

BY LAUREN SHANESY



2



3



4



1. Easy-to-Install Rafter Hanger

Simpson Strong-Tie is making roof framing easier with the LSSJ field-adjustable jack-rafter hanger, which has a hinged seat that adjusts to typical rafter slopes and connects rafters to hip or valley beams. The gripper seat frees up a hand for the installer at the time of attachment, and the hanger attaches to the open side of the jack rafter for easier fastener placement. The LSSJ is sold in two versions and is available in three sizes. Pricing varies. strongtie.com/lssj

2. High-Performance and Sustainable Siding

Boral TruExterior's 8- and 10-inch Bevel Siding is made from 70% recycled content and a blend of polymers and fly ash. The material offers reduced expansion and contraction and resists warping, cracking, and splitting. In the field, the siding requires no sealing of ends or cuts and installs with standard woodworking tools. The bevel profile resembles wood, with a true taper and deep shadow lines. Pricing varies by size from \$3 to \$4.50 per square foot. boraltruexterior.com

3. The First Auto-Calibrated Level

Ready to measure as soon as they're powered on, the e105 Series True Blue Digital Box Levels from Empire Level are the first auto-calibrated digital levels on the market. The levels, which are available in magnetic and nonmagnetic models, have seven measuring display modes, an audio indicator that outputs a continuous tone when in level, a hold function that allows the user to lock measurements, a top-read digital display, and a tilt indicator. The levels range in price from \$100 to \$200, depending on the model. empirelevel.com/digital-levels

4. A New Type of Flooring Material

Armstrong Flooring has released a new flooring material that it says is waterproof and dent-proof. Pryzm is constructed from a thermal plastic core and a cork pad with a durable AC4 commercial-grade layer on top to protect from scratches, spills, stains, fading, scrapes, and dents caused by the weight of appliances. The planks lock together for easy installation and require no acclimation time, and they come in 48-inch lengths, allowing for installation in large areas without the need for transition strips. The flooring costs approximately \$5 to \$6 per square foot. armstrongflooring.com

Products

5. A Smart Touch-Screen Thermostat

The new Champion touch-screen residential thermostat from Johnson Controls is a smart system that communicates with both conventional and connected Champion HVAC systems. Homeowners can control the system through the touch-screen hub or on a smartphone app. A quick-heat and quick-cool feature for short-term, high-capacity heating or cooling helps the system reach set points more quickly and is optimized to provide Energy Star Most Efficient performance. When maintenance is required, the thermostat sends alerts to the homeowner and can also connect homeowners directly with contractors through the app. Pricing is currently unavailable. championhomecomfort.com/lxseries

5



6. Air Sealant for the Smallest Gaps

Tytan Fill All insulating foam sealant from Selena USA fills both small and large gaps—from 1/4 inch to 3 inches—eliminating the need to have multiple gap-specific products on hand. The sealant has less shrinkage than other products, offers a higher yield, and keeps its seal regardless of temperature, climate, and construction changes, according to the company. It may be cut after 60 minutes, cures in six hours, and is fully cured in 24 hours. A 12-ounce can is priced at \$5. tytan.com

6



7



7. A Shower With Increased Accessibility

Bestbath's 60-inch-by-60-inch universal design shower provides increased accessibility for users who have less mobility. The multipiece shower installs with Bestbath's new SpringClip wall system, which the company says offers faster and easier installation. The 90-degree corners create a watertight connection, and the wood-backed walls allow grab bars to be installed at a later date. The shower is available in eight configurations, including a two-wall corner shower. Price is \$4,300. bestbath.com

8



8. A Wi-Fi-Enabled Smoke and CO Alarm

The Onelink by First Alert from BRK Brands is a two-in-one alarm system equipped with both photoelectric and electrochemical sensors to detect smoke and carbon monoxide. The smart system can alert homeowners via a smartphone app as well as with an audible voice alarm, and it can contact help directly through the app when an alarm notification is received. It's also compatible with non-Wi-Fi interconnected hardwired alarms. Pricing is unavailable. brkelectronics.com

9



9. A Kitchen Range Hood for Small Spaces

Part of a new line of appliances designed for small kitchens, the 24-inch Slanted Chimney Vent from Haier is a high-powered kitchen range hood with a small footprint. The vent features a 450-cfm motor with four speeds and a recirculating option to remove smoke and grease. The three-layer grease filter can be easily removed and is washable. The hood also has two halogen lamps and electronic touch controls. It comes in a black glass finish and retails for \$600. haieramerica.com

10



10. A Push-to-Connect PEX Plumbing System

SharkBite Plumbing has introduced a PEX pipe plumbing system that's designed to fit a variety of fittings, PEX pipe, outlet boxes, valves, and other accessories without the need for special tools, reducing installation time. The EvoPEX pieces are made from Acudel high-performance polymer and feature a green visual indicator to ensure that the fitting is properly connected. The system is safe to use on pipes with drinking water. Pricing varies. sharkbite.com

11



12



11. Revamped Cement-Board Screws

ITW Buildex has updated its Backer-On and Rock-On cement-board screws with a new serrated head for flush seating, even at angles, and for eliminating mushrooming and reducing board blow-out, according to the manufacturer. With serrated thread forms, these new screws need less torque, for faster installation and increased holding power. The screws also feature T-25 star drive with "Stik-fit," which the company says allows for one-handed operation with no wear on the bit. The screws are coated in a corrosion-resistant finish. Pricing ranges from approximately \$7 to \$26, depending on screw size and quantity. itwbuildex.com

12. A Heavy-Duty Drainable Housewrap

Typar's Drainable Wrap has an integrated drainage plane that uses a layer of multidirectional polypropylene fibers to divert water from exterior wall cavities and drain it away from the assembly, allowing the system to divert more bulk water than traditional housewraps, according to the company. The wrap protects against damage, such as mold and rot, caused by trapped water and meets current code requirements per ASTM E2273. The integrated system reduces labor, because it can be installed without strips and extra pieces. Pricing varies. typar.com