

# Products | by Tom O'Brien

**Innovative LED.** According to GE, fins surrounding the new 9-watt *Energy Smart LED* bulb dissipate heat and disperse light, making it the world's first omnidirectional LED replacement bulb. Designed to replace a 40-watt incandescent, the light purportedly lasts as long as 23 years when operated for three hours a day. It's mercury-free, turns on instantly, and puts out a soft white light at 3,000 K. It's available online for about \$35.



**General Electric Co.**, 800/435-4448, ge.com.

## Brighter Fan Lights.

Broan and NuTone recently announced that they've improved the lighting for their *Ultra Silent Ventilation Fans With Lights*. They say that the two 18-watt (GU24) fluorescent bulbs illuminating the QTXE and QTRE series fans use 14 percent less energy than the bulbs in earlier models yet project more light, thanks to a new lens design. Prices for the Energy Star-certified appliances range from \$335 for an 80-cfm model to \$435 for a 150-cfm model.

**Broan-NuTone**, 800/558-1711, broan.com.



**Sun-Resistant Underlayment.** *Grace Ice & Water Shield HT* provides the same protection against ice dams and wind-driven rain as the company's standard underlayment — but it's made with an adhesive that is unaffected by temperatures as high as 240°F, the maker says. The membrane is also coated with a UV-resistant film that can withstand as many as 120 days in the hot sun and resists oil bleed-through, says Grace. It's sold in 200-square-foot and 225-square-foot rolls for \$107 to \$117 per roll.

**Grace Construction Products**, 866/333-3726, graceconstruction.com.

**Discreet Keyless Entry.** The *SimpliciKey Remote Control Electronic Deadbolt* is designed to look just like a traditional mechanical lock (it even has a functional keyhole). But the locking mechanism can also be operated by clicking a key fob or punching a code into a keypad concealed beneath a sliding metal cover. Power comes from four AA batteries. The bolt is sold in brass, nickel, and bronze finishes and can be found online (with two key fobs) for \$230.

**SimpliciKey**, 703/904-5010, simplicikey.com.



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**Fresh Fan.** A new player has jumped into the high-end bath-fan market. Delta Products Corp. says *Breez Ventilation Fans* have ball-bearing-equipped DC brushless motors and 67-fin



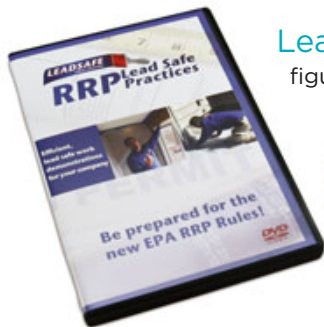
impellers for ultra-quiet energy-efficient operation. All nine models are Energy Star certified, with noise ratings from 0.3 sone to 2.0 sones. Fan-light combinations, dual-speed motors, and humidity-sensing options are available. A 110-cfm fan-light combo costs about \$170.

**Delta Products Corp.**, 888/979-9889, [delta.breez.com](http://delta.breez.com).



**Modern Membrane.** *IB-3 StormStopper* is a self-adhering (50-mil-thick) mineral surface underlayment that can be used to protect trouble spots like valleys and rake edges or the entire roof. Made with a rubberized asphalt adhesive that self-seals around fasteners and projections, the liner separates easily and splits in the middle to simplify valley installations, says the maker. It comes in 3-foot-by-67-foot rolls. The company declined to provide pricing.

**MFM Building Products**, 800/882-7663, [solutions.mfmbp.com](http://solutions.mfmbp.com).



**Lead-Safe DVD.** If you sat through the eight-hour RRP training course and still can't figure out how to follow the law without going bankrupt, you're not alone. *LeadSafe Video Solutions* is a 90-minute DVD produced by a veteran deleading contractor that cuts through the confusion and presents straightforward methods for estimating, staging, and cleaning up various jobs that involve disturbing lead paint. A printable, 32-page manual is also included. The DVD can be purchased online for about \$200.



**LeadSafe Video Solutions**, 866/436-5663, [leadsafevideosolutions.com](http://leadsafevideosolutions.com).



**Dressed-Up Drop Ceiling.** Why settle for an institutional-looking ceiling just to provide access to mechanicals? Sauder says its *WoodTrac Ceiling System* can be used to make a new or existing grid ceiling look like custom-crafted wood. The product consists of replacement panels and moldings that fasten to a metal grid with clips; they're made of laminate veneer over an MDF core. A variety of molding profiles and finish options are available. The clips are compatible with any  $\frac{15}{16}$ - or 1-inch-wide suspended ceiling grid. Prices for panels, moldings, and clips range from \$3.50 to \$5 per square foot.

**Sauder Woodworking Co.**, 800/523-3987, [woodtracby Sauder.com](http://woodtracby Sauder.com)

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**Lightweight Green Pavers.** Vast's *Composite Pavers* are made almost entirely from recycled materials — mostly scrap tires and plastic bottles — and weigh one-third as much as traditional brick or concrete. They come in 4-by-8-inch and 3-by-6-inch sizes and are installed over a grid base that takes the guesswork out of alignment. (The larger size can be combined with an open-graded base for a permeable surface.) Material costs for the pavers and the 16-inch-square grids run about \$5 per square foot.

**Vast Enterprises**, 612/234-8958, [vastpavers.com](http://vastpavers.com).



**Tough Grout.** Laticrete says its new *SpectraLock Pro Premium Grout* is GreenGuard-certified (for low-VOC emissions) yet exceeds the toughest commercial performance standards. Features include advanced stainproof protection and a “non-sag” formulation that eases installation. The grout also contains an antimicrobial agent to inhibit mold and mildew growth, the company says. It comes in 40 colors. A package that includes all the ingredients needed to make and clean up 0.8 gallon of grout costs about \$100.



**Laticrete International**, 800/243-4788, [laticrete.com](http://laticrete.com).



**Movable Blocks.** US Block Windows' operable acrylic-block windows provide the appearance and privacy features of conventional glass blocks — but they open and close. Single-hung, slider, awning, and casement styles in three frame colors and seven block patterns are available. The company also offers custom shapes, including arch-tops, eyebrows, and hexagons. Prices range from \$300 to more than \$2,000.

**US Block Windows**, 888/256-2599, [usblockwindows.com](http://usblockwindows.com).

**Floodproof Subfloor.** Tapered edges help *PointSix Flooring* go down flat and stay flat even when exposed to severe job-site weather or flooding, says the maker. All four sides of the subfloor panels are factory-milled to create a slight recess at the points most vulnerable to swelling. If the floor gets wet, the wood fibers expand just enough to flush out the gap. According to the company, PointSix costs about the same as competitive OSB subflooring.

**Ainsworth Engineered Canada LP**, 877/661-3200, [ainsworth.ca](http://ainsworth.ca).

