possible options to ensure that an air gap is present in the drain hose to prevent siphonage. Frequently, a 40<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch-high riser wall supports the island dining counter. I've taken advantage of the framing cavity in the wall to loop the drain hose up before crossing under the floor to make the connection at the garbage disposal inlet or at a wye in the sink drain. Some situations require the dishwasher to be independently drained and vented. In the case of an island installation, the drain configuration into which the dishwasher's drain hose is inserted is more or less identical to the typical 2-inch-diameter open inlet of a trapped laundry waste. This loose connection introduces an air break to prevent*

*siphoning. A bow vent in the 2-inch line, installed under the island counter or in the riser wall, is accepted by most if not all plumbing codes, and covers the venting requirement for the dedicated drain connection. Finally, an approved back-flow preventer, installed in the drain line, may satisfy the anti-siphon requirement for the dishwasher drain. Of course, your best bet is to check with your local plumbing inspectors to learn what they'll accept.*

## Homemade Jigs Just as Good

To the Editor:

Somebody decided to manufacture a commercial version of the old tried-and-true plywood saw guide (*Toolbits*, 10/00), and you think it's just wonderful. You say that "only the worst pack rat" takes his homemade saw guide to the next job. Well, my 8-foot and 3-foot guides (along with one for my router) have ridden comfortably along the ceiling of my van for many years and hundreds of jobs, and guess what? They didn't cost \$90.

For knocking off door bottoms or cutting out old siding for door and window remodels (which is what I typically use my guides for), homemade guides are more than adequate.

In the end, I guess it's the notion that "store-bought" is always superior to "homemade" that really rankles me. There's a long tradition of carpenters making their own jigs, accessories, and toolboxes. I'd like to see that tradition survive.

Arne Waldstein  
 Housatonic, Mass.

## Glue Clean-Up Tip

To the Editor:

I read with interest your October 2000 article, "Q&A: Job-Site Glues," and wanted to respond to the question about the best way to remove urethane

adhesives from skin. We use with great satisfaction a citrus-based premoistened towel called Rough Touch SCRUBS In-a-Bucket (ITW Dymon, 805 E. Old 56 Hwy., Olathe, KS 66061; 800/289-3966; [www.dymon.com](http://www.dymon.com)). They are similar to baby wipes, but they're packaged in a one-gallon blue and white bucket, with a small opening in the middle of the top that lets you pull out one at a time. Being citrus-based, they smell strongly of orange peels, and they work great! As long as the urethane hasn't cured, these will remove urethane glue, foam, and caulk (as well as epoxies!) from skin, tools, woodwork, whatever, without giving you the feeling that you are poisoning your system. Hands come clean, it doesn't seem to dry out your skin, and I haven't found it to harm any cured finishes, either. They're a little costly at \$12.95 for 72 towels, but they allow us to use lots of premium, but messy, products that otherwise we wouldn't want to use. Gone are the days of going home with cured urethane foam on hands and arms, knowing that no matter what I do, I'm going to be looking at this stuff for three days.

This product doesn't seem to work as well on solvent-based products, like ABS glue. Also, the wipes are a little hard to find, but I think that they are distributed through ACE Hardware. You might need to ask your favorite supplier to stock them.

Great magazine, keep up the good work!

Mark Bachelder  
Bachelder and Associates  
Mill Valley, Calif.

## Don't Let Clients Buy Materials

To the Editor:

The article "Coping with Owner-Supplied Materials" (*Strictly Business*, 9/00) provides an excellent form for dealing with homeowners who just "have to" supply their own materials. But you're swimming in shark-infested waters.

As experience has taught me, solve this problem before any work ever

begins. I recommend that all contracts specifically state that "all labor, materials, supplies, subcontractors, and executed work is to be conducted, coordinated, and purchased by the general contractor."

Owner-supplied materials or work involves changing the authority, responsibility, and warranty equation.

Construction is the only business that encounters this degree of owner involvement. People go to a lube shop for an oil change. The shop never, ever installs oil purchased somewhere else by the consumer! Does anyone ever ask their dentist if they can supply the amalgam for their fillings? "Why not? I just bought a 50-pound barrel at Sam's Club!"

"Can I buy my own carpet and have your guys install it?" Make this clear and simple: No.

Dennis A. Dixon  
Dixon Ventures, Inc.  
Flagstaff, Ariz.

## Cemwood Shake Clarification

*In a recent report on failures of imitation wood shakes manufactured by American Cemwood (Notebook, 9/00), JLC erroneously described the material as fiber-cement. Although the material has been called "fiber-cement" by both the San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner and the president of American Cemwood, it is, in fact, cement-bonded particleboard.*

*Whereas fiber-cement is a composite of Portland cement and wood fibers, cement-bonded particleboard is a composite of Portland cement and fibrous wood particles. JLC regrets the error.*

— The Editors

**KEEP 'EM COMING!** Letters must be signed and include the writer's address. *The Journal of Light Construction* reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, and clarity. Mail letters to JLC, 186 Allen Brook Ln., Williston, VT 05495; or e-mail to [jlc@bginet.com](mailto:jlc@bginet.com).



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*The Journal of Light Construction*  
186 Allen Brook Lane  
Williston, VT 05495  
802/879-3335

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