

BY VINCENT SALANDRO



### 1. Ladder Safety Enhancement

Mounted to any roof pitch or mounted vertically, the Ladder Safety Rest helps protect shingles and gutters from damage typically associated with ladder use. The device is secured to a roof with a plate held by four screws; the ladder is then held in place between the two hand grips with a safety chain tested for strength and durability to prevent shifting or slipping. Ladder Safety Rests are available for \$300 on the manufacturer's website. [laddersafetyrest.com](http://laddersafetyrest.com)

### 2. Condensing Tankless Water Heater

The Navien NPE-2 series condensing tankless water heaters feature a turndown ratio up to 15:1 and multi-line control with built-in software. They also offer increased 2-inch PVC venting length up to 75 feet, a vent installation detector, expanded cascade capability, and expanded common venting capability. Like the heaters in the NPE series, these heaters have dual stainless steel heat exchangers and 1/2-inch gas-pipe capability up to 24 feet. The NPE-2 series is available in four standard models (NPE-S2) and three advanced models (NPE-A2). Contact a distributor for pricing information. [navieninc.com](http://navieninc.com)



### 3. High Performance Antimicrobial Coating

ICP Building Solutions Group reformulated its mold-resistant and fungicidal coatings line, Fiberlock IAQ 6000 Mold Resistant Coating. According to ICP, the coating, which is made with a zinc complex of active ingredients, delivers high levels of antimicrobial performance with a single coat, is ultra-low VOC and low odor, and satisfies California's Proposition 65 criteria. It can be used on a range of materials, including wood, plaster, drywall, concrete, masonry, and primed metal. Pricing varies by vendor in the \$300 range for 5 gallons. [fiberlock.com](http://fiberlock.com)



### 4. Custom Mosaic Tile Surfaces

Artaic's Quad Collection mosaic tiles provide homeowners with a wide variety of color and pattern options. According to Artaic, the tiles do not peel or fade in the sun and have a life span of 75 years. Artaic also says the tiles are easy to clean and have low carbon footprints. They come in standard 12-inch-square sheets; pricing starts at \$19 per square foot. [artaic.com](http://artaic.com)

## Products

### 5. Installation Support Tool

Designed to ease the installation of kitchen cabinets, drywall ceilings, and tub surrounds, the T-Jak support tool can support objects weighing up to 400 pounds. A quick-release knob engages the tool's threaded rod to lock it into place; twisting the knob allows users to fine-tune the height from 53 inches to 84 inches. The Original Cabinet Jack costs \$126 on the company's website; 1-, 2-, and 3-foot extensions are sold separately, starting at \$26. [tjak.com](http://tjak.com)

### 6. High-Tech, PM-Monitoring IAQ

The View Plus IAQ Monitor from Airthings includes sensors for monitoring particulate matter (PM), radon, carbon dioxide, humidity, airborne chemicals, temperature, air pressure, and outdoor air quality. The monitor provides users with continuous access to data and notifications about changes in air quality. The View Plus adapts to its surroundings, displaying the most relevant data based on its location, according to Airthings. Users can also customize it to prioritize the air quality data that is most important to them. The View Plus, available for pre-order for \$300, can be integrated into an existing smart home system. [airthings.com](http://airthings.com)

### 7. Optimal Drain Protection

Oatey's updated Drain Seal promises to block unwanted odors, sewer gases, and insects from entering a home through a drain. The product is engineered with a drainage system that prevents water from evaporating in the P-trap and allows for continuous water flow, which inhibits ponding or pooling around a drain, according to Oatey. The non-chemical product requires no special tools for installation and is available in 2- or 3-inch sizes for approximately \$30. [oatey.com](http://oatey.com)

### 8. Hands-Free Kitchen Faucets

Speakman added three touchless kitchen faucets to its portfolio, including the Neo Sensor Spring Kitchen Faucet (pictured). The faucets are activated when users hold dishes or hands in front of a sensor, and built-in technology stops water flow after two minutes. The brass faucets are ADA compliant and offer single-hole drop-in installation in decks up to 2<sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches thick. Faucets are available in up to four finishes (chrome, brushed brass, stainless steel, and matte black); pricing ranges from \$290 to \$415, depending on style and finish. [speakman.com](http://speakman.com)



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### 9. Mineral-Based Composite Cladding

Deckorators' mineral-based composite (MBC) decking is now approved for use as cladding in horizontal, vertical, and angled applications. The decking is 35% lighter than traditional composites and similar in weight to PVC, Deckorators says. MBC is composed of a mix of polypropylene and calcium carbonate to prevent moisture absorption and minimize thermal movement. Decking widths of 3 1/2 inches, 5 1/2 inches, and 7 1/2 inches can be installed as cladding in 12-, 16-, and 20-foot lengths. Pricing starts at \$3.25 to \$4.75 per linear foot for 5 1/2-inch boards in the four MBC collections. [deckorators.com](http://deckorators.com)



### 10. Vapor Permeable Flashing Tape

Huber Engineered Woods added Vapor Permeable (VP) Tape, designed for use in panel seam sealing and flashing applications, to the Zip System line. The tape has an acrylic adhesive and offers a higher permeance (3 perms) than standard Zip System flashing tape (less than 1 perm) to fit the requirements of particular environments and high-performance assemblies. According to the manufacturer, Zip System panels sealed with VP Tape create a weather-resistant barrier and a rigid air barrier. VP tape is sold in 3 3/4-inch-by-90-inch rolls at lumberyards and on Amazon. [ziprevolution.com](http://ziprevolution.com)



### 11. Premium Architectural Asphalt Shingles

TAMKO Building Products introduced Titan XT (pictured) and StormFighter IR shingles as part of its Heritage Proline series. The shingles feature an expanded nailing zone, sealants designed to be sticky even in cooler climates, and a top weathering layer that increases the thickness of the shingle. The shingles also have a poly-fabric reinforcement that the manufacturer claims delivers enhanced wind performance. Pricing varies by region. [tamko.com](http://tamko.com)



### 12. Whole-House, Two-Stage Filtration System

Fantech says its Hero HS300 whole-house HEPA filtration unit removes up to 99.97% of particles 0.3 microns and larger from the air circulating within a home. The unit has two-stage filtration—a pre-filter with carbon and a HEPA filter—to remove pollutants, allergens, odors, and viruses, according to Fantech. It can be installed on the return air plenum of a forced air system or as part of a stand-alone ventilation system. Suggested retail price is \$570. [fantech.net](http://fantech.net)