

Products | by Tom O'Brien

Durable Drywall. For interior spaces susceptible to mold, Gold Bond offers gypsum board with a moisture-resistant core and fiberglass face. The company recommends using *e2XP Interior Extreme* in troublesome kitchens, baths, and laundry rooms and around windows and skylights, as well as in cases where gypsum panels are needed before dry-in. The product is sold in 1/2-inch and 5/8-inch thicknesses; the latter costs about 40 cents per square foot.

National Gypsum, 704/365-7300, nationalgypsum.com.



Vent-Pipe Boot Repair.

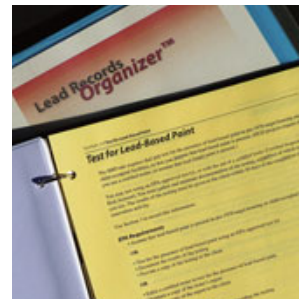
Instead of ripping out and replacing a leaking pipe boot, try a noninvasive solution — the *Perma-Boot 312*. The bottom half of this two-piece product covers the existing boot, and the cap section wraps over the top of the vent pipe to shed water without relying on a rubber gasket. Designed for roof pitches from 3/12 to 12/12, it comes in sizes to fit 1 1/2-inch, 2-inch, and 3-inch vent pipes and costs \$25.

Manning Building Products, 919/662-9894, manningbuildingproducts.com.

RRP Facilitator.

Do the complex procedures and record-keeping mandated by the Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) rule have you pulling out your hair? The *Lead Records Organizer* is designed to help. According to its creator, this three-ring binder contains “step-by-step instructions to guide you through all phases of the RRP requirements.” Also included are job-site signs and dozens of forms. The binder is available online for \$49. A 10-pack refill kit is \$99.

Lead Records, 800/399-9682, leadrecords.com.



Low-Profile Perimeter Drain. The manufacturer of *H-Cove* claims that this retrofit basement water channel requires significantly less demolition and material replacement than other strategies for reducing basement moisture. Installation entails removing a 3 1/2-inch-wide strip of concrete from around the outside edge of the floor. After it's poured in place, the resulting drain channel is all but invisible. *H-Cove* is intended to be used in conjunction with MTI's Control Cavity interior drainage material, but it should work with any well-designed moisture-control scheme. The material cost is \$3 a linear foot.

MTI, 800/879-3348, mtidry.com.

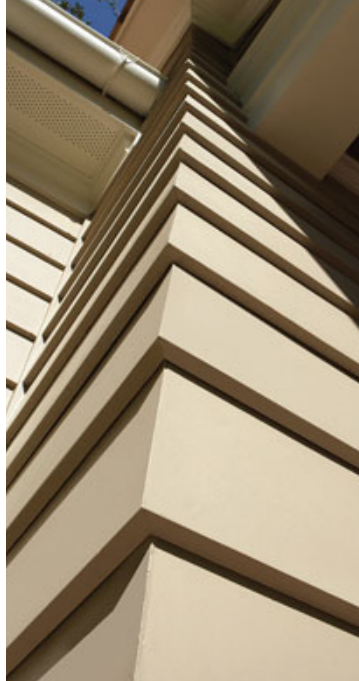


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High-End HardiPlank.

The company that invented fiber-cement siding now has a premium line of this workhorse building material. *Artisan Premier Lap Siding* is thicker than the standard product and supposedly casts more dramatic shadow lines. Tongue-and-groove ends — rather than butt joints — enhance dimensional stability. The 5/8-inch-thick siding comes in 5 1/4-inch, 7 1/4-inch, and 8 1/4-inch widths and costs \$2.50 per square foot.

James Hardie Building Products, 888/800-7864, artisanluxury.com.



Attractive Water-Savers. Three popular toilets from American Standard are now available as high-efficiency models. Even though the new *Studio*, *Tropic*, and *Evolution* fixtures require 20 percent less water than standard 1.6-gpf (gallons per flush) toilets, they can flush more than 2.2 pounds of solids without clogging or double flushing, says the manufacturer. Prices range from \$185 to \$350.

American Standard, 800/899-2614, americanstandard.com.



Breathable Surface Protection. The *SurfacePro* drop cloth is designed specifically for newly finished hardwood floors. Its dense fiber construction prevents scratches and absorbs spills, says the maker. And because it's breathable, it can be placed on the floor as soon as the finish dries without hindering the curing process. SurfacePro can also be put down over stone and tile floors when the grout is still curing. It's sold in 82-foot-long rolls in two widths: 32 inches (\$110) and 40 inches (\$135).

KS International, 888/578-5573, dropcloth.com.



Flexible Corner Tape. If you'd like to simplify the process of finishing drywall corners, take a look at *FibaTape Composite Drywall Corner Tape*.

Unspooled, the tape becomes rigid; you cut and fold it to length, then install it over corners using standard joint compound. It's made from a perforated, fiber-coated PVC that the maker says promotes fast drying, so it can be second-coated immediately. A 50-foot roll costs \$18.

Saint-Gobain Technical Fabrics, 800/762-6694, fibatape.com.



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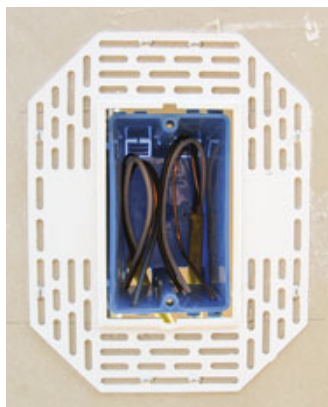
Air-Cleaning Drywall. Last year's news was full of stories about defective Chinese gypsum board making people sick. Now CertainTeed has come out with a drywall it says actually improves indoor air quality. Rather than off-gassing formaldehyde and other VOCs,



the company says, *AirRenew Gypsum Board* removes these chemicals from the air and converts them to inert compounds. The product also allegedly resists moisture damage and mold intrusion. It costs 10 percent to 15 percent more than standard gypsum panels.

CertainTeed Corp., 800/233-8990, airrenew.com.

Drywall Fixer. The *Mulligan* promises to make repairing sloppy cuts around electrical boxes faster and easier. According to the maker, you simply spray on adhesive, press the plastic device in place around the box, and apply joint compound. The product is compatible with plastic and metal boxes. It comes in single-gang and double-gang sizes and in a 4-inch round version for recessed lights. A package of 100 single-gang Mulligans costs \$100. Sample packs are also available.



Mulligan Products, 413/243-6474, mulliganproducts.com.

Finer Filtration.

People who live in areas with questionable water quality might need more than a faucet filter. According to its maker, the *PurHome X-5 Whole-House Water Filter* relies on a three-stage filtering process to remove chlorine, chloramines, VOCs, and heavy metals like lead and mercury from water. One unit can handle the filtration needs of a 2,500-square-foot home; more-powerful models are available for larger homes. The X-5 costs \$800.



PuriTeam, 888/491-4100, puriteam.com.

Rain-Gutter Upgrade. Most systems for preventing clogged gutters provide a barrier against leaves and debris. The *SpoutOff* is basically an oversized outlet that keeps water draining even when the gutter is packed. It features a unique fastening



method that allows the homeowner to remove and clean out the entire downspout assembly while standing on solid ground. The four-piece product costs \$30 (downspout not included).

The SpoutOff Co., 866/289-1442, spoutoffpro.com.