

Products | by Tom O'Brien



Replacement Windows. Simonton says its *Asure* vinyl replacement windows let in more sunlight and less moisture. They feature a narrow frame that provides more glass area than traditional vinyl units and a stepped sill that is supposed to do a better job of shedding wind-driven rain. Double-hungs, sliders, and picture windows are available in white or tan. Prices range from \$190 for the smallest picture window to \$865 for the largest slider.

Simonton Windows, 800/746-6686, simonton.com.

Propane-Powered Generator. With a power output of just over 3,000 watts, the *LP3250 Portable Generator* would not be the right choice for a framing crew. But it could be just the ticket for somebody who works on his own and wants a versatile unit that can provide backup household power with less noise and fewer toxic emissions than a comparable gas-powered model. Its wheeled frame includes mounting space for a 20-pound tank of propane, which will keep the generator running for 9½ hours, according to the maker. The LP3250 costs about \$600.

Generac Power Systems, 888/436-3722, generac.com.



Sticky Roof Sealer. *Flexible Seal Roof Sealant* fills cracks up to ¼ inch wide and sticks firmly to steel, glass, aluminum, concrete, wood, brick, clay, tile, and asphalt — even in the rain, says the maker. Available in seven colors (including clear), the single-component, solvent-based elastomeric is sold in a 10.6-ounce cartridge for \$7. The brush-grade version costs \$17 a quart and \$50 a gallon.

Epmar Corp., 714/630-7311, epmar.com.



Dust Container.

If nothing but a doorway separates the work zone from living space, your safest best may be to install a *ZipDoor Kit*. This 4-mil plastic barrier fastens to the doorway with double-sided tape that's gentle on painted surfaces, says the manufacturer. Its two zippers are glued on — rather than stitched — for shear strength, and the product comes with two hooks for keeping the door flap open when necessary. The standard 3-by-7-foot barrier costs \$30; a 4-by-8-foot fire-retardant commercial version goes for \$40.

ZipWall, 800/718-2255, zipwall.com.



Products

Pure Cold. The downside of a single-handle faucet is that users can inadvertently mix in hot water when all they want is cold. The KWC *Ava* faucet has a fix for that. Instead of rotating this fixture's lever all the way



to the right to get “full cold,” the user lifts it up from the straight-ahead (6 o'clock) position, which is where it's most likely to have been left by the previous user. For hot water you rotate the lever clockwise, as shown in the photo. The *Ava* has a chrome finish and retails for \$650; a tall version costs \$780.

KWC America, 678/334-2121, kwcamerica.com.

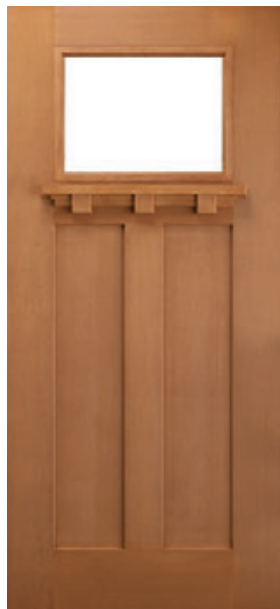
Discreet Access. Although the *F-1 Access Panel* is made of high-grade welded aluminum, the door can be ordered with a drywall inlay that renders it all but invisible save for the metal edge and 1/16-inch reveal.



Standard sizes range from 8x8 inches to 24x24 inches. A hinged 12x12-inch panel with a 1/2-inch or 5/8-inch drywall inlay costs about \$75. Custom sizes and inlays of tile, concrete, and masonry are also available.

FF Systems, 888/978-1808, ffsystemsinc.com.

Faux Fir. Masonite recently added three new styles to its *Belleville* collection of fiberglass entry doors: a standard six-panel model and two double-panel models with glazing (one with a square window, as shown; and one with an oval window). According to the maker, the doors look like they're made from old-growth fir but are more energy-efficient and less prone to cracking and warping than the real thing. They come in 2'-8" x 6'-8", 2'-10" x 6'-8", and 3'-0" x 6'-8" sizes and cost \$320 and up.



Masonite, 800/663-3667, masonite.com.

Instant Hot Water.

The *Indulge Modern* hot-water dispenser provides 200° filtered water instantly, says the maker, saving gallons of not-warm-enough water that otherwise may have been poured down the drain. The fixture mounts on the corner of the sink and is supplied by a 2/3-gallon stainless steel tank capable of providing as many as 60 cups per hour of near-boiling water. Available in chrome or satin nickel, the dispenser sells for about \$500.



InSinkErator, 800/558-5700, insinkerator.com.

Products

Fiber-Cement Mounts. *SturdiMount* preflashed fiber-cement mounting blocks provide a flat, leakproof base for light fixtures, receptacles, dryer vents, hose bins, gas lines, and other penetrations, says the maker.



The lineup includes a 6-by-8½-inch receptacle mount, an 8½-by-11-inch universal mount for lights and large pipes, and a 6-by-8½-inch split mount for doorbells and small pipes. They come in 12 colors and cost \$12 to \$20.

Mid-America Siding Components, 800/521-8486, sturdibuild.com.



Prefinished Bulkhead. Powder-coat finishes are more durable and chip-resistant than paint, so it was a smart move on Bilco's part to start offering a factory-applied polyester powder-coat finish as an option for its Classic Series steel basement doors. *Powder Coat Finished Basement Doors* come in four colors — white, sandstone, light gray, and brick — and cost \$150 more than the company's standard factory-primed Classic Series doors.

The Bilco Co., 800/854-9724, bilco.com.



Steel Siding. Bayside says its *Metal Siding* is less prone to expansion and contraction and more durable than wood or vinyl. It's made from 28-gauge galvanized steel and embossed to look like rough cedar. The 16-inch-wide three-lap panels come in 12-foot standard lengths and in custom lengths up to 20 feet. They're sold in seven colors; matching trims and accessories are also available. Costs range from \$3 to \$6 per square foot.

Metal Sales Manufacturing Corp., 800/406-7387, metalsales.us.com.

Coated I-Joists. *PKI Engineered I-Joists* get their distinctive pink color from a nontoxic coating that the maker says resists fire, repels water, and prevents mold growth. They're sold in depths of 9½, 11⅞, 14, 16, and 18 inches and cost about 5 cents more per linear foot than comparable uncoated joists.

Pink Wood, 403/279-3700, pinkwood.ca.

