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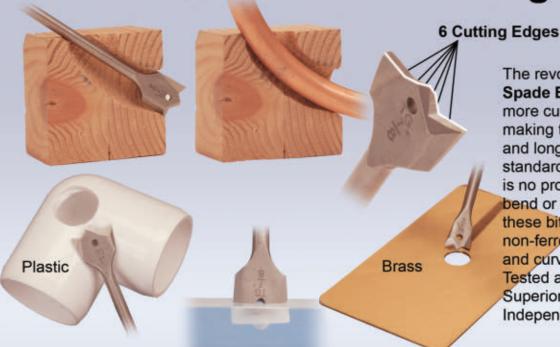








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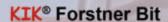
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FEATURES

24 Granite Guidelines for Home Improvement

Tackle the small jobs, but leave the big ones for the pros.

34 Preview of the International Builders' Show

48 Shower Power: Build a Wood Shower Surround

Wood in the shower instead of tile. We show you how.

EVERY ISSUE

- **6** From the Editor
- **79** Advertisers Index

COLUMNS

- 8 Q&A
- 12 Project Next
 Get the Kitchen of Your
 Dreams by Building the
 Perfect Cabinet

DEPARTMENTS

62 Do-It-Yourself

How to Repaint a Metal Roof

74 Spotlight

Install a Whole-House Water Filter

76 Hot Products



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From The Editor-In-Chief

hat if your roof did more than protect your house from the elements? What if it generated electricity for the home? That's the idea behind the new solar roofing options recently unveiled by Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk. The solar roofing comes in four styles including "Textured Glass Tile," "Slate Glass Tile," "Tuscan Glass Tile" and "Smooth Glass Tile." Each of these options resemble a current roofing style but are made up of quartz glass tiles that are embedded with solar cells. In other words, the new solar products actually look like roofs rather than the noticeably clunky aftermarket solar panels seen on many roofs today. According to Musk, Tesla's solar roofing generates enough energy to fully power a household, with the power designed to be stored in the company's Powerwall 2.0 battery units so homeowners can keep a reserve of backup energy.

As far as cost, Tesla's roof reportedly will cost less than the full cost of a roof, although the company declined to provide specifics on pricing, since it will depend on a number of factors such as installation specifics. The solar roof product should start to see installations by summer, however, so time will soon tell what homeowners can expect regarding initial cost and long-term performance.

Coming from a company with such a stellar reputation for developing cutting-edge technologies, the new Tesla solar roofs present an exciting new development in home-improvement innovation. You'll also find a preview of many more modern technologies for home construction in *Extreme How-To's* preview of the International Builders' Show found in this issue. We offer a sneak peek at the products soon to be on display at the largest residential construction convention of 2017, where many building trends will be set for the year to follow.



Also in this issue, see how the pros install a granite countertop, how contractor Mark Clement built a wood-paneled shower, how DIY'er Clint Johnson painted his metal roof, and how you can design a perfect kitchen cabinet.

Thanks for reading,



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S. A Got-

Questions About Home Building, Remodeling? Have Your Own How-To Tip? Visit our blog at **blog.extremehowto.com** and click on Ask Our Experts.

• I saw a photo online of what looked like interior wooden curtains that slid together on an overhead track to cover a window. How is this accomplished?

• The wood curtains were probably mounted using rolling door hardware. An interior rolling "barn door"
• can add to the décor and also make efficient use of available space. Companies such as Custom Service

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Hardware offer rolling barn door hardware kits, which consist of a guide track that is mounted above an entryway (or window) and wheeled hardware from which the door (or wood "curtains") hang. Once installed, the door or curtains can roll from side to side along the overhead track.

• Is there any easier method of extracting a broken fence post than digging up the entire concrete base?

• After removing the fence rails from each side, loosen the post and footing by rocking it from side to side. Dig out some of the dirt around the post and lean it back and forth. If it's too heavy or firmly embedded in concrete to remove, you can extract it by using a car jack. First, nail or screw a foot-long 2x4 block to the post about 18 inches from the bottom. This will be your lifting point. Nail a 2x6 crosswise to the post directly beneath the block, forming a "t" shape. Rest one end of the 2x6 on the car jack and the other on concrete blocks. Raise the jack to lever the 2x6 and lift the post up by the 2x4 block.



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8. △ Gotz

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Why is it necessary to wait a few weeks before staining a new pressure-treated deck?

• Treatment with waterborne preservatives leaves moisture in the wood that can impede penetration • and drying of stains and paints. In fact, a freshly treated piece of lumber might contain as much as 2

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to 4 gallons of water per cubic foot. For the best performance of paint and stain coatings, the wood needs to dry prior to stain/sealer application. Typically, treated wood will be ready for finishing 60 days after installation, but estimating exactly how long to wait is difficult because it depends on the time elapsed since pressure treatment, sun exposure, local temperature and recent weather conditions.

• What is the best type of screen material for a screened porch?

• Fiberglass and aluminum are the two main choices for a screen porch material. The holes in both types of screens are small enough to keep insects out. Some builders believe fiberglass is a better choice for most projects (the exception being when you want to match a pre-existing aluminum screen). Fiberglass screen doesn't rust or stain and is more flexible than aluminum screens. Fiberglass doesn't rip or scratch as easily as aluminum and has far more color choices and styles than aluminum. However, other builders still prefer aluminum screen's proven long-term resistance to sagging. For aluminum screens, charcoal or black are the most popular choices because they appear almost invisible from the inside while reducing the glare associated with silver aluminum. EHT



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The Oak 70.XTRA is an adjustable premier series spiral staircase that features solid Oak wooden stair treads and landing to complement and add style to any interior living space. Surrounding the full length of the staircase, the horizontal balusters and railing design is visually unique when compared to the traditional vertical baluster design of most stairs. The staircase can be easily installed by the homeowner in a single day using common household tools. The Oak 70.XTRA is available in 2 diameter sizes and is available in 2 choices of color...Hi-Gloss Black and Hi-Gloss White.

- Standard kit includes 12 oak wood stair treads, a landing, a complete handrail, and all necessary hardware and connectors.
- Diameters available include a 5 ft. 3 in. model and a 4 ft. 3 in. model.
- The height range for the standard kit is adjustable from 8 ft. 3 in. to 10 ft. 2 7/8 in. and with additional components, can be installed to a maximum height of 11 ft. 9 5/16 in.
- Powder coat finished painted in either Hi-Gloss Black or Hi-Gloss White.
- Can be installed in a clockwise or counterclockwise rotation.
- · Stair treads and landing are made of solid Oak wood with a natural stain and a polyurethane protective coating.
- Balcony rail kits are available in matching color and horizontal baluster and railing design.
- Handrail is manufactured from an aluminum core surrounded by a soft PVC cover to allow the handrail to be curved at the time of installation to accommodate the radius of the staircase.
- Rise between stair treads is adjustable from 8 3/8 in. to 9 1/4 in.
- Interior installation only.
- A complete installation guide is included in all kits and an installation video is available upon request.
- · Homeowner should consult with local building department concerning building codes prior to purchase.



DIY Cabinet Design

Get the Kitchen of Your Dreams by Building the Perfect Cabinet



By Linda Parker

ne of the best ways to revamp your kitchen is to give the kitchen cabinet a makeover or to install brand new cabinets. Even though building kitchen cabinets is not a very complicated task, the project would definitely require some basic knowledge of woodwork. For even the most experienced carpenter, the task of cabinet construction can be a daunting one. Making kitchen cabinets is essentially a repetitive process of creating a box shape. However, creating matching door and drawer fronts can make the job more complicated.

The process can be broken down into four basic steps:

- Assemble the cabinet base, except the front, using heavy plywood. Add shelves to the inside using glue and fasteners. Available fasteners for cabinet construction include nails, pocket screws, dowels and other options.
- Attach face-frames made of solid or paint-grade wood to the base. Place the base on its back, position the cabinet doors over the face-frames, and mark the hinge locations.
- Attach hinges, handles or drawer pulls to the cabinet doors, drawers and base.

• Install the cabinet into the wall using appropriate screws and/or mounting hardware.

If you are designing and building kitchen cabinets for the first time, it may be a good idea to consult a professional for advice on how to handle the more complicated parts of the task. Another option for those wanting to avoid too much woodwork would be to give old kitchen cabinets a makeover to make them as good as new.

Before you begin, it's important to get organized. This means keeping track of your wood materials and various pieces, because once you begin the process everything



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could become hard to keep track of, leading to confusion and misplacement of wood pieces. It's important to label any wood pieces and individual doors you remove according to where they will need to go.

When it comes to construction, safety is the number one priority. This means keeping all your tools in a safe place and easily visible. In carpentry, tools can easily turn deadly, so make sure to maintain an orderly worksite and keep any sharp tools away from children and on steady ground.

CABINET STYLES

Before you begin building or remodeling the kitchen cabinet, you must decide on a style for the cabinets. It's important



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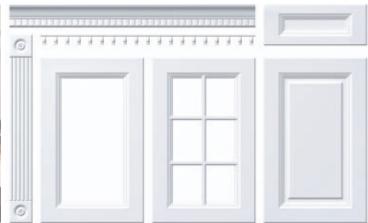


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to ask yourself if you want the kitchen to match the rest of the house or to be different and unique. Three of the most popular categories for cabinet styles are:

- Modern Lacquered wood cabinets in colorful shades.
- Traditional Arched cabinets, recessed panels to give a cozy and more homely feel.
- Vintage For a more oldworld style, give the cabinets some decorative molding and use beaded boards.

KITCHEN CABINET DOORS

The doors are the most visible feature of a kitchen cabinet. This can also be one of the more expensive aspects of a cabinet, but door replacement is still less expensive than a full cabinet replacement. It is the face of the cabinet so it's

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important to know the various styles available in the market.

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five-piece flat-panel style door. The shaker furniture style is known for it's use of clean lines with an emphasis on utility. If you don't use a very expensive type of wood, this style can be cost-effective and using a natural finish instead of paint can also save you a lot.

LOUVERED



These cabinet doors have slats with space in between them, making them great for spaces that require ventilation. This style looks very stylish in a kitchen but is also on the more expensive end of the spectrum.

FLAT

Made with hard lines and with no frills, this is a simple, stylish and cost-effective option. Use laminate for extra cost cutting.

INSET

This is a pricey option but one which will last for generations to come. This type of cabinet door is set inside the cabinet frame and designed with great precision so as to fit perfectly.

DISTRESSED



Great for a vintage-style kitchen, these doors have the corners



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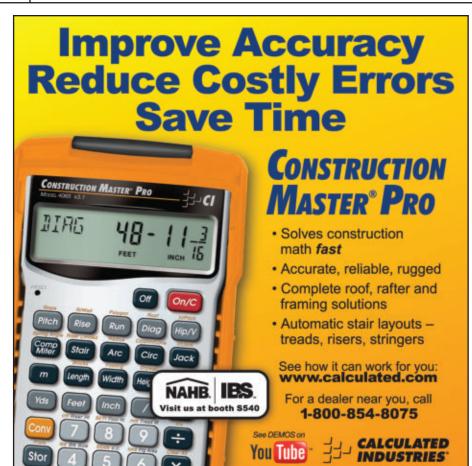
rubbed off or other similar work done on them to give a beautifully worn look.

KITCHEN CABINET COLORS

According to findings by the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA), white, off-white and gray have proven to be the most popular color choices for kitchen cabinets in 2016. The research found that in addition to these simple colors, people also increasingly opt for neutral wall colors.

Interior designer Andrew Howard says gray is the perfect color for the kitchen, whether used on walls or cabinets as it the perfect combination of "elegance and approachability. It's both luxe and everyday practical."





A light blue with hints of gray can look very elegant and more subtle than plain blue. This shade would match very well with white or pale yellow if you want to create a soft atmosphere, with a classic feel.

On the other hand, if you opt to paint everything in white, the walls, the cabinet and the island, consider opting for printed floor tiles along with steel accents. This will give your kitchen a neutral feel, neither modern nor traditional.

A great way to add a pop of color to glass cabinets in the kitchen is to keep the cabinet white, but paint the back wall of the cabinet a bright color. For example, white cabinets with a bright turquoise green will look great and very creative.

KITCHEN CABINET SIZES

The kitchen is a room that needs plenty of future planning.



while more specialized ones could take much longer to deliver.

Whether you plan on revamping your kitchen cabinets yourself or plan to hire someone to do it for you, these tips will help you get a beautiful finished product. Color, design, type of wood and size are the main components that you must be aware of in order to design some beautiful kitchen cabinets to perfectly suit your home. **EHT**

Handles, pulls, knobs and hinges can make a big impact on cabinet décor. A hidden hinge located inside the door completely conceals the hardware from the cabinet front.

This means making the cabinets accessible for years to come and making sure the doorways leading into the kitchen can allow wheelchairs to enter. There should be enough room in the kitchen to move around without bumping into things.

If you are using a manufacturer to install the cabinets, then make sure you ask if the cabinets are made with a certain ceiling height in mind, because most cabinets are made using an 8-foot ceiling as a standard measure. Make sure your cabinet supplier is aware of all measurements in the room, including the height and width of the room as well as the height and width of any windows and window sills.

Remember to ask your supplier if they can produce a computer-generated design of the finished product. Cabinet sizes also have an effect on delivery time. Your cabinet supplier may have some standard cabinet sizes in stock





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GRANITE GUIDE-LINES FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT

By Matt Weber

he *Extreme How-To* staff has fielded a lot of questions about granite countertops over the years. Many people like the natural appearance but ask, "Is this a DIY project?" The simple answer is that it depends on the scope of the project.

For a small end table or kitchen island, a DIY'er can likely do the job, assuming the structure beneath is adequately constructed to support the heavy material. Granite suppliers often have leftover cut-off pieces for sell that can be used for coffee tables or other small pieces of furniture. Reclaimed countertops can occasionally be found at home salvage shops.

DIY'ers should leave installation of large jobs to the professionals due to the specialized equipment required to cut, shape and transport the hard, brittle material. In fact,

many experienced remodeling contractors shy away

from granite countertops because the weight and rigidity of the material requires extreme care to avoid damaging a slab. If a contractor accidentally breaks a customer's slab, they will have to replace it, and eating the cost of that expensive material can erase their profit margin for the job. There is no give in the granite material; to bend it is to break it. This means a DIY'er runs the same (or greater) risk of calamity.

During transport from the supplier to the job site, the pro granite installers will load the slabs onto a truck equipped with special padded racks that isolate and secure the slabs to minimize vibration on the road. Large slabs are extremely heavy, requiring at least two people to load and unload them. Once arrived at the project location, special carts with rubber tires are used to move the slabs around the jobsite.

GRANITE GUIDE-LINES FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT



The granite slabs are transported on special racks that reduce vibration on the road.

Throughout the operation of moving the slabs, countertop specialists might also stabilize the material with strategically placed angle-iron bracing during transport so the slabs don't deflect, which can lead to cracks or beaks. The tricky nature of handling the stone material is why many contractors who don't install granite for a living

leave the big jobs to the experts. (Note: Compare this aspect of granite to solid surface material, where if two people lift a 12-ft. solid surface sheet from each end, it will deflect about 12 to 18 inches.)

This article will show how the pros install a granite countertop, and why you'll be glad you called them.



Once on location, the installers use wheeled carts to move the heavy slabs around the site.

HIGH DEMAND FOR GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

Since the earliest times granite has been used as a building material, and its polished stone surface remains highly popular for countertops. When polished and sealed, it resists staining and is very easy to clean and sanitize, and its extreme hardness means most knives won't scratch it (but it will blunt knives). It makes a hygienic surface for not only countertops but backsplashes, bathroom vanities, even matching sinks and basins. Granite's ability to withstand the outdoor environment also makes it suitable for exterior projects like garden paving, benches and more.

From an aesthetic perspective, this natural stone's quarried origin guarantees its uniqueness. It typically has a coarse, granular and evenly flecked pattern available in many colors, from beige, brown, black and gray to an array of reds, greens and blues. It is considered a luxury material, however, and the effort required to mine it from the ground and manufacture a finished countertop means you can expect to pay a high cost to purchase it.

OUT WITH THE OLD

Once you've made your purchase, the granite installers will arrive with all materials to not only install your new top, but to remove the existing backsplash and countertops as well. This generally requires disconnecting all appliances like the electrical cables of your stovetop and the plumbing connections to you sink basin. The installers will remove these items and set them aside safely for reinstallation later.

The next phase is to remove all fasteners that secure the existing countertop to its cabinet base.

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First step in removing an old countertop is to disconnect all integrated appliances.



In some cases, a countertop may have been fastened to the cabinet base prior to having the finished surface installed.

Although this sounds fairly straightforward, depending on the counter's method of construction, things can get tricky. This particular kitchen was built with laminate countertops that had oak edging. The workers removed all the visible fasteners but the countertops were still stuck in place. After a little exploratory surgery with a scraper and pry bar, they learned that the countertop plywood had been screwed to the base prior to having the laminate installed. This meant there were several areas where the laminate surface had to be peeled away, or the wood

edging had to be pried off, to access the hidden screws and dislodge the top. This job was a full kitchen replacement, which meant four different countertop surfaces had to be removed and replaced.

With all fasteners gone, the countertop should then lift off easily. A number of shims are often left behind attached to the cabinet base. The installers pried these off to begin installation of the granite on the flat, even top of the cabinet base.

INSTALLATION

Each granite slab will have been fabricated to the exact size specified by the work order. It



Pry up the old laminate and remove any screws hidden beneath it.



With all screws removed, the countertop should lift freely off the base.

takes two workers per slab to lift the granite into place. This requires some muscle because the slabs must be carefully laid into position (not dropped) to avoid risk of sudden impact that could crack them or chip a corner.

The largest of the countertops an L-shaped corner counter that housed the sink basin—required two slab sections seamed together at a prefabricated joint.

Once laid into place, the heavy slabs are very difficult to move. The installers use the type of handled suction cups favored by window installers to make slight adjustments to the slabs' lateral position.



Pry off any old wood blocks or shims from the top of the cabinet base.



Carefully set the new granite countertop section in place on the cabinet base.



This L-shaped counter required two sections seamed together.



Note the angle-iron bracing clamped across the length of the countertop to stabilize and reinforce its shape. This is particularly important for the section with the sink cut-out, which has a weakened center area since the granite is missing.

Level the countertop carefully. Use wood shims as needed to make sure the surface reads level from side to side and front to back.

The slabs are held in place by their weight and friction, as well as a bead of silicone applied along the cabinet edges (plus silicone beads placed behind and beneath the backsplash pieces).

The workers came equipped with a palette of caulk/sealant in various colors, which they mixed on site to blend with the specific granite pattern chosen for this project. When the colored sealant was applied to the joint between granite sections and polished smooth, the seam became nearly invisible.

If it's necessary to make any minor on-site cuts to the granite, such as trimming the length of a backsplash section, a grinder equipped with a diamondgrit blade should do the trick.



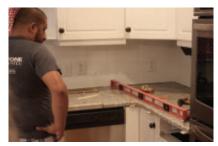


Granite countertops that have an overhang require countertop supports. These metal supports carry the weight of the granite while serving as replacements for counter corbels, which often crowd knee space or look unattractive. The supports are notched into and fastened to the cabinet base to provide a less noticeable solution.

Once the entire kitchen had new countertops, the kitchen gained a



The installers adjusted the countertop's position with suction cups.



Level the surface carefully in every direction.



Use wood shims between the cabinet base and countertop to ensure level.



A color-matched caulk/sealant was mixed on site to camouflage the seam between sections.



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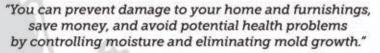




Don't take chances with the health of your home, install StegoCrawl Wrap Vapor Barrier in your crawl space.

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Whether you are building a new home or have lived in yours for years, it is smart to make sure your crawl space has proper moisture protection. Moisture can create environments for mold growth and damage building materials. Ensure a healthy home and save on your home's overall energy efficiency by using StegoCrawl Wrap Vapor Barrier to encapsulate your crawl space.



- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov







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dramatic change in décor. The granite gave the space a nice, luxurious appearance while complementing the kitchen's existing color scheme. And with granite's low-maintenance characteristics, the upgrade was a success for both looks and everyday living. **EHT**



Small cuts can be made to granite backsplash material using a grinder with a diamond-grit blade.



The countertops are held in place by weight, friction and beads of silicone sealant.

DIY COUNTERTOPS IN 10 SIMPLE STEPS

EHT ran a feature in the July/August 2016 issue showing in detail how DIY'ers can build a countertop made of solid surface material (see Extremehowto.com). Here's an extremely abbreviated breakdown of those steps to give you an idea of what you can expect.

- 1) Select the material: Solid surface (think Corian®) is popular for DIY for its workability with standard woodworking power tools. Other options like laminate (think Formica), or stone (think granite or engineered Silestone®), do not share this ease of workability.
- 2) Gather the tools & equipment. At a minimum you'll need a circular saw & carbide blade, a router & correct bits, matching adhesive & dispenser (if gluing), sink (optional), straight edge, and random orbit sander & discs.



- 3) Planning and templating. Save yourself time and headaches with some simple planning by creating a well-thought out design, strategically placing any seams, and building a template for peace of mind for odd angles and uneven walls.
- 4) **Make the cuts.** Cuts can be made by several different methods using a circular saw and/or router with the proper carbide-tipped blades and bits.
- **5) Glue It up.** Use color-matched solid surface adhesive and a dispensing gun to glue up all the seams. The magic happens when you sand it down to reveal invisible seams, or darn near close to it depending on the cut and glue color-match.
- **6) Edge buildup and shaping.** Because the material glues together seamlessly, edges can be built up as tall and thick as you desire. Once glued-up, then use the router to shape the edge to your liking.
- 7) Install your sink (If you have one). There are several sink-types using various installation techniques. Manufacturers typically offer installation advice, or instructions can be found online (see link below).
- 8) Finishing the surface. Using multiple grits of sandpaper and a random orbit sander, one can achieve one of several finishes, including matte and semi-gloss, both being the most common, as well as glossy.
- 9) Installation. With a little cabinet preparation, several daubs of silicone, and some muscle, the countertops should drop right into place and all your planning with have paid off.
- 10) Get cookin! Congrats, it's time to invite your friends and family over to show them what an incredible job you did, and how much money you saved doing it!

For even greater detailed instructions, as well as sources for material and tooling, be sure to visit the "Solid Surface 101" guide at solidsurface.com/solidsurface101.



Here an installer notched a cabinet base for a countertop support.



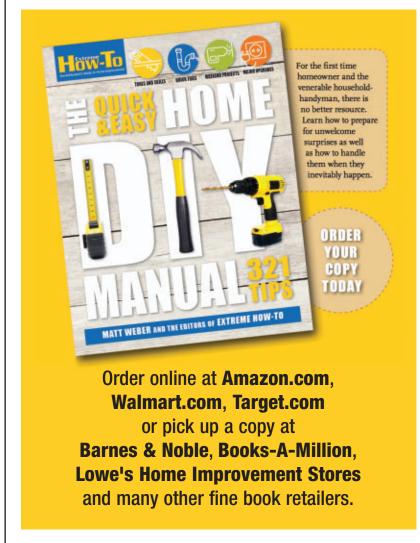
A number of metal supports are available for different applications.



This support extends inside and outside the kitchen island's cabinet base



Granite countertops that have an overhang will need a countertop support to carry its weight from below.



PREVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW

The largest convention in the world of homebuilding is the International Builders' Show, to be held this January 10-12 in Orlando, Florida. Every year the event attracts more than 60,000 visitors from 100 countries. IBS brings together the industry's most important global manufacturers and suppliers and showcases the latest products, materials and technologies involved in all types of buildings—including wood, concrete, stone and brick.

Extreme How-To offers this brief preview to highlight some of the products that will be exhibited at the show. For more information on the convention or to register for attendance, visit www.buildersshow.com.

FONTANOT STAIRCASES

Made in Italy with over 50 years of history, Fontanot is a leader in the production of made-to-measure staircases. The company's LaFont Essential staircase begins with specific customer requests and passes through several phases of refinement to create an "industrial" product in terms of quality, fabrication accuracy and sales service. To complement the staircase, Fontanot expresses the "essential visible to the naked eye" in the railing model named Glass (shown on the cover of this issue). It is the ideal railing to accompany a balustrade next to the LaFont Essential 090 A staircase. Railing Glass is available in two versions: Glass In, completely recessed into the flooring and Glass On with an aluminum casing above the flooring level. Both models are available with clear or extra-clear glass, both with two different kinds of edge finish. An anodized aluminum border can be applied to the upper edge of the glass to protect it from humidity, potential impacts and external agents.

Another prominent model is Techne, manufactured in technopolymer, a material never used before in the staircase industry that enhances the lightness of the shapes while guaranteeing strength. Its regular and perfect geometry projects a dreamlike dimension to its surroundings where color, shape and material become a unique expressive language. Available in white, this model is perfect both for indoor and outdoor use, thanks to its particular process of coloration directly in the mix that makes it resistant to UV rays and to atmospheric agents.

For DIY enthusiasts, Oak 70.Xtra is a spiral staircase kit of great elegance. It is made in varnished steel with solid oak treads. The handrail is in PVC with an aluminum core. The railing is composed of vertical spindles in varnished steel and horizontal tubes. The landing, which can be cut during installation, can assume three different shapes (square, mezzanine or circular), allowing the staircase to be installed in three different openings.





PREVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW

The sense of rotation (clockwise or counter-clockwise) can also be decided during the installation.

The Fontanot Magia60 stair-case, is perfect for outdoor use because its powder-coat finish is strongly resistant to oxidation caused by the outdoor elements. The railing is composed of vertical spindles in varnished steel and a black PVC handrail, and the direction of rotation (clockwise or counter-clockwise) can be adjusted during installation. Visit booth S647 or arkestairs.com.

DAVINCI ROOFSCAPES ECOBLEND

DaVinci EcoBlend polymer slate and shake roofing is available in six colors that meet Title 24 requirements for California. These tiles reflect heat and emit the sun's energy back into the atmosphere instead of into a structure, thus helping to reduce the cooling load of the home, which helps increase the energy efficiency of the building. New colors include Tahoe-EcoBlend, Mountain-EcoBlend, Brownstone-EcoBlend and Slate Gray-EcoBlend. Additional colors (that meet ENERGY STAR requirements) include Weathered Gray-EcoBlend and Castle Gray-EcoBlend. Visit booth W6871 or davinciroofscapes.com.





HAAS DOOR AMERICAN TRADITIONS SERIES

A first-time IBS exhibitor. Haas Door will showcase American Traditions Series garage doors in 13 solid color options plus two wood-grain base options. Each door features handcrafted quality and a rich, traditional carriage house style without the maintenance hassles of wood. The 2-in. thick steel garage doors feature CFC-free polyurethane insulation with a calculated R value of 13.45. Overlay boards add distinction and the traditional carriage house look. Models are available as single or double doors, with solid top section designs or several window options. Visit booth S1078 or www.HaasDoor.com.

WEYERHAEUSER EDGE GOLD PANELS

Manufactured with a proprietary edge seal, Weyerhaeuser Edge Gold panels stand up to the elements. With a uniform appearance and tight thickness tolerances, Edge Gold panels come with a fastener marking system stamped on each panel to aid in fastener placement. Placed 12 inches apart, the dashed lines are spaced to accommodate support spacing of 16-, 19.2- and 24-in.



on center. Each panel features the unique Down Pore technology that helps provide subfloor drainage. The unique notch and groove system efficiently channels water away from the edge of the panel and away from the supporting member. The result is that standing water collected on the surface of the floor during construction drains away. Visit booth W4013 or www.woodbywy.com.

MURO

Muro provides great solutions for driving screws to help you save time, energy and effort on every job all while completely eliminating



DaVinci roofing tiles have all the appearance and beauty of natural slate or shake, but with a higher level of durability from the proprietary-engineered polymer roofing formula. The tiles are designed for easy installation, while protecting against the elements for decades to come. DaVinci offers the discerning homeowner a level of style and beauty previously unattainable, backed by a lifetime limited warranty and made in the United States.





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The Art & Science of Lasting Beauty

PREVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW



those hated sore backs and knees normally associated with these tasks. Whatever your job involves-subfloor, drywall, roofing, decking or dock building-Muro has a system for you. Muro fasteners are available for these and other specialty applications including wood to steel or aluminum and exotic hardwoods with no pre-drilling required on any job. Muro tools boast 150 screws per coil (highest payload in the industry) and have a telescopic handle that adjusts to your specific working height, which are key features that no one else offers. Visit booth W6682 or www.muro.com.

AIRSHIM INFLATABLE PRY BAR AND LEVELING TOOL

The AirShim is a contractorgrade inflatable air wedge that anyone can use to install and level everything from windows, doors and cabinets to appliances, furniture and countertops. It replaces damaging pry bars and wooden shims and allows a single installer to position and hold items in place, saving time and reducing costs by providing a much-needed "extra hand." The AirShim is soft so it won't scratch surfaces, yet powerful enough to raise and hold up to 300 pounds. Professional installers of large, hard-to-level objects who want a faster, more controllable lifting and adjusting alternative to pry bars and wooden shims use the AirShim because it allows a single worker to position and hold items in place. Unlike traditional wooden shims, wedges and pry bars, the AirShim can be adjusted with precision. And, by using



multiple AirShims below, above, left and right of heavy objects, you can fine-tune their positioning with easy adjustments from all four sides. Visit booth S540 or www.calculated.com.

GOOF PROOF CORNER SHELF

The Goof Proof Tile Ready Corner Shelf is so easy to install even a 6-year-old can do it. Made



of sturdy PVC and a patented Retro Shelf Mounting System, this shelf can be installed in less than 5 minutes. Install and tile with your choice of coverings; porcelain and ceramic tile, stone, granite, slate or any other durable water-tolerant material. It is eye-pleasing, functional and sturdy enough to hold up to 100 lbs. The Goof Proof Tile Ready Corner Shelf comes complete with a template, including adhesive stickers, mounting rails, tile-ready shelf and silicone adhesive. Visit booth S1037 or www.markeindustries.com.

KITCHENAID LARGE CAPACITY REFRIGERATOR

Whirlpool has a new Kitchenaid three-door freestanding refrigerator that is the largest capacity refrigerator in its class. Available in three models, the



72-in. Counter-Depth French Door Bottom Mount Refrigerator features a slide-away split shelf that allows three quarters of the shelf to retract to accommodate taller items, up to 16.75 inches. It also includes the first ever selfclose freezer drawer in its class. Additional internal features on select models include an undershelf prep zone with removable oven-safe pan, ideal for setting dough or marinating meats. A Platinum interior design with premium wood accents is stainresistant and helps mask dirt. To help keep produce at its peak of freshness, the full extension self-close FreshSeal crisper drawers maintain optimal humidity levels, with brightly lit drawers that open fully for easy viewing and access to all items within. In addition, a temperature controlled pantry features four pre-sets for customizing temperature for meat and fish, cold drinks, deli items and wine. Visit booth P4 or www.insideadvantage.com.

SASHCO SEALANTS

Since 1936, Sashco Sealants has been making high-performance, high-quality caulking that works right the first time, every time. Sashco is well known for manufacturing Lexel and Big Stretch. Lexel is a multipurpose, all-weather flexible sealant that comes in Crystal Clear and Bright White, in both 10.5-oz cartridges and 5-oz. squeeze tubes. For windows, doors, siding and molding, Big Stretch is an amazingly elastic sealant that comes in 12 colors plus clear.

Other Sashco products include Through the Roof!, an all-weather sealant for roofs, vents, gutters, flashing and more. Mor-Flexx is caulking textured to look like



mortar, available in beige and gray, to fix mortar, stucco and stone. Slab is textured caulking to blend-in with concrete. Sashco's eXactcolor tintable caulk allows you to add your color choice of paint or latex stain to achieve any color caulking. And MildewFree is the only caulking with a laborincluded replacement guarantee, available in White or Almond, in 10.5-oz cartridges or 6-oz. squeeze tubes.

All Sashco products are paintable, elastic, freeze-thaw stable and backed by a limited lifetime warranty. Visit booth W5493 or sashco.com.

DRYLOK WATERPROOFER

You want to make sure to use the best products for the job at hand. While the best precautions can be taken to guarantee that a foundation will hold up for the lifetime of a home, sealing a foundation is one of the most important aspects of keeping it functional over the long haul, and DryLok Masonry Waterproofer

has you covered. Negative or Positive side waterproofing for basements and foundations is the company specialty, offering products to complete the entire project (prepare, patch and waterproof). See how UGL products can solve problems and get contractors repeat business. Visit booth S133 or www.ugl.com.



PREVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW



SOIL RETENTION SYSTEMS

Soil Retention of San Diego
County will exhibit what the
company hails as the strongest
Mechanically Stabilized Earth
(MSE) retaining wall block system
in the industry, Verdura. The
name Verdura comes from
VERdant (green with vegetation)
combined with DURAbility. The
product offers the opportunity to
create "living walls," providing the
strength and function of a standard retaining wall plus the added
ability to sustain live plantings.

Soil Retention also offers a second "plantable" concrete system, Enviroflex, a tapered interlocking articulating concrete block (ACB) revetment system designed for erosion control in areas with high-velocity flows that are subject to scour. Enviroflex offers a costeffective and environmentally friendly alternative to rip-rap, gabion mattresses, solid concrete or asphalt linings, and other hard armor systems.

The most recent product developed by Soil Retention is Drivable Grass, which is a permeable, flexible and plantable concrete pavement system that is environmentally

friendly and a beautiful alternative to poured concrete and asphalt. Drivable Grass can be used for a wide variety of applications including driveways, parking areas, fire lanes, pathways, access roads, stream bank installation, bioswales, ditches, RV and boat storage, golf cart paths and more. Visit www.soilretention.com or booth S1145.

STEGO MOISTURE CONTROL

Stego Industries is the leader in below-slab vapor protection in North America, specializing in moisture protection and control for the sixth side of the building: the foundation, concrete slab and crawl space. Moisture-related flooring failures, indoor air quality issues, and lost energy efficiency cost the construction industry billions of dollars each year. Stego Wrap Vapor Barrier, StegoCrawl Wrap, and Pango Wrap Termite/Vapor Barrier help protect those homes and work spaces. Along with engineered membranes, the company has a full line of accessories to complete a comprehensive and successful installation. Stego Industries has also implemented a Carbon Footprint Project, which is a pledge to eliminate the carbon emissions of their business operations. Currently Stego operates from a 100-percent solar headquarters in San Clemente, CA. Visit booth S1014 www.stegoindustries.com.

IMPRESSION RAIL FROM AZEK AND TIMBERTECH

Following the successful launch of their Impression Rail in 2015, AZEK and TimberTech recently launched a new textured Bronze color option, which creates a striking appearance when paired with their broad palette of deck colors. The Impression Rail stands out in





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Start sharpening right out of the box, or add the optional accessories for even greater sharpening versatility. Ideal for wood turners, woodworkers, and knife makers.



- Motor: ¼ HP, 110V
- 110 RPM wheel speed
- 220-Grit grinding wheel is specially made for wet grinding
- · Grinding wheel measures: 250mm diameter x 50mm wide x 12mm bore
- Water bath keeps tools cool while sharpening
- Leather stropping wheel size: 200mm diameter x 30mm wide
- · Includes a straightedge sharpening jig, angle guide, and polishing/honing paste
- · Approximate shipping weight: 42 lbs.

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Includes T20880 Straightedge Sharpening Jig!



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PREVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW



the market with its easy installation, up to 30 percent faster than other aluminum rail systems. Its lightweight profile saves time and labor on the job site and eliminates the need for welding equipment. The low-maintenance, high-quality, powder-coated aluminum profiles are engineered for strength, security and aesthetics. Visit booth W6371 or www.timbertech.com.

TJERNLUND DRYER DUCT BOOSTER

Tjernlund's Model LB2 no-clog Dryer Duct Booster is listed to the updated DEDPV (Dryer Exhaust **Duct Power Ventilator) supplement** to UL705. The 2015 IRC restricts use of dryer booster fans to those tested to the DEDPV supplement. Duct runs often exceed 25 equivalent feet (each elbow equates to five additional feet of duct length) that many manufacturers set as a maximum duct length. The LB2 booster fan is rated for duct lengths up to 150 equivalent feet, which reduces drying times by up to 60 percent. The booster fan attaches easily to 4-in. rigid or flex duct and plugs into an electrical outlet. An LED indicator panel mounted near the dryer displays operational status and faults. It communicates via a factory-connected low-voltage cable to an on-board booster fan control. The control stops booster fan operation if duct temperature exceeds 165°F or signals if the duct becomes blocked. Beyond the DEDPV-compliant control system, the heart of the LB2's effectiveness is the exclusive no-clog, lint-handling blower design that eliminates the need for regular cleaning of lint from the housing and blower wheel. Visit www.tjernlund.com or booth S444.



Maze manufactures quality double hot-dipped nails for fiber cement siding, cedar and redwood siding, roofing, cedar shakes and shingles, PVC trim products, decking, fencing and post frame building construction. The Maze Double



Hot Dipped Galvanized Ring-shank Roofing Nails are Miami Dade County Approved. All Maze Nails are 100-percent Made in the USA from recycled re-melted steel, making them eco-friendly for sustainable building practices. Visit www.mazenails.com or booth W6193.

PAINT SHIELD FROM SHERWIN WILLIAMS

Paint Shield is the only EPAregistered paint that kills greater than 99.9 percent of Staph (Staphylococcus aureus), MRSA, E. coli, VRE, and Enterobacter aerogenes within two hours of exposure on a painted surface. Paint Shield continues to kill 90 percent of bacteria even after repeated contamination, for up to four years when the integrity of the surface is maintained. Featuring quality coating performance, great hide and durability, Paint Shield can be applied on interior hard, non-porous ceilings, walls, doors and trim. It is ideal for a variety of settings from healthcare, education and hospitality





to residential housing and more. Visit SWPaintShield.com or booth W3428.

LUMBER LIQUIDATORS

Lumber Liquidators is North America's largest specialty retailer of top-quality hardwood flooring, offering expert service and project support from start to finish. Topped with industry-leading finishes, Lumber Liquidators floors are not only beautiful, they're durable too. Bellawood prefinished hardwood features industry-leading scratch resistance and one of the most durable flooring finishes in the world. The company offers the best selection of flooring in the latest styles and the hottest trends. Choose from domestic and exotic hardwood, bamboo, vinyl plank, North American and European laminate, wood-look tile and more. Visit lumberliquidators.com or booth W4783.

ADD-A-HANDLE

Add-a-Handle to it all; the uses are endless. Proudly made in the USA and assembled by veterans, this simple tool offers you safety and stability in the most uncomfortable situations. It also offers a practical and portable way to hang things where you wouldn't normally, like while in the woods or in a Wrangler. The ergonomic handle





design and custom adjustable Velcro brand straps allow you to carry, hook and hold up to 30 lbs. with ease and comfort. Designed with the painter in mind, it offers a convenient magnet on top to hold a paint brush or flashlight. Although Add-a-Handle comes with 19-in. straps, additional lengths are also available, and the straps interlock for a custom fit. Visit booth S2894 or add-a-handle.com.

QUALITY WOOD DOORS FROM NICK'S BUILDING SUPPLY

Nick's Building Supply is a manufacturer of high-end wooden doors. In business for over 30 years, the company has the knowledge and quality to deliver a superior product for new construction or remodeling jobs. They're one of the few companies that are able to assemble door configurations with our stock products to almost any sized opening and still deliver within a reasonable time. Choose from Interior doors, Exterior doors, Overhead Garage Doors and Hurricane Wind Load Rated Doors certified for near coastal areas. Visit booth S3223 or www.nicksbuilding.com.



PREVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW



OLDCASTLE HARDSCAPE AND CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Oldcastle is North America's leading supplier of concrete masonry and hardscape products for the building and landscaping industry. The company's Belgard hardscape line includes concrete and porcelain pavers, retaining walls, as well as outdoor fireplaces and kitchens. Oldcastle is also the parent company of Sakrete. a leader in premixed bagged concrete and concrete-related products. Sakrete has been the choice for contractors and do-ityourselfers longer than any other brand in the market, offering innovative and readily available concrete mixes, mortars, stucco and repair products. Visit www.oldcastle.com or booth S3031.

HIDDEN FASTENERS FROM SURE DRIVE USA

Sure Drive USA, a division of Pan American Screw, is one of the leading manufacturers of construction fasteners and hidden deck-fastening systems in North America. The company offers the Mantis Clip and Coyote Clip for grooved composite and hardwood decking, the Hidden Link for solid



edge composites, and ShadoeTrack which will work on all types of decking including pressure-treated. The popular Mantis clips can be installed manually or with Sure Drive's new pneumatic installation tool made exclusively by Senco. This tool features the patented EZ Slide attachment that ensures ease of installation and a precise fit every time. Mantis clips are available to fit a wide variety of



grooved boards and are approved for use with popular deck boards such as MoistureShield, ChoiceDek, Gossen and Trex. Sure Drive USA will be demonstrating all of these Made-in-the-USA hidden deck fasteners at the International Builders Show. Stop by booth W6090 and mention this article to receive a free gift. Visit www.suredrive.com.

DECKWISE WISEWRAP

Preventing and stopping wood rot is one of the most important aspects to consider when building a long-lasting deck. DeckWise now offers two brand new solutions with the WiseWrap line of polyethylene waterproof wood flashing tape rolls. Both products are a self-sealing rubberized peel-andstick adhesive which prevents wood moisture damage and also self-seals around fasteners. WiseWrap JoistTape creates a



waterproof seal when applied to the top of deck joists. When JoistTape is placed between treated (or hardwood) lumber and decking, it prevents water from gathering and stops rot. Use on pressure-treated joists or metal joist framing to create a physical barrier that prevents the corrosion of the metal surface caused by contact with the chemicals and oils in lumber. JoistTape also acts as a noise reducer towards future squeaky deck boards. WiseWrap LedgerTape, available in a 12"x



25' roll, is a flexible polyethylene waterproof ledger board flashing made of the same self-sealing rubberized adhesive material—

only wider. Apply it as flashing to protect against water damage on ledger boards from siding runoff and the elements. Wrap in-ground wooden deck posts to provide a barrier against fungi and soil moisture, as well as around fence posts and mail boxes or any type of wooden post set in the ground or in concrete. Visit www.DeckWise.com or booth W6587.

FEENEY RAILING STYLES

Enhance your railing and your view with Feeney's slender CableRail stainless steel assemblies, the perfect railing infill alternative to pickets and glass panels. They're made from beautiful yet weather-tough 316-grade stainless steel with an assortment of Quick-Connect cable fittings that can be attached to wood, metal or composite-sleeved posts.

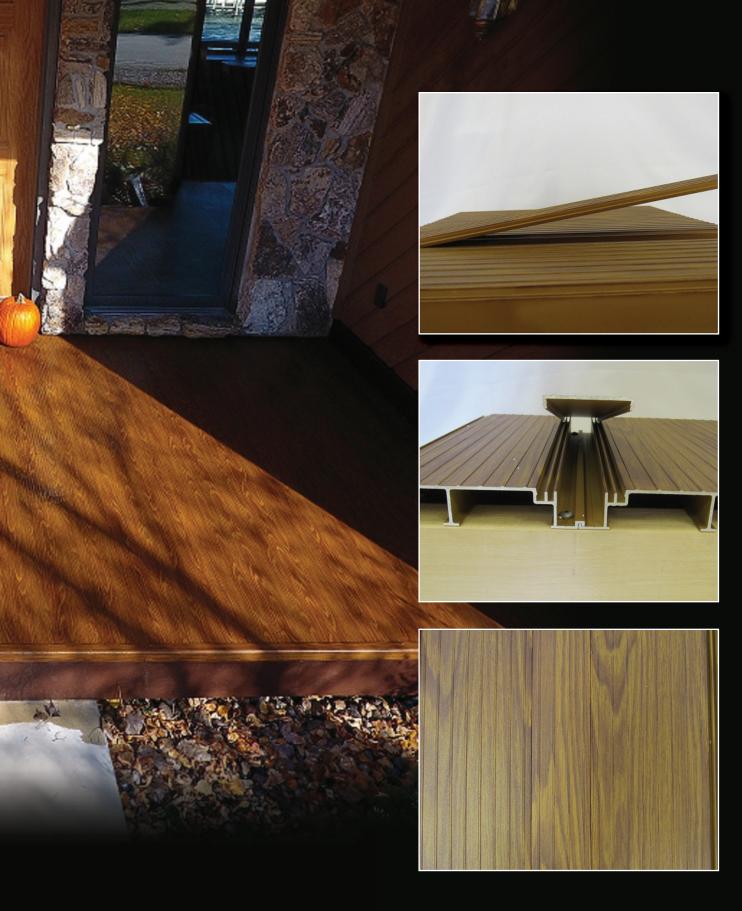
The assemblies are strong, durable, easy to install, low-maintenance and virtually invisible. Easy on both the eyes and the view, they're an ideal complement to any railing design, indoors or out.

Feeney's DesignRail aluminum railings and railing kits provide the durability of aluminum in an engineered system that ensures lasting beauty, structural integrity, affordability and very low maintenance. They're made from highstrength 6000-series aluminum extrusions that can be quickly cut and assembled on site using components that snap and screw together. Select from a variety of top rail designs, mounting styles, infill options, color finishes and LED post and rail lights to create a customized railing that's ideal for your project. Visit www.feeneyinc.com or booth S2931. EHT





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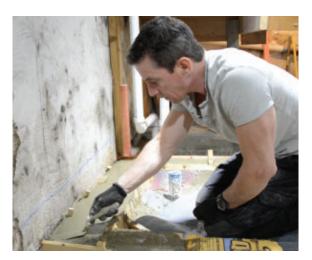
BUILD A WOOD SHOWER SURROUND

By Mark Clement

'm not sure where I got the idea, but a wood-paneled shower has been on my man cave to-do list for some time. I mean, why not, right? Every other photo in my Facebook feed seems to be of some timber-rustic-throwback-pallet-inspired this or that. The problem is that we only love the pictures and then we go to the knockdown furniture store and buy whatever we can easily slap together. Not this time; once I got inspired, there was no turning back.

This basement shower started with the concrete curb I poured myself, integrating it with the existing floor slab. You can buy a shower pan, but the essential nature of this shower is a zero-clearance, nothing-with-caulk-to-clean man cave integration of awesomeness. Simply the absence of something that needs cleaning gives me the peace and serenity I hear so much about in home-improvement media (mostly what I call "ohmygod" makeover shows targeted primarily to women). I think that's an element we overlook in designing for men. It's not about another bauble or element or color, or

even shelf for memorabilia or bigger TV. It's about the absence of crap; about the individual elements being so well built and proportioned—and useful—they don't need makeup.



The wood shower began with the concrete curb poured into a form on the basement slab.



The curb directs all the shower water away from basement walls and toward the drain.



After the shower area is framed with wood studs and insulated, roofing membrane is installed at the corners.

Anyway, back to the curb. How you do it varies by project because the concrete and shower base is determined by your plumbing. If you're not breaking the slab like I had to do, you may need to create a step into the shower so you can pitch the floor toward the drain. You may also be able to grind the floor, exposing the aggregate (also creating a metric ton of dust). No matter which way you slice it, the water needs to go somewhere. Drains are preferable.

I formed the shower curb with a slight pitch, so the top of it was tucked under the wall cladding but the bottom is flush with the bottom of the cladding. Functional? Sure. Proportionate: Yup. I gave the concrete a few days to set up before I touched it again.

FRAMING

Framing is pretty typical. I placed studs in the corners and evenly spaced between the corners (16 in. on-center doesn't apply here).

Since the main showerhead is Kohler's 12x12, ceiling-mounted ShowerTile, I left room for the plumbing to get up the wall and into the ceiling. For the wall-mounted Kohler hand-shower, there was no need for the blocking typically required for drywall or cement board showers because I could screw right to the wall.

I did have to work around venting from a nearby effluent pump and the electronic control for the showerheads. (Note: Electronic controls offer another slice of heaven, by the way. No waiting for water to heat up and it's digital; 107-degrees is a nice temp for shower power).

I installed horizontal blocking for sufficient nailing of the wood planks. And, I was extra careful to get everything as plumb as possible so all my corners would be nice and straight along the vertical.



If water penetrates the shower corner, the roofing membrane will protect the wall and divert it back onto the shower floor.



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WATERPROOFING

I always approach "waterproofing" the same way. Namely, there is really no such thing.

Instead, I make sure water that does eventually get in can then

find a way out. And even though it's dry behind the wall (I left the framing open inside a closet so I could monitor this), there is always some calamity that may ensue, like—and I kid you not—my son figuring out that the faucet can spray really, really far. He thinks this is hilarious.

So the first thing I did was coat the backs of the Yellow Pine 1x4 T&G beaded boards with one coat of Spar urethane. It's enough to keep the back from holding moisture.

Next, I detailed the corners with roofing membrane. Where water



A layer of Dam Proofing Membrane (DPM) covers the roofing membrane and framing.



The DPM creates an air gap that facilitates drainage and ventilation of any water vapor that gets behind the shower panels. Any time you install a sheet product, it's important to get the membrane taught and flat, otherwise lumps and bumps and ripples will chase you around. Washer-head screws work better than drywall screws here.

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gathers is what I'm most concerned about, so water (in the form of liquid or vapor that condenses and becomes liquid) has an exit. I also wrapped the bottom plate to shed descending and ascending water (yes, it can flow uphill).

I then created a "drainage plane"—an air gap behind the wall cladding through which water can

Corner blocks made of 4/5 boards were installed to begin installation of the wood panels. Get the corner boards as plumb as possible to avoid taper cuts on your wall boards.



A weatherboard sloping towards the drain was installed above the curb to divert water away from the end-grain of the wood shower cladding. Shoot 2-1/2" nails carefully through the weatherboard to hold it fast.

travel and escape. I'd love to say I'm a genius for using the dimpled material that created this gap (dam proofing membrane, DPM), but the truth is I stumbled upon it. I had a roll left from installing my

basement's perimeter drain. It's inexpensive and easy to apply. I held it in place with washer-head Spax screws. Once in, I marked the horizontal blocking with a Sharpie so I could locate it for nailing.



WOOD, WOOD AND MORE WOOD

For the shower surround, I used clear 1x4 tongue-andgroove clear Southern Yellow Pine. On one side, it's beaded and V-jointed for use as paneling, and the other is square for use as flooring. I love this stuff. The bead and the V-joint combine to make vertical lines and texture that make the shower space feel taller, and they also team up to channel water down and away from the wall. The tongue-and-groove joints lock it all together so water of any real consequence can't get through.

Most of my anxiety attacks were about the end grain.
That's where wood is most absorbent. To keep water away



After coating their backs with Spar urethane, the tongue-and-groove cladding is installed as the shower surround.



NOT YOUR AVERAGE CABLE RAIL.

Cable railing's popularity is soaring among residential and commercial clients for good reason. These days, many manufacturers are offering some version of this stylistic railing. But what you see in this image is not just your average cable rail.

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No, this is not your average cable rail... not even close.



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from it I used a weatherboard at the bottom. A weatherboard is a horizontal piece, installed at an angle (like a window sill or drip cap). Underneath it I cut a 1/4-in. deep kerf parallel to the front edge. This is called a "bond break" that causes sticky water molecules to fall apart and fall to the floor instead up wrapping around the weatherboard and leaching up the wall. Since the weatherboard is also the starter piece for the vertical slats, I made sure to get it nice and level. I pitched it 8-degrees and shot it right to the bottom wall plate.

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Shown here is the completed cladding.



You have a number of water-resistant finish options for the shower panels. The finish shown is called an ombre effect, which lets the natural feel of the wood ripple through the color.



Get creative to put a personal stamp on your project. To make a rugged shower caddy I used CSST (corrugated stainless steel tubing), 4x7 steel striker plates and 3/4-in. threaded couplings. I then used my Bernzomatic butane torch and some solder to cobble together a shower accessory that I'd get thrown out of Bed, Bath and Beyond for even thinking about... Also, take note of the electronic control panel for the shower head.

To get the wall cladding started, I used 1-in. (aka five-quarter, 5/4) corner blocks. The bottom cut is tricky. It's a double miter and it took me a few minutes to wrap my head around it. Because you're putting it in the corner, it has to be triple-mitered to mate up with both angled weatherboards. As I write this, I forget how I did it, but I did. A dab of clear latex caulk (I like DAP Dynaflex 230) where the corner piece hits the weatherboard helps further seal the end grain.

Now the fun stuff: when all the prep becomes pomp and perfection. I rip the groove off the first board on the table saw and install it using both face nails and tongue nails. I cut this to fit tight between floor and ceiling because you can see the edge. Then I follow up with the next piece, cutting the miter on the bottom to cover the weatherboard and cutting the top about 1/4-in. shy of the ceiling.

Then, just like you would with any T&G project, when you come to an obstruction (the corner blocks here), I rip the back half of the groove off, rip the board to width and install with face nails.



And—this is an important detail-start the next column with the tongue-piece you ripped off the board before the corner (unless it's really small, like under 3/4-in.).

(100

Carefully cut around penetrations. When in doubt (for me, almost always), make a template, test it out, then transfer your layout to a full piece. Sometimes you can clamp two pieces together

and just drill a hole in them to let the pipe through.

For our Kohler shower control, I installed the bracket and added clear latex caulk to the top and sides to shed water.

To cover the top edge of the wood shower, I ripped a thin batten from a piece of Southern Yellow Pine just thick enough (about 3/8-in.) to butt into the corner blocks flush. A few dabs of clear caulk and some brads hold it in place.

FINISH

The finish is always what you see and feel. I love a natural wood look, but I also love the way wood feels when it is painted.





A sink vanity and shelving made of reclaimed lumber maintained the rustic decor of the man-cave bathroom.



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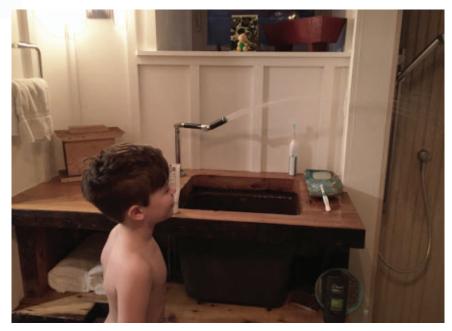
And I doubly love it when it becomes one of my wife Theresa's rippin' artworks.

100

She did an ombre effect on this shower, which lets the natural feel of the wood ripple through the color while adding a distinctly masculine, sophisticated look that goes hand-in-(work)-glove with the entire space.

Get creative to put a personal stamp on your project. I made a steel shower caddy and a countertop made of reclaimed lumber to maintain a rugged look throughout the man-cave bathroom. **EHT**

Editor's Note: Mark Clement is a carpenter and co-host of the MyFixitUpLife show.



Waterproofing measures are always important in a bathroom, because water problems can come from unexpected places.





A Metal Canvas In The Sky

How to Repaint a Metal Roof



By Clint C. Thomas, Esq. Photography By Sterling Thomas

etal roofs seem to be in vogue today, and many people mistakenly believe that they are a product of the modern era. Metal roofs, however, pre-date the contemporary asphalt shingle roof by a couple of hundred years. In fact, I've been told that Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, still sports its original metal roof. The types of metal roofs that are available today and those that were available during the 1800s and early 1900s have changed dramatically.

Many of us have made reference to an old farm house with a "tin" roof. Ironically, "tin" roofs are not made out of tin. Today metal

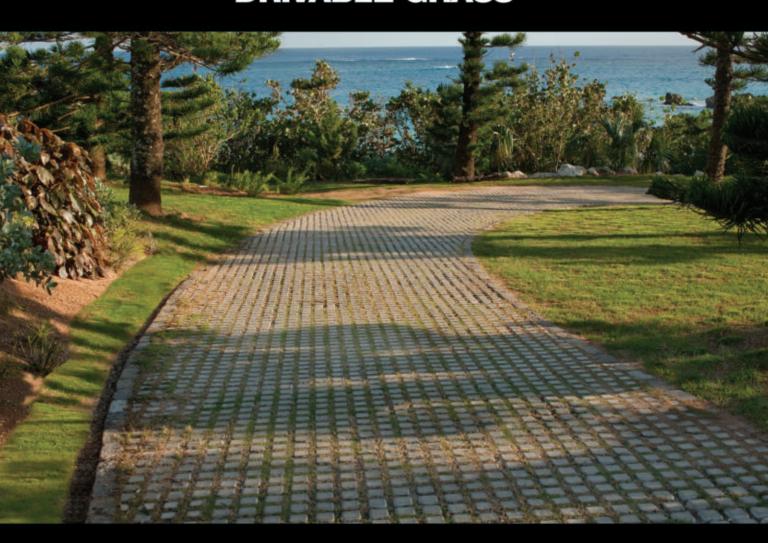
roofs often consist of an alloy steel with a zinc coating applied to it for protection, known as galvanized metal. A current alternative trend in roofs is the use of aluminum. Available in a variety of color schemes, aluminum roofs require very little maintenance.

Metal roofs of all kinds have many advantages from being long-lasting to shedding water and snow quicker than an asphalt shingle roof. However, all painted metal roofs have one downside in common, and that is that they have to be repainted periodically.

Before you dive head-long into painting your metal roof you need to determine what type of metal it is, because although it may appear to be galvanized, it may in fact be what is known as terne metal. Terne roofing was made by producing the shingles or roof panels out of one of several different types of base metal and then coating the panel with a mixture of lead and tin. Terne metal has been phased out due to the public outcry about the dangers of lead, even though no specific health threat was ever discovered coming from the use of terne metal roofs.

Terne metal roofs are extremely long-lasting, but because they look very similar to galvanized metal a person can unknowingly invite problems if they use the wrong

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paint. Galvanized roofs require the use of a different paint than what is used on terne metal. Terne is best painted with an oil-based paint. One of my neighbors used an oil-based paint as a primer, since some of the metal was rusted, and then covered the roof with one of the specially formulated roofing paints that is sold by CalBar for use on old metal roofs for an added layer of protection. However, another neighbor did like myself and only used an oil-based paint. Galvanized steel, on-theother-hand, cannot be painted with an oil-based or aluminum-based paint. Galvanized metal requires either a zinc-dust type paint or a latex paint.





My house was built circa 1880 and still has its original terne metal roof, which consists of individual metal shingles with an embossed decorative pattern. After many years of exposure to the elements, the paint on the roof began to wear off, crack and peel, necessitating a new paint job.

I began my project by purchasing a couple of ridge-hooks from

When working on a roof, always wear a fall-restraint safety harness.

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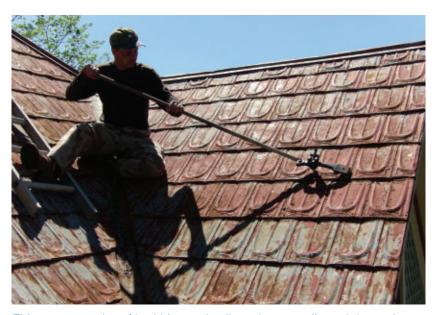
The paint scraper has four edges for aggressive scraping action.

an online supplier of roofing products. When combined with a single section from an aluminum extension ladder, the ridge-hooks made accessing a roof with a steep pitch much easier, and consequently, much safer. I painted the roof using the ladder and ridge-hooks except for one section that could be reached using a 10-foot tall stepladder, which I placed on top of a lower roof section.

It is also imperative that a safety harness and rope be used when working from any height. One misstep and you could easily fall thirty feet to the ground unless you are tied off to something solid. As an added note of caution, metal roofs are slick as glass when they are wet.

Therefore, beware of the morning dew. Long pants and heavy boots with serious traction are also highly recommended. A few hundred dollars spent on safety equipment is cheaper than most medical insurance co-pays.

As with all painting projects, the first step was to remove all of the loose paint. I did this by hand-scraping the roof twice. I considered trying to use a pressure washer but there was no good way to access the entire roof with the wand, and I was also concerned that I might inadvertently catch the edge of a shingle and end up ripping a couple off by accident. Hand-scraping also allowed me to see every inch of the roof and to identify any small holes or



This terne metal roof had hips and valleys that complicated the project.

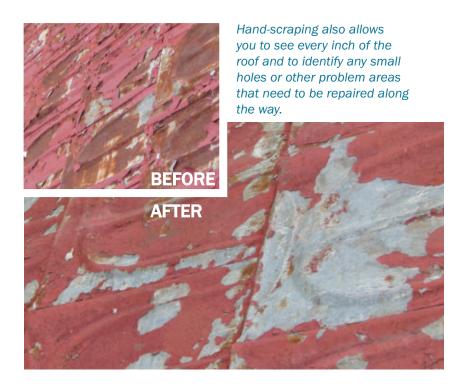


DO IT YOURSELF

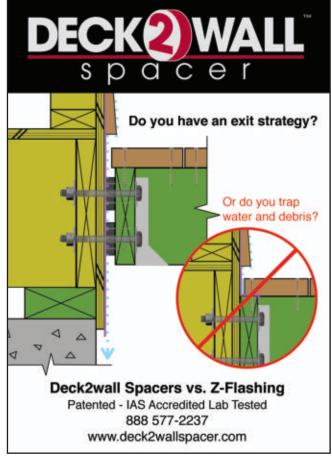
other problem areas that I needed to repair along the way. In some places I would attach my scraper to a five foot extension pole which allowed me to reach some of the awkward parts of the roof.

Note: The Lockjaw by Wooster is a wonderful tool. It is a glorified clamp that screws onto an extension pole and can hold everything from a paint scraper to a paintbrush.

I discovered that by starting at the top and scraping downward that the loose paint chips slid down the roof on their own without any help from me. This was due to the steep pitch of the roof mixed with the vibrations created in the metal from the scraping. This helped to reduce my cleanup time considerably.







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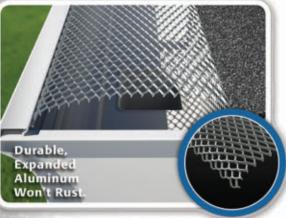
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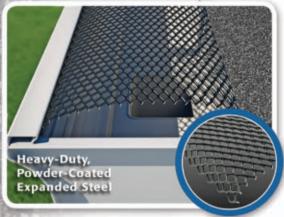
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With the scraping done and the necessary repairs made, I was able to begin painting the roof. I used an 18-ft. extension pole with a 3/4-in. nap roller to apply the paint to the roof.

I found that a 5-gallon plastic bucket with a roll-screen inside of it worked beautifully as a roller pan. I would set it on the bottom rung of my extension ladder and secure it to the ladder with a painter's hook.

I used a paintbrush attached to the end of the extension pole to paint the valleys and the standing seams on the porch roof. Everything else I painted with the roller. I painted one side of the





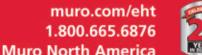
For both scraping and painting, you can gain greater reach by using the Wooster Lockjaw tool holder mounted to an extension pole.



Using a paint grid inside a 5-gal-Ion bucket proved to be the most efficient way to reload the roller when painting the roof.



When possible, paint from a ladder rather than climbing atop the roof.





roof at a time due to the fact that I would have to wait on the paint to dry, or else I would be putting my ridge-hooks in wet paint to start on the new side.

I applied two heavy coats of

paint to the roof and tried to roll each coat from different directions each time. For example, I might start at the front of the house and work to the back on the first coat and, then, for the

second coat start at the back and work forward. This changed the angle of my roller with each coat to ensure full coverage.

On a final note, pick your seasons when doing any kind of roof



By hooking the paint pail to a ridge-mounted ladder, the extension pole could be easily reloaded for painting.



The roof was painted using an 18' foot extension pole equipped with a 3/4" nap roller.



Shown here is the dramatic difference achieved with a new coat of paint.



DO IT YOURSELF

work. I realize that most people paint their houses during the summer months but a metal roof is just too hot to work on, or to even touch, during the summer months. I recommend that you

begin scraping it during the later winter or very early spring and do the painting during the milder spring months while there are still cool mornings and temperate days.





The metal roof received two coats of paint, applied from different stroke directions.





Here's the freshly painted roof, successfully achieved by a DIY'er.

BE CAREFUL WHEN SCRAPING!

If you have a terne metal roof like this one, then it has probably been repainted several times over the years. Although it isn't recommended to use a metal implement to scrape the roof, it was the only way to remove the loose rust and old paint. Be extremely careful not to pierce the metal when scraping. Also, check in advance with your local authorities about any municipal regulations regarding scraping and repainting a metal roof.

SERIOUS LEAK PREVENTION















Install a Whole-House Water Filter



By Merle Henkenius

f your home's drinking water has an unpleasant taste or is occasionally cloudy, an inline water filter is often an easy and inexpensive fix. Private water wells can deliver off-tasting water and waterborne sediment. Accumulating sediment can shortout electric water heaters and reduce the efficiency of gas water heaters.

Although sediment is less of a problem in municipal systems, city water can have an off taste as well. Every town with a population above 100 must meet strict federal water-safety standards, and sometimes the methods used to sanitize municipal water will

give it an unpleasant taste.

Inline filters, used singly or in tandem, can improve both problems and can also be used under sinks for single-fixture protection. The good news is that inline filters are affordable, ranging between \$25 and \$100. Expect to pay more for larger pipe diameters and for built-in shut-off mechanisms, which make changing media cartridges quick and easy. Filter cartridges need to be replaced every couple of months, especially charcoal filters, which can dump impurities in high concentrations when fully saturated.

Here's a quick guide to installing your own inline filter.

STEP 1: ATTACH THE FILTER

When installing a basic wholehouse filter, you'll need to cut out a section of water supply line and splice the new filter between two shut-off valves. If possible, isolate your home's outside



faucets since your lawn and garden won't need filtered water. This will help your filters last longer. The simplest approach is to solder male adapters to two short pieces of copper pipe, then wrap the male threads with Teflon tape and tighten the adapters into the plastic filter head.

STEP 2: TIGHTEN THE COMPRESSION FITTINGS

Soldering pipes that retain even a little water can be a struggle, so I suggest completing the installation with ball valves fitted with compression fittings.

Assemble the filter body and the shut-off valves and tighten the compression nuts until they feel snug. However, be careful not to overtighten to avoid crushing the compression rings. Generally, when you feel first resistance with a wrench, tighten each nut one full turn and walk away.



STEP 3: RESTORE CONDUCTIVITY

You could also choose to use plastic PEX pipe and fittings to make your connections. PEX is now code-approved and doesn't require soldering. But if your piping system is made of copper, brass or steel, plastic can create a significant potential hazard. There's a good chance the electrician who wired your home used that water piping, which continues underground to the street to ground your home's electrical service panel-at least in part. In fact, even our plastic filter housing would sever that connection. To restore conductivity, install a code-approved grounding clamp on each side of the filter and jump the plastic with a short piece of #6 ground wire.

Of course, if at any point you feel yourself getting in over your head, call a licensed plumber.



A PRIMER ON PRIVATE WATER WELL PURITY

As a rule, deep wells produce the cleanest water while shallow wells produce the best-tasting water. Deep wells are clean because surface water, its source, has to filter through hundreds of feet of permeable rock, sand and gravel to reach its aquafer depth. Contaminants are simply left behind in the grit, but in the process, the water absorbs some of the rock's soluble minerals, and minerals in high saturation taste bad.

Water from a shallow well, on the other hand, won't have percolated through much rock. It won't have a mineral taste, but it may also retain some of its contaminants.

Local health departments require that all new, private-water

wells be tested for contaminants, typically coliform bacteria, nitrates and a few heavy metals. The same goes for older wells put back into service. If your well fails any part of this test, contact a water-treatment specialist. **EHT**

Editor's Note: Merle Henkenius is a longtime writer and photographer who specializes in home improvement articles and books. He is a licensed master plumber but has handson experience in nearly every phase of construction. He has contributed scores of articles and thousands of photos to national magazines. He also writes for The Home Depot, where you will find a large selection of water filtration systems like the one described in this article.



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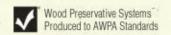
We stand behind our Above Ground treated wood with a Lifetime Limited Warranty.*

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PRODUCTS



DIY HOME CENTER

DIYHomeCenter.com is the online shopping destination for your deck and home projects, making it easier than ever to access thousands of products from the most sought-after brands. The company is most known for top quality deck products such as Trex, Deckorators, Azek, TimberTech, Westbury, Feeney, Fortress and Ultra-tec. Building products range from home weatherization by DuPont Tyvek, Grace and Typar to fast-eners by Screw Products, FastenMaster and TigerClaw. Complete your space with some of the best outdoor furniture from Trex or PolyWood. Add LED lighting or

even an Atlantic Water Gardens pond for a tranquil retreat. DIYHomeCenter.com only sources top brands that they proudly stand behind, and every order is shipped to your door—fast. Most orders leave the warehouse the same or very next business day and typically ship free. Visit www.diyhomecenter.com.

KOBALT XTREME ACCESS SOCKET SETS

Kobalt Xtreme Access ratchets and sockets fit over bolts that extend beyond the height of a normal socket. This specialized design allows threaded rod and long bolts access through the head of the socket and ratchet. Because the socket fits inside the ratchet head, you end up with a profile that is about 50 percent smaller than that of a traditional ratchet and socket combination. And anywhere you encounter longer bolts, or tighter spaces with little clearance for a standard ratchet and socket is ideal for the Xtreme



Access line. The tools are forged from chrome vanadium steel, heat-treated to offer strength and durability, and polished to a full-shine finish that's easy to keep clean. The go-through ratchet boasts a 72-tooth gearing mechanism that delivers a 5-deg. arc swing, a slim-design head and a low-profile forward/reverse switch. Visit kobalttools.com.

MI-T-M INVERTER GENERATOR

Mi-T-M Corporation announces the release of the new 3000 Watt Inverter Generator. Designed with inverter technology, it provides clean and quiet power for job sites as well as camping and recreational activities. Compact and easy to move, this generator features a 212cc Mi-T-M overhead valve engine with low-oil shut-



down and recoil start. Its insulated side panels reduce noise, making it an efficient and cost-effective quiet power source in noise-restricted areas. With 3000 watts of power, use it on jobsites to power your tools and charge your battery packs with the DC/battery charging capabilities. Copper windings and an alternator total harmonic distortion (THD) of less than 3-percent provides power for sensitive electronic equipment such as laptops, sound systems and cellular equipment. Visit www.mitm.com.

Add-A-Handle67	Oneida Air Systems
AGS Stainless	PacTool International14
Arke11	Perma-Boot
Armstrong-Clark15	Plan Station
Bigfoot Systems8	Quickscrews7
BlueDevil ProductsIFC, 1	SafeWorld International71
Calculated Industries	Sakrete
DaVinci Roofscapes	SaschcoBC
Deck2wall Spacer66	Slant/Fin
DIYHomeCenter.com	Sliding Susan30
Energy Saving Products	SnoBlox-Snojax
EZ Gutter Guard Protection	Soil Retention
Floe International	SolidSurface.com
Grizzly Industrial	Star Fasteners Plus
Healthful Home52	Starrett10
Howard Products58	Stego Industries
Kaddies	Super Soundproofing
King Architectural Metals	Sure Drive USA
Last Deck	TG Tools
Lumber Liquidators	Titan61
Mark E Industries	Tjernlund Products
Maze Nails19	U2 Fasteners
Muro70	UGL75
NewTechWood59	Viance
Nick's Building Supply	Zerust66
O'Berry Enterprises 14	



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