

1. Color Variety for Vinyl Windows and Doors

Nine new exterior colors have been added to Pella's 250 Series and 350 Series vinyl windows and patio doors. DuraColor tan, poplar white, fossil, Hartford green, morning sky gray, black, brick red, and portobello are available in addition to the existing color options. Every color selection consists of a white interior and colored exterior, except white and almond, which are available for both interior and exterior surfaces. Pella says its paint process provides fade resistance in any climate. A double-hung window starts at \$425. pella.com

2. An Innovative Fence-Post Solution

The PGT20Z Pipe Grip Tie by Simpson Strong-Tie is a metal bracket for attaching wood rails to metal fence posts. Interior embossing snaps the tie into position on a metal post, facilitating installation. The PGT20Z fits pipes with an outside diameter of 2 3/8 inches, and at 4 3/4 inches wide, can be easily hidden behind a 1-by wood box frame. The tie is ZMAX hot-dip galvanized and is installed with SDS heavy-duty connector screws (sold separately). The PGT20Z is available for \$2. strongtie.com

3. High-Performance Gasket Technology

Dow Building Solutions' Great Stuff Pro Gasket is a water-based, low-VOC foam that forms a gasket between drywall and framing to improve air-sealing performance. The one-component foam is compressible when cured, allowing for a flat wall plane. The flexible foam beads applied to the face of framing lumber remain in place during drywall installation. It can be cleaned up with water. Pricing starts at \$16 per can. dow-dupont.com

4. A Trowelable Air-Barrier Membrane

The StoGuard Gold Coat TA is the newest addition to Sto Corp's StoGuard air and moisture barrier product suite. The fluid-applied vapor-permeable membrane integrates with continuous insulation systems and can be troweled directly onto vertical, above-grade wall sheathing and concrete masonry. The company says the treatment minimizes the risk of water damage and condensation, eliminates the problem of air leakage between an air barrier and sheathing, and remains stable under air pressure or wind loads. StoGuard Gold Coat TA is low-VOC and safe for both interior and exterior use. Pricing varies. stocorp.com



BY KATHLEEN BROWN



5. Color-Adjustable Lighting

WAC Lighting's new Duo AC-LED Color Option Light Bar offers 100% to 10% smooth and continuous electronic low voltage or triac dimming. The 120VAC light bar features adjustable color temperature as well as an efficient reflector that creates evenly distributed LED output with minimal glare, the company says, making it a good choice for sensitive display spaces. The Energy Star-rated Light Bar is available in five sizes and three finishes at retail prices ranging from \$81 to \$153. waclighting.com



6. A Durable Countertop Surface

With the addition of the Eternal collection to its Silestone quartz countertop offerings, Cosentino launched Silestone N-Boost across its surface line earlier this year. The company says Silestone N-Boost modifies the material's surface at a molecular level, making it nonporous, more durable, and easier to clean and maintain, while enhancing the brightness and color intensity of the finish. The company also says the surface is water- and stain-repellent as well as resistant to scratches and impact. Pricing varies. silestoneusa.com



7. A Sleek 'Floating Handle' Faucet

California Faucets' newest addition to the Morro Bay series is a single-hole lavatory faucet with an ultra-thin handle that operates independently of the faucet body, appearing to hover just above it. The width of the "floating" handle matches that of the thin spout below for a balanced and streamlined look. The faucet is made of solid brass and is available in 5⁵/₁₆-inch and 11⁹/₁₆-inch heights. Prices range from \$530 to about \$1,100, depending on finish selection. calfaucets.com



8. An Ergonomic Kitchen Appliance Lift

Hardware Resources' Soft-Close Mixer/Appliance Lift not only allows bulky kitchen appliances like stand mixers, blenders, and food processors to be stored out of sight when they're not needed, it also provides mechanical assistance to raise them to counter height for use. The chrome-finished system is compatible with frameless or face-frame cabinetry and attaches to a shelf that is at least 3/4 inch thick and less than 20 1/2 inches long. The spring-loaded lift can support up to 45 pounds and locks in place just below counter level. It costs \$150. hardwareresources.com

Products

9. Custom Floor Heating Mats

WarmlyYours Radiant Heating recently updated its TempZone Custom Mat product line, making it more durable during installation. Heating elements, which used to be attached to a single layer of fabric, are now sandwiched between two layers. Designed for use under many commonly heated flooring types, including tile and marble, TempZone Custom Mats are now available in up to 20-foot lengths and in a minimum of 1-inch dimensional increments. Mats range from \$15 to \$20 per square foot. warmlyyours.com

10. Wood-Grain Finishes for Garage Doors

Overhead Door recently expanded its Thermacore Collection of insulated garage doors to include three new bi-directional wood-grain finishes—Mission oak, walnut, and golden oak. The embossed wood-grain textures offer a low-maintenance alternative to traditional stained wood and are available for Thermacore 494, 496, and 497 models. Vertical and horizontal window options, as well as decorative handles and hinges, are available. An 8x7 door costs between approximately \$1,500 and \$1,700, installed. overheaddoor.com

11. Composite Siding With a Wood Look

Featuring a natural texture molded from cedar planks, CertainTeed's new Icon siding panels are lighter and more flexible than fiber cement or wood, says the company. Engineered for moisture resistance, Icon's thermoset polyurethane composite (which includes fly ash, glass fiber, and quartz) minimally expands and contracts, so panels can be butted tightly together, CertainTeed says. The panels' "Stack Lock" design helps ensure they are aligned properly and hung securely. Icon siding comes in 12- and 16-foot lengths, primed and ready to paint, and is sold to contractors for approximately \$230 per 100 square feet. certainteed.com

12. Cling Wrap for Your Boots

Pull-on booties have long been the go-to choice for protecting finished floor surfaces and keeping dirt out. Trimaco now has a hands-free version of wearable floor protection: When you step in and out of the E-Z Guard dispenser, a sheet of clear film is placed on the sole of your boot. The wearable film reportedly sticks to wet soles and is recyclable. A starter kit with dispenser and film for 250 pairs of shoe covers sells for about around \$110; refill rolls run about \$26 each. www.ezfloorguards.com

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