

Products

by Dave Crosby

All-Weather Adhesive

Now available in a 5-ounce reusable, plastic one-step dispensing system, *Epcon A7-5* anchoring adhesive is intended for cost-savings and convenient use by tradespeople, remodelers, and general contractors. Designed to flow freely at low temperatures, the material is also formulated not to sag, for convenient use in



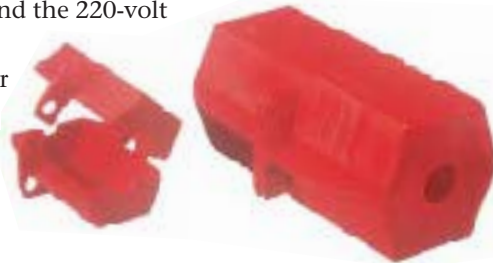
horizontal and overhead applications. The acrylic adhesive cures in 35 minutes at 65°F, is suitable for anchoring steel in solid or hollow masonry, and has code approval (ICBO ER-5560). It costs \$14 per cartridge.

Contact: ITW Ramset/Redhead, 1300 North Michael Dr., Wood Dale IL 60191; 800/899-7890; www.ramset-redhead.com.

Electrical Safety

Unexpected connection or disconnection of electrical plugs can be a real problem on the job. As part of your lockout/tagout program, consider the *Plug Lockout*, available in two sizes, 110 volt or 220 volt, to accommodate almost any cord. Both sizes have holes for cable ties or padlocks with up to 3/8-inch shackles. The 110-volt Plug Lockout costs \$14, and the 220-volt model costs \$15.

Contact: Ideal Industries, Becker Place, Sycamore, IL 60178; 800/435-0705; www.idealindustries.com.



Protective Workboots



If you sometimes find yourself in wet concrete or other materials you'd rather avoid contact with, consider a set of protective PVC workboots. According to the manufacturer, the *Mercury XCP* offers a slip-resistant ribbed sole, better weight distribution for reduced back stress, built-in arch support, and a snug ankle fit for less heel slippage. The flexible upper boot offers comfort and a place to tuck in pant legs. The boot is designed to provide protection against 55 different oils, solvents, organic acids, and alkalis. Available from distributors and some hardware stores in plain-toe for \$31 or ANSI/CSA - approved steel toe and shank for \$35.

Contact: Bata Shoe, P.O. Box 479, Belcamp, MD 21017; 800/365-2282.

Double Box Support

The *Caddy DBM2 Double Box Mount Support* lets you set an electrical box on both sides of a wood or metal stud



and eliminates the need for multiple assemblies. According to the manufacturer, positioning is fast and easy because it's made of spring-steel. The electrical boxes can be pre-assembled to the support in the shop for labor savings on the job. You should expect to pay about 80¢ per support.

Contact: ERICO, 34600 Solon Rd., Solon, OH 44139; 800/252-2339; www.erico.com.

Glass Block Windows

With all of the features of real glass block plus lighter weight and easier installation, the pre-assembled 2-inch-thick *LightWise Glass Block Window* has vinyl frames, removable setback nailing fins, and is shipped ready to



install like a traditional pane glass window. The windows are available in two different glass block styles and 78 different sizes. Prices vary: A 24x24-inch window will run about \$250, a 48x48-inch is about \$525.

Contact: Pittsburgh Corning, 800 Presque Isle Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15239; 800/624-2120; www.pittsburghcorning.com.

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Clean Water

If your clients don't like the thought of Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether in their drinking water, they might appreciate the *Omnifilter CBF20*. The carbon filter is advertised to remove volatile organic chemicals, along with cryp-



tosporidium, Giardia, lead, rust, sediment, mercury, and asbestos. The filter features an audible alert and a visual indicator to tell you when it's time to change the cartridge, which has a service life of 750 gallons or six months, according to the manufacturer. The retail price for one unit is generally under \$100.

Contact: Sta-Rite Industries, 293 Wright St., Delavan, WI 53115; 888/782-7483; www.starite.com.

Dr. Drywall

The reward for changing your materials and methods is said to be perfectly straight, blister-free corners using 25% less joint compound when you switch to using *Form-A-Corner Flex Tape*. Made for off-angle or splayed as well as



90-degree inside and outside corners, the flexible plastic tape can be applied using compound, staples, or the preferred proprietary spray adhesive. Edge-notches at 12-inch intervals make sizing easier. A 100-foot roll of tape costs \$12, and a 17-ounce can of adhesive costs \$6.

Contact: Pro Patch Systems, 10105 Arabian Trail, Woodstock, IL 60098; 888/295-6903; www.propatchsystems.com.

Corner Bead Adhesive

By now you've probably heard that drywall callbacks can be reduced by using an adhesive on corner bead. According to the manufacturer, contractor-grade



aerosol *Drywall Corner Bead Adhesive 61*, for paper or plastic corner bead, has a longer open time for assembly flexibility but also features a "quick grab"

that lets the bead be joined without delay. A 16.6-ounce can covers up to 1,200 lineal feet of bead and retails for \$5 or less.

Contact: 3M, Building 220-8E, St. Paul, MN 55144; 800/362-3550; www.3M.com/adhesives.

Smooth OSB

This new OSB has a proprietary top layer, described by the manufacturer as "super smooth." Panels with the new *S2 Technology* will be available in sev-

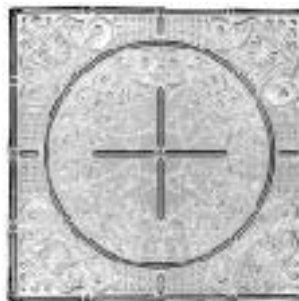


eral thicknesses for use on soffits, underlayment, concrete forms, shelving, countertops, and furniture substrates. The panels are said to "perform exceptionally well compared to plywood," never need sanding or priming, and are free of splits, checks, and other surface imperfections. The panel prices vary.

Contact: Louisiana-Pacific, 10115 Kinsey Ave, Suite 150, Huntersville, NC 28708; 800/462-1238; www.lpcorp.com.

A Blast from the Past

If you miss looking at that beautiful ceiling from your favorite pizza joint in New England or long for the decor of your old neighborhood bar in Chicago, don't despair — you can recre-



ate that classic ambiance without haunting the salvage yards.

Pressed-Tin Sheets for Walls and Ceilings in 20 different designs, ranging from Victorian to Art Deco, are available in 2x4-foot sheets with 6-, 12- or 24-inch repeat patterns. The tin-plated steel is rust-resistant and has excellent paint retention, according to the manufacturer. Cornices come in 4-foot lengths and 11 designs. They're \$18 per sheet, or \$2.25 per square foot.

Contact: Chelsea Decorative Metal, 8212 Braewick Dr., Houston, TX 77074; 713/721-9200; www.thetinman.com. 