

Products



Faux Shakes

Bellaforté polymer roofing shakes are 12 inches long and come in eight different widths, allowing installers to create a staggered appearance that simulates rough-hewn wood shakes. The material resists water absorption — which eliminates freeze-thaw issues — and can be installed in all weather conditions. Self-aligning tabs ease installation time. A square of shakes (100 pieces) weighs just 190 pounds and costs about \$260.

DaVinci Roofscapes, 855/299-5301, davinicroofscapes.com.



Double Duty

Premium Plus Zero VOC Interior Paint is a self-priming interior coating that combines the primer and finish coat in one product. The 100% acrylic formula is Greenguard-certified, and the odor dissipates quickly after application to lessen lingering paint smells, says the maker. A line of *Low VOC* colorants is available for the paint. Cost is \$32 per gallon.

Behr, 877/776-3961, behrpro.com.



Cleanest Woodburner

The *Lopi Cape Cod Woodstove* is billed as the cleanest-burning large cast-iron stove ever. Its Hybrid-Fyre combustion technology combines a system of internal chambers and baffles with a catalytic combustor that ignites any unburned particles in the exhaust. The result: 80% efficiency and flue emissions of 0.45 grams of particulate per hour. The optional GreenStart igniter will light the fire with the push of a button. The stove costs \$3,400.

Travis Industries, 800/654-1177, lopi stoves.com.



No More Sonotubes

Perma-Columns are 10,000-psi pre-cast reinforced concrete posts with ribbed plastic-and-fiberglass pads at one end and galvanized post bases at the other. You install them with 3 to 4 inches of concrete exposed above grade to keep wood posts away from ground moisture. Prices are \$46 for a 4x4 40-inch column, \$71 for a 6x6 40-inch column, and \$80 for a 6x6 60-inch column.

Perma Column, 888/699-8875, permacolumneast.com.

For more information about these products, go to <http://jlc.hotims.com>.

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Heat Trap

Makers of the *York* tub say it will keep bath water warmer in even the coldest of winters. It's made from materials with high insulation properties — finely ground volcanic limestone mixed with high-performance resin — that, in combination, work like the walls of a Thermos to prevent heat loss. That's different from cast iron — which must first absorb the heat before it can retain it — and acrylic, which lacks any practical insulation value. Cost is \$2,900.

Victoria + Albert, 800/421-7189, vandabaths.com.



The Sentinel

Verilock is a wireless security sensor built into a standard latch. It's available as an add-on to Andersen's E-Series/Eagle windows and sliding doors, and was developed with Honeywell to work with that company's home security systems. The sensor indicates whether the window or door is open, closed, locked, or unlocked; homeowners can check status with a smartphone or tablet. A lithium coin cell battery supplies power. The upcharge is \$100 per window and \$150 per door.

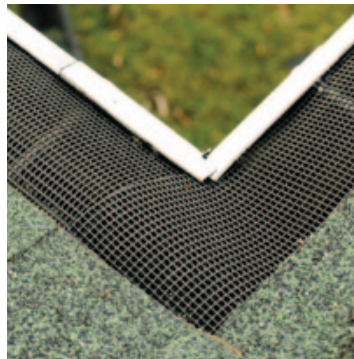
Eagle Window and Door, 855/324-5314, eaglewindow.com/verilock.



Hybrid Finishes

Atlas Homewares' *Modern Bronze Finish* is a cross between traditional oil-rubbed bronze and modern graphite grey. The finish is being used on a range of the company's hardware, from thick pulls to small square knobs and circular mini-pulls. Knobs start at \$6.10, and pulls range from \$6.60 to \$33.60.

Atlas Homewares, 800/799-6755, atlashomewares.com.



Tough Mesh

The *SlimGuard Gutter Guard* consists of a high-density polypropylene mesh installed over flexible ABS plastic support struts; it's thin enough that the two legs can be overlapped at corners. The product installs inside the gutter without caulk or screws — all you need is some sharp scissors. Because it takes up virtually no space inside the gutter, it won't slow the flow of water in a heavy downpour. It's available from roofing and siding suppliers for around \$2.25 per linear foot.

SlimGuard, 800/796-4476, slimguardusa.com.

For more information about these products, go to <http://jlc.hotims.com>.

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Old Twist, New Finish

Outwater has added a number of new finish options — antique nickel, copper vein, oil rubbed bronze, oil rubbed copper, and satin black — to its *Traditional Staircase Elements*. The powder-coated wrought-iron balusters, newel posts, and other components are available in a broad range of styles. Baluster prices range from \$7 to \$13 apiece, depending on the pattern and finish.

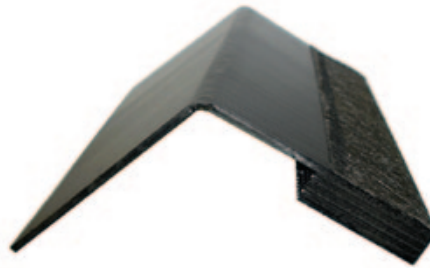
Outwater Plastics Industries, 800/631-8375, outwater.com.



Thick as Glue

The first thing we noticed about the new water-based *Peel Stop Paint Primer* is how thick it is — three times thicker than a standard primer, according to the maker. You can lay a heavy coat on a vertical surface without any sagging, and smooth over weathered surfaces. As a binding primer, it's supposed to glue down minor peels and other defects (though you still need to scrape and wash the surface). You can top-coat it in two hours and use it under or over any oil- or water-based top coat. It costs around \$35 per gallon.

Rust-Oleum, 800/385-8155, rustoleum.com.



Disappearing Ridge

The *SmartRidge* is a ridge vent with a baffle on one side only; if the baffle faces the backyard, the vent won't be visible from the street because it will be hidden by the ridge caps. The company claims that having a single baffle actually increases airflow because negative air pressure created by wind flowing over the ridge pulls air only from inside the attic, and not from the outside through the other baffle. Pricing is \$2.50 to \$3 per foot or \$7.50 to \$9 per piece.

DCI Products, 800/622-4455, smartridge.com.



Smoke Blocker

Touch 'n Seal's *FireStop Gun Foam* is the only USA-manufactured one-component foam approved as a through-penetration firestop sealant for commercial and residential applications, says the maker. It's used to fill voids around pipes and conduits. It's also UL-classified for use in common fire penetration joint systems, so it can serve as a fireblock in connecting spaces like the tops and bottoms of studwalls and stair stringers. It bonds to wood, masonry, rigid insulation, metal, plastic, and drywall, and dries red for easy identification as a fire sealant. It costs about \$13 per can.

Convenience Products, 800/325-6180, touch-n-seal.com.

For more information about these products, go to <http://jlc.hotims.com>.