

BY LAUREN SHANESY



1. Water Tank Replacement Simplified

The EZTR40 condensing tankless water heater from Noritz America is designed to replace existing 40-gallon tank-type water heaters. Installers don't need to change out the vent, as the heater vents with 2-inch, flexible polypropylene tubing that can be threaded directly through an existing B-Vent. The EZTR40 also uses the same half-inch gas line used by existing tank units. The heater has a 12-year warranty, and while the pricing varies, the company says the product costs less than \$2,500. noritz.com

2. New PVC Exterior Trim

Wolf Trimboards are made from high-cell-density PVC that the company says will not absorb moisture and keeps the boards from swelling, rotting, splitting, cupping, or delaminating when exposed to the elements. The trim can be routed, mitered, and heat-formed, and can be cut, drilled, nailed, and glued with regular tools. It is available in smooth-matte or wood-grain finishes, or can be painted for a customized look. Pricing available only through distributors. wolfhomeproducts.com

3. Weather-Resistant Sliding Glass Wall

NanaWall Systems' new ClimaClear glass wall is a frameless individual-panel sliding system designed for large openings. To seal the entire wall from wind-driven rain and reduce air infiltration, the system uses transparent vertical weather seals between the panels, male-female panel interlocks and double fin brush seals at the top and bottom rails, and an ADA-compliant water-drainage system with a recessed saddle sill with adjustable floor sockets. Pricing is not yet available. nanawall.com

4. Wider Pocket Door Frame

Johnson Hardware's new 1562 Series Commercial Grade Bypass Pocket Door Frame offers twice as much width as the company's standard pocket doors, creating a wider room divider using a single wall recess. The frame is designed to support two solid-core bypass doors (up to 200 pounds each) in a standard 2x6 timber-framed or steel-framed stud wall and accommodates doors up to 3 feet wide by 9 feet high by 1³/₈ inches thick. A 36-by-108-inch kit costs about \$350. johnsonhardware.com

Products

5. Smarter Shims

SmartWedge shims are 100% polyethylene plastic, making them a practically indestructible product for installing doors and windows, for framing, and for deck building. Unlike wood shims, they are moisture-resistant and won't swell, compress, or decay, and they will not split when fastened by nails or screws. The teeth on their faces interlock to hold them securely at the thickness you set. The standard shims are 8 inches long and 1⁵/₈ inches wide, but shims are also available in a range of widths and lengths. Prices start around \$10 for a 30-pack. calculated.com

6. Bringing the Heat Outdoors

Homeowners don't have to stop enjoying outdoor living when it gets cold outside. Infratech's slim infrared heaters range from 1,500 to 4,000 watts of coverage; can be wall-, ceiling-, or flush-mounted to blend into outdoor areas; and come in a number of different models—with single- or dual-element heat zones and six color options. Custom colors are available to match existing décor. The company claims the heaters produce zero gas emissions. Installation and product costs may vary, but the company says the standard entry costs are around \$2,200. infratech-usa.com

7. Sharper Drywall Corners

Trim-Tex's Angle Master is a 3.25-inch-wide flexible vinyl trim that's designed to fit any angled corner. The company claims that the material won't mold and that it holds its shape for a corner finish, eliminating waves, blisters, cracking, or fuzz. The trim is simply pressed into place and uses the company's "Mud Lock," which consists of microscopic hooks that increase the total surface area of the trim for a stronger bond. A 100-foot roll costs \$35. trim-tex.com

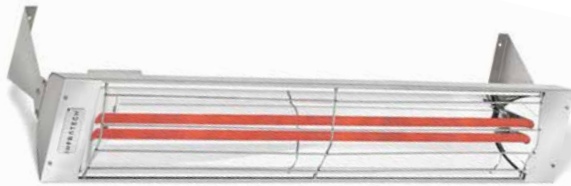
8. All-in-One Sound and Thermal Floor Barrier

The Ditra-Heat-Duo provides a floor-warming and sound-control system in one single-layer underlayment system. Schluter says that the membrane is ideal for ceramic and stone tile installations, especially in multifamily buildings, and that it increases the impact insulation class of a concrete slab floor, reduces impact sound transmission, supports heavy floor coverings, and warms tiled floors faster over concrete substrates by directing heat to the tile, not to the subfloor. The flooring membrane is priced at \$3.47 per square foot. schluter.com

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Products

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9. Pop-Up Drainage Emitter

Pop-up drainage emitters from NDS provide an outlet for water that's captured by grates, catch basins, channel drains, and gutters, and directed away from structural foundations through drainage pipe. The emitter is designed to open under minimal hydrostatic pressure from water in upstream drainage pipes and close as flow diminishes. During dry weather, it's closed, blending discreetly into the surrounding landscape and keeping debris and rodents from entering drain pipes. Pricing varies by size; a 3-inch pop-up emitter with elbow costs about \$22 online. ndspro.com

10. Smart, Green Thermostat

The Ecobee4 smart WiFi thermostat model relies on a remote room temperature sensor with motion detection to sense when homeowners are home or away. The system can reportedly adjust temperatures accordingly and manage hot and cold spots in the home. The company says the Energy Star-certified product saves heating and cooling costs. The model comes with a built-in Amazon Alexa speaker for voice activation; homeowners can also control the thermostat through a smartphone app. The thermostat retails for \$250. ecobee.com

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11. WiFi-Enabled Dishwasher

Bosch's redesigned dishwashers feature a third rack for extra loading capacity, "EasyGlide" wheels for smooth operation of the racks, tines that can fold or stand up depending on what's being loaded into the dishwasher, an ExtraDry setting with higher water temperatures, and a Speed60 cycle for a quick wash. The dishwasher, along with other kitchen appliances from the brand, will be equipped with the company's Home Connect system, which allows homeowners to remotely control appliances through a smartphone app. Pricing begins at \$750. bosch-home.com/us/

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12. Built-in Cabinet Lighting

In response to the growing popularity of integrating LED lights in kitchens, Wood-Mode has launched a custom lighting program in collaboration with Häfele LED solutions. Through a three-step process, the program assists designers with planning, selecting, and configuring designs for LED lighting and its wire management, drivers, and switches. The program focuses on seven lighting applications, including interior drawers, under cabinets, and interior cabinets. Pricing varies by cabinet configuration. wood-mode.com