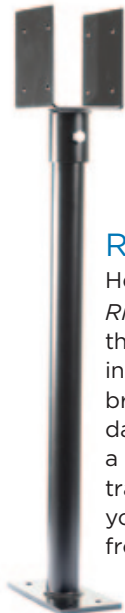


Products

Small and Silent

Getting an exhaust fan to put out just 1 sone of noise (about the same as a quiet refrigerator) at 80 cfm of airflow usually requires a housing too big for a 2x4 wall. NuTone's *LPN80* achieves that level of quiet yet is thin enough to fit in that wall, thanks to a redesigned blower and wheel assembly. The fan's low profile should also provide more flexibility in ceiling installation, where pipes and other utilities may already be in place in the joist bay. The *LPN80* comes with two duct connectors — a standard 4-inch oval and an adapter for the 3-inch round ducts found in some older homes — and costs \$140.

Broan-NuTone, 888/336-3948, nutone.com.



Raise the Roof

Here's a simple way to add a patio roof cover. *SkyLift Roof Risers* are steel brackets that elevate the patio roof well above the surface of the home's main roof. To install, you cut a hole in the home's roof directly above the exterior wall and bolt the bracket to the top plate. (You seal the hole in the roof with standard pipe-jack waterproof flashing.) The elevated design creates a gap between the two roofs, which pulls in natural light, allows trapped heat to escape, and creates more headroom. It also lets you put more of a pitch on the patio roof. Risers come in lengths from 24 to 36 inches and cost \$140 to \$200.

Sage Bracket Solutions, 888/759-5488, skylifthardware.com.



Understated Finish

GE's *Slate* finish is an alternative to stainless steel and black for customers who want an appliance with a warm, low-gloss look. It's easy to clean and resists fingerprints. The initial launch includes two French-door refrigerator models, two freestanding gas ranges, two freestanding electric ranges, two built-in dishwasher models, and an over-the-range microwave. Cost is the same as for equivalent stainless models. (For instance, the range shown here sells for \$1,100.)

GE Appliances, 800/626-2005, geappliances.com.

Drainable Decking

Weyerhaeuser has added a self-draining feature to its *Edge Gold* flooring panels to help eliminate standing water during construction delays. It consists of three "Down Pore" drainage grooves cut into one end of each panel. According to Weyerhaeuser, the grooves resist clogging from sawdust or adhesives, and allow water to drain even if the panels are not properly gapped. Panels are available in 5/8-, 23/32-, 7/8-, and 1 1/8-inch thicknesses. Prices are the same as for standard *Edge Gold* panels.

Weyerhaeuser, 888/453-8358, woodbywy.com.

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

Products

Touch-Free Reliability

The AC-powered *Sensate* faucet has sensors embedded on either side of the spout curve. Waving an object — a hand, a dish, a utensil — beneath the curve interrupts a beam between the two sensors and turns the faucet on or off. According to Kohler, this technology is more reliable than an electronic eye, which must detect movement. The faucet shuts off automatically if there's a power outage, but includes a manual override. It's available with a polished chrome or stainless finish. A magnetic docking system locks the spray head into place when not in use. Pricing starts at \$675.

Kohler, 800/456-4537, kohler.com.



Access Control

Press the top of the pad on Schlage's *Touch Screen Deadbolt* and it lights up for easy use in the dark. The motorized bolt automatically locks and unlocks when the code is entered, and can be programmed with up to 30 four-digit codes. Codes can be tailored to specific times of the day or week, or be used for temporary access. A built-in alarm system tells the homeowner when someone goes in or out, tampers with the lock, or tries to break in. Homeowners who subscribe to the company's Nexia Home Intelligence system can control all lock functions remotely via a smartphone. Cost is around \$200.

Ingersoll Rand, 800/847-1864, consumer.schlage.com.

Downsized Programming

Honeywell's new *Prestige IAQ* thermostat is 60% smaller than the company's other programmable models and can control temperature, humidity, ventilation, and fan settings from any Web-enabled device, using a cloud-based app. The thermostat alerts the homeowner when the heating and cooling system is having problems, as well as when it's time to change the furnace filter or humidifier pad. While the final cost is up to the hvac contractor, most homeowners can expect to pay around \$300.

Honeywell, 877/271-8620, forwardthinking.honeywell.com.



Solar-Powered Skylight

Velux's *Fresh Air Skylight* has a solar panel that captures available daylight to recharge a battery-powered operator and control system. No wiring is involved — it's operated by a hand-held remote control — and the panel doesn't need direct sunlight. An integrated rain sensor closes the skylight if it starts to rain, but can be overridden if the homeowner wants to keep it open. A 2-foot-by-3-foot unit costs \$1,100 (not including the flashing kit) and is eligible for a 30% tax credit. It can be ordered with a factory-installed blind, in which case the skylight and blind will be preprogrammed to the same remote control.

Velux USA, 803/548-3589, veluxusa.com.

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

Products



Rotproof Wood

Each door in Masonite's *Lemieux Torrefied Collection* is put through a protective torrefaction process — which means that the wood is heated over time, making it highly resistant to heat, cold, and moisture. The company says the doors can be safely installed without a roof overhang or in direct sunlight. A full range of sizes, species, and designs is available, with varying prices; a two-panel torrefied poplar door costs about \$1,075 as a prehung unit.

Masonite, 800/895-2723, masonite.com.



Lightweight Panels

USG has expanded its line of lightweight dry-wall with *Sheetrock Brand UltraLight Panels Mold Tough*. The panels have the same mold and moisture resistance as standard green boards but weigh only 1.35 pounds per square foot (compared with 1.65 pounds). They can be used as a tile substrate in areas with limited water exposure. Though currently available in only four states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware), they are being rolled out to the rest of the country over the course of this year. Pricing is the same as for regular Mold Tough, or about \$12 to \$13 for a 1/2-inch-thick 4x8 sheet.

USG Corp., 312/436-4000, theweighthasbeenlifted.com.

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

Products



Roof Tile

Quarrix *Composite Tiles* are made from a blend of high-density polyethylene (HDPE), fly ash, and other polymers. Their weight is about one-third that of concrete and clay tiles: 305 pounds per square, or roughly the same as the heaviest asphalt shingles. They come in six colors and can be cut with a standard circular saw. (Carbide blades work best.) Prices start around \$425 per square. Hip/ridge rakes, hip starters, and metal closures are available in matching colors.



Quarrix Building Products, 800/438-2920, quarrix.com.



Self-Adhered Housewrap

BlueskinVP is a peel-and-stick membrane that serves as both housewrap and air barrier. Though used in commercial construction since 2009, it is only now coming to the residential market. It requires no fasteners and no taping of seams. You can install it on standard sheathing without any special prep, but if the sheathing is questionable or it's very cold outside, you can buy a liquid primer that creates a stable gluing surface from the same company. A sill flashing product is also available. The membrane costs 60 to 80 cents per square foot.

Henry Co., 800/486-1278, henry.com.