

BY CHARLES WARDELL



Independent Sash Locks

Each sash on the Next Generation Ultimate Double Hung locks directly to the jamb, so one can be opened while the other stays in place. Sashes are controlled via a single sweep mechanism and tilt in for easy cleaning. A vent mode lets the user lock the bottom sash open. A 3-by-5-foot pine unit with exterior aluminum cladding should be about \$725. Marvin, 800.328.0268, marvin.com



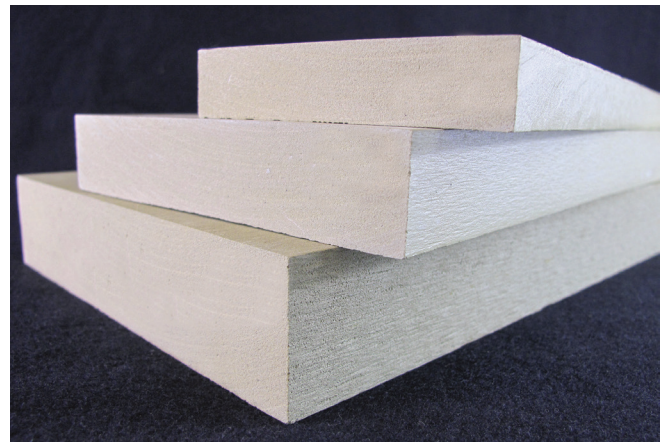
Bath to Shower

Kohler's Bellwether Shower Receptor is a cast iron base that's available in six colors and two sizes. The one-piece base includes a 4-inch stepover threshold and a choice of a centered or an offset drain. A drain cover—available in aluminum or plastic—is easily removed for cleaning. Cost: \$775 for the Receptor; \$115 for the drain cover. Kohler, 800.456.4537, kohler.com



Power Saver

The EdgeHome system displays electricity use for individual electronic devices. The system includes a touchpad that lets buyers see and control every individual load, thanks to controllers placed behind each outlet and switch box. Cost: \$1.50 to \$2 per square foot of floor space. Green Edge Technologies, 858.799.0360, edgehome.com



Thick Composite

Boral's TruExterior Trim now comes in a 1 1/2-inch thickness. Made from PolyAsh, it has a claimed expansion rate of just one-third that of PVC and is compatible with silicone or acrylic caulking. The material is approved for ground contact, and screws can be driven flush into the surface without mushrooming. Boral Composites, 800.926.7259, boraltruexterior.com

Products



Lock & Rock

Armstrong's QuikStix pre-engineered drywall grid system uses two types of studs: a 1½-inch-deep T-shaped stud for basement perimeters or soffits around ductwork, and a nominal 2x4 H-stud for interior partitions. Tracks are notched every 8 inches, so the studs can simply be snapped into place. The manufacturer claims that the system cuts framing time in half. Armstrong, 877.276.7876, armstrong.com



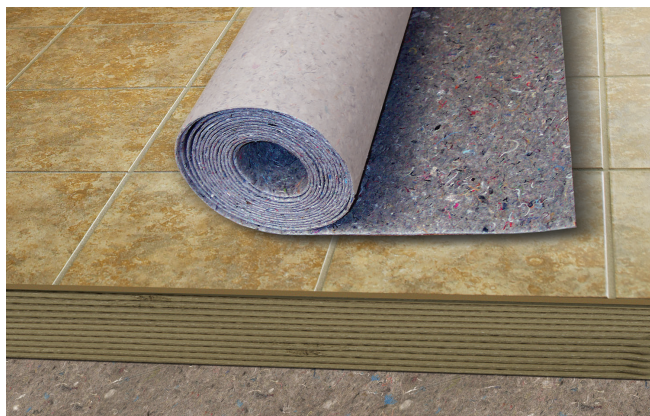
Easy Epoxy

Quikrete's water-based Epoxy Garage Floor Coating comes in a 5-gallon pail with all you need: two-part epoxy; Cleaner, Etcher & Degreaser; and decorative flakes. The coating can be applied as soon as the epoxy has been mixed (assuming the concrete has been cleaned). Available in gray and tan, one kit will do a one-car garage, or 250 to 300 square feet. Cost: about 28 cents per square foot. Quikrete, 800.282.5828, quikrete.com



Plumb & Play

Made for homes with less than 3,000 square feet of floor area, the Warmsource Total Warmth System stuffs all the manifolds and controls into a little tank on top of the main storage tank. Cost: about \$9 per square foot of floor area (includes hydronic unit, tubing, and manufacturer's radiant panel underlayment). The system's X10 thermostats eliminate the need for low-voltage wiring. WarmBoard, 877.338.5493, warmboard.com



Floor Muffer

For use under ceramic, porcelain, or stone floor tile, UltraLayer is a 0.1-inch-thick sound-deadening underlayment that comes in 3 foot by 33.4 foot (100 square feet) rolls. To install, glue it to the subfloor using thinset mortar, roll it into place, then lay the tile over it using latex Portland cement mortar. Tile must be a minimum of 8 by 8 inches. Cost: \$90 to \$100 per roll. MP Global Products, 888.379.9695, quietwalk.com

Products



Clean Comfort

The Avalanche CT toilet's contemporary styling includes smooth sides with no nooks or crannies to capture dirt and debris. A high-efficiency model, the toilet operates at 1.28 gallons per flush and is WaterSense approved for efficiency and performance. ADA-compliant for height, the one-piece design features an elongated bowl as well. MSRP: \$560. Gerber, 886.538.5536, gerberonline.com



Stealth Furnace

The crushed glass floor on Fireplace Xtrordinair's 4415 High Output Linear Gas Fireplace makes for sparkling aesthetics. The fireplace heats up to 2,100 square feet of space and warms other rooms via an optional Power Heat Duct Kit. A smart temp mode provides a consistent flame, while the exhaust can run 18 feet horizontally without power venting. Cost for the configuration shown is \$4,406. Travis Industries, 800.654.1177, fireplacex.com



Attic Cooler

Huber's Radiant Barrier roof sheathing is a basic Zip System sheathing panel with a barrier on the underside that reflects radiant heat. The Department of Energy estimates that radiant barriers can reduce cooling costs by as much as 10% in warm, sunny climates. Approximate cost for a 4x8 panel should be around \$19 for the 7/16 thickness and \$22 for the 1/2-inch. Huber Engineered Woods, 800.933.9220, zipsystem.com



Fire-Resistant Lightweight

Made from 99% recycled material, Easi-Lite 30 gypsum board combines reduced weight with fire resistance. Up to 30% lighter than standard 5/8-inch Type X board, Easi-Lite 30 features a specially formulated core and is UL listed for use in 30-minute single-layer wood and steel-framed wall assemblies. Retail price per sheet should range from \$9.50 to \$12.50, depending on region. CertainTeed, 800.233.8990, certainteed.com