

Products

Easy Shower Control. The *ActivTouch* handheld shower has three spray-selection buttons that let users select up to eight spray combinations with the push of a button. Another button — which can be operated from the front or the back — reduces the spray to a trickle. The shower comes with a hose that extends from 60 to 82 inches.

Alsons, 800/421-0001, alsons.com.



Safety Bifocals. Elvex says its *RX-100* safety specs are the first reading safety glasses with a single curved lens and integrated side shields. Designed for farsighted eyes that have trouble with reading or doing fine, close-up work, they come in five bifocal powers — +1.0, +1.5, +2.0, +2.5, and +3.0 — and with clear or gray hard-coated polycarbonate lenses. They cost \$16.

Elvex Corp., 800/888-6582, elvex.com.



Designs for Seniors. Wellborn has relaunched its *Accessible Living Collection* of cabinets with 21 new door styles, more wood species, and 65 new cabinets. The company says the redesign was based on customer requests for specific products aimed at aging-in-place homeowners. Units have standard accessibility features like roll-in sink and cooktop bases and counter-height placement of ovens and microwaves. Prices are in the mid range.

Wellborn Cabinets, 800/762-4475, wellborn.com.

Roof by Numbers. Shingling a turret has never been a job for the geometrically challenged — until now. With DaVinci's new custom shingle package for its simulated roof slates, you simply send out the turret's base diameter, rafter length, and pitch, and the company precuts the shingles and packages them by course. Expect to pay \$1,200 for the design and cutting and \$350 to \$450 per square for the shingles.

DaVinci Roofscapes, 800/328-4624, davinciroofscapes.com.



Products

Perforated Gutter Cap. The *Leaf Relief* gutter cap has no channel to trap debris. Instead, a flat surface with holes lets water through while keeping leaves and debris out. The cap fastens directly to the gutter and comes in 5- and 6-inch sizes and in aluminum or copper. According to the manufacturer, the front edge is shaped so that water rolls back onto the perforated surface rather than over the front of the gutter. Contractor prices range from \$1.85 to \$2.75 per foot, depending on gutter size and type.

Ply Gem, 800/857-1339,
www.leaf-relief.com.



Self-Cleaning Paint. *Lotusan* is an acrylic, water-based formula that goes on and cleans up the same as any other paint. The difference, says the maker, is that this paint — like the lotus plant for which it was named — repels both water and dirt. It also resists mold and mildew. Stocking dealers have pigments to tint it various colors. It's sold in five-gallon buckets for around \$175 per bucket (roughly \$35 per gallon).

Sto Corp., 800/221-2397, stocorp.com.

Tough Slider. The *WinGuard Impact-Resistant Series 770* sliding glass door combines a heavy aluminum frame with laminated insulated glass and heavy-duty jambs. The panels are reversible: If the customer wants to switch the sliding and fixed panels, the installer makes the change by moving the door lock and the interlock hardware. An optional secondary lock is available for added security. The doors cost between \$1,600 and \$2,400, depending on options.

PGT Industries, 800/282-6019, pgtindustries.com.



Water Miser. Caroma claims its *Sydney Smart* toilet is one of the first back-outlet dual-flush toilets to be labeled by WaterSense, an EPA

program that requires an average flush of 1.28 gallons or less. This fixture's average flush uses .9 gallon. According to the maker, its trapway is nearly twice as large as that of most North American toilets, reducing the chance of blockage and overflow. It costs \$470.

Caroma, 800/605-4218, caromausa.com.



Products

Compact Power.

The RS20000 standby generator is powerful enough to run the average home, including air conditioning, says the maker. Its air-cooled V-twin engine puts out 162.5 amps at 110 volts (or 81.25 amps at 240 volts); a cold-weather version with engine and alternator heaters is also available. A setup wizard lets you choose natural gas or propane without changing hardware. The unit fits through a 36-inch gate and has an integrated platform that eliminates the need for a concrete base. It should be available in early 2010 at a price of around \$6,000.



Cummins Onan, 800/888-6626, cumminsonan.com.



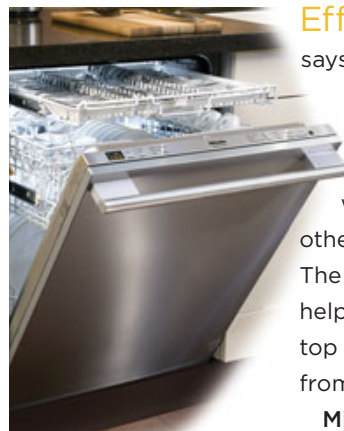
Glass and Resin. *Eco by Cosentino* mixes glass shards with nontoxic resin to create what the maker claims is an environmentally friendly alternative to stone or solid surfacing. It's 75 percent recycled content — salvaged mirrors, window and bottle glass, porcelain, and industrial furnace residuals — and 25 percent stone scrap bonded with corn-oil resin. The nonporous material requires no sealers and resists stains and scratches, says the maker. It costs \$68 to \$118 per square foot, depending on thickness and color.

Cosentino USA, 866/579-4326, ecobycosentino.com.

Screens in a Snap.

The *Mini Track* system was designed for enclosing a screen porch from the inside. It consists of small clips that are screwed into the framing and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-square aluminum channels that snap onto the clips. The channels — which come with white or bronze powder-coated finishes and in 8-, 10-, and 12-foot lengths — have a groove for the screening and splines. The cost is approximately \$2 per square foot of screen opening for the channels, clips, screws, and spline. You provide the screening.

Screen Tight, 800/768-7325, screentight.com.



Efficient Dishwashers. Miele says its G 2002 dishwashers — which use 5.1 gallons of water for normal cycles and 1.2 gallons for economy — are 17 percent more water-efficient than the company's other models and 30 percent faster. The unit door opens automatically to help dishes dry. Inside, a cutlery tray on top frees up space below. Prices range from \$1,150 to \$2,450.

Miele, 800/843-7231, mieleusa.com.