

FREE TO THE TRADE

Professional BUILDER

BUILDING ■ FLOORING ■ PLUMBING ■ ROOFING
■ CARPENTRY ■ PAINTING AND DECORATING ■

THE BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOR THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

DECEMBER 2020

WORKING IN WINTER
DON'T CATCH A COLD!



INTERIOR REFURBISHMENT
ALL GOOD ON THE HOME FRONT

'ICE' AND EASY DOES IT THIS WINTER IN 4X4 DRIVING MODE WITH SSANGYONG'S NEW MUSSO LWB RHINO PICK-UP



“Another perfect finish!”

HAMILTON®

— We're at home in your toolbox —



hamiltondecoratingtools.co.uk

REGULARS

- 7 Editor's Viewpoint
- 9 News
- 11 Letters
- 24 Training & Upskilling
- 26 Free-for-All
- 64 The Doctor's Advice
- 66 Wise Howell



12

SPECIAL REPORTS

- 12 Band of Builders
 - Charity Build
- 15 Inventors' Corner
 - Builder's Tea Box
- 19 Mannok - Company Profile



BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

- 22 GoSimpleTax
 - Self Assessment Deadline

TOP PRODUCTS 2020

- 29 Charles Godfrey Award
- 30 Top Product Awards



The **Charles Godfrey**
Award 2020



38

WORKING IN WINTER

- 34 Tarmac - Winter Mortar Care
- 36 Norbord - CaberShieldPlus
- 38 Permaroof
 - EPDM Rubber Roofing
- 40 Marley - Roofing in Winter
- 42 RWC - Plumbing & Heating
- 44 Toilets+ - Site Welfare
- 46 Snickers Workwear
 - Preferred Fibres
- 47 NEW PRODUCTS



53

INTERIOR REFURBISHMENT

- 48 Rockwool - Sound Insulation
- 51 Armstead - Product Range
- 53 British Gypsum
 - ThistlePro Magnetic
- 56 Gyproc - EasiFill
- 57 NEW PRODUCTS



FREE FOR ALL!

In it to win it...
see page 26

GENERAL BUILDING

- 58 General Building Products



60

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

- 58 NEW PRODUCTS
- 59 Makita Tech Talk
- 60 Grabo
 - Electric Vacuum Grabber

BUILDERS' VEHICLES

- 61 Honest John
 - Electric and Plug-in Hybrid
- 62 Isuzu D-Max - Utility

REGULARS

- 65 Quickslide
- 66 Wise Howell

Free Business Listing until February 2021*



Be the tradesperson customers turn to first with Checkatrade, your business building partner.

Win more work with a **FREE Business Listing** until February 2021*. The business support you need right now.

Choose your membership package

	Business Listing	Full Membership
Build your own profile page	✓	✓
Upload photographs of projects	✓	✓
Post and receive customer reviews	✓	✓
Google indexing and organic star rating	✓	✓
Appear in main search results by business name	✓	✓
Appear in main search results by trade type and location		✓
Access to Checkatrade Buying Club	✓	✓
Checkatrade branding for marketing and van livery	✓	✓
Specify skills offered and areas you work in		✓

Checkatrade is already working for more than 48,000 Trade Experts just like you across the UK. You can join them and **try it for FREE with one of our fantastic new member offers.**



Free Business Listing until February 2021*

or **FREE Full Membership for 2 months.****

Increase leads in your local area by upgrading to Full Membership at any time.

Join the UK's No 1 Trade Directory - with over 2 million customer searches every month, your FREE listing can help you win more local work, elevate your business and safeguard your earnings.

Call **02394 317508** or visit join.checkatrade.com/ProBuild

Register in as little as five minutes
Free Business Listing until February 2021*
or **2 Months' FREE Full Membership.****

Checkatrade.com

*Checkatrade Affiliate membership is free for the first four months. This includes no joining fee (RRP £25.00 plus VAT). Affiliate Membership will be charged £25 plus VAT per month thereafter. You will still have to pass a minimum of 12 vetting checks. Once passed, you will have a dedicated web profile as well as use of marketing logos and access to benefits. Your web listing will not be found in general areas searches on Checkatrade - but only if a consumer searches for your business name. You can be included in our Online Directory search results and receive customer calls, by upgrading to Full Membership. Contract and terms apply. Offer subject to change. See Checkatrade.com/terms for full terms and information.

**You'll pay no membership or joining fees during your first 2 months. This includes no joining fee (RRP £25.00 plus VAT). You will then pay from £49.99 to £139.99 plus VAT per month, depending on your region, trade and contract type. Contract and terms apply. Offer subject to change. See Checkatrade.com/terms for full terms and information.



Legacy PVCu Sash Window

£255

ANY SIZE* BASE PRICE

Extras

Woodgrain Finish	£50
Run-through Sash Horns	£20
Mechanical Deep Bottom Rail	£40
Seamless Welds (woodgrain only)	£10
Fully Mechanical Joints	£50
Heritage Hardware	£10

11 Stock
Woodgrains



3 Panels (White or Grey) Aluminium Bi-Fold Doors

£1,500
UNGLAZED

Extras

Glazed	£75 per panel
Sill	£50
Flush Trickle Vent	£25 each
Magnetic Catches	FOC

Any RAL Colour
Available



AWARD
WINNING



QUICK DELIVERY
NATIONWIDE



EASY TO
INSTALL



MADE IN
THE UK



10 YEAR
GUARANTEE

Tel: 03330 146250 **Email:** sales@quickslide.co.uk **www.quickslide.co.uk**

Quote 'Pro Build' to redeem offer(s). Delivery Restrictions apply. All prices ex VAT.

*Specification and min/max sizes apply. Images may include optional upgrades at additional cost.
Product specifications and prices may be subject to change without prior notice as technical developments dictate.

6000 Joker

LIMIT STOP
PREVENTS SLIPPING

NO
JAW FLEX

PRACTICAL
HOLDING FUNCTION

30° LOW
RETURN ANGLE

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Joker by **Wera**



@weratoolsuk



Wera



Total Average Net Distribution 112,628
1 July 2019 – 31 June 2020

MANAGING EDITOR

TERRY SMITH

EMAIL: tsmith@hamerville.co.uk

DEPUTY EDITOR

LEE JONES

EMAIL: ljones@hamerville.co.uk

GROUP ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

CRAIG JOWSEY

TEL: 07900 248102

EMAIL: craig@hamerville.co.uk

NORTHERN ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

IAN DUFF

MOBILE: 07810 353525

EMAIL: ian@hamerville.co.uk

REGIONAL ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

SAM SHANNON TINSLEY

MOBILE: 07554 013302

EMAIL: stinsley@hamerville.co.uk

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

DONNA BOOTH

GROUP PRODUCTION MANAGER

CAROL PADGETT

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

CLAIRE SWENDELL

DIGITAL ASSISTANT

JASMINE SMITH

EMAIL: jsmith@hamerville.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

KARL CLARK

PUBLISHER

BRYAN SHANNON

PRINTED BY

WALSTEAD PETERBOROUGH

PUBLISHED BY

HAMERVILLE MEDIA GROUP

Regal House, Regal Way,

Watford, Herts WD24 4YF

Tel: (01923) 237799

Fax: (01923) 246901

Email: pb@hamerville.co.uk



Professional Builder is a business magazine for firms and individuals involved in all aspects of the building industry. It is available nationally – free to the trade through leading builders' merchant outlets. © 2020

To be removed from this magazine's circulation, please call 01923 237799 or email circulation@hamerville.co.uk.

Subscriptions to *Professional Builder* are available at the following rates:

UK: 1 year (11 issues) – £30.00 post paid

Europe & Overseas: 1 year (11 issues) – £50.00 post paid

Airmail: 1 year (11 issues) – £65.00 post paid

viewpoint

STRIKE UP THE BAND!

Trying to remain positive during the unprecedented trials and tribulations of the past nine months has, at times, felt like trying to rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic. Back then, of course, legend has it that those redoubtable stiff upper lip band members calmly played on, even as chaos ensued all around them, and there's nothing like a real life and death crisis to bring out the very best and worst of human nature.

Our very own 'big band' moment came just a few weeks ago when we were invited to an ordinary house in Norfolk where, it can only be said, extraordinary things were taking place. You can read the full uplifting story later on in this issue, but in essence another band, this time of builders, everyday tradesmen and women had come together to transform the life of a fellow compatriot whose family situation had been turned on its head following the diagnosis of a horribly debilitating brain disease. To see at first hand more than twenty highly motivated, constantly smiling individuals come from all over the country at their own expense, putting aside their own Covid-19 related problems for a few days to tackle a major renovation project, was truly inspiring.

Many local suppliers had also come up trumps, with significant donations of plant and materials, as had local charities with hot food and drinks. In the few short hours, we were on site several kind-hearted neighbours arrived with an

assortment of home-made cakes, whilst the hoots of endorsement from passing cars was a constant source of support and encouragement on a grey November day. For ex plasterer, Chris Joy, who is destined to spend ever more moments of his life in a wheelchair, the scene was pretty overwhelming, but there was no escaping the sheer joy of what helping out in this time of crisis meant to the individuals involved, who graciously gave up their precious time, forgoing the opportunity to earn their own much needed cash.

It transpires that this is, in fact, the fourteenth such project Band of Builders has undertaken in the past four years and, remarkably, everyone has been over-subscribed with potential volunteers. Like all charities many of its own fundraising activities, from which it solely relies to keep going, have had to be postponed this year, but with such a groundswell of support not even a global pandemic is going to get in the way of trying to help even more illness or injury inflicted builders in 2021.

Whilst many previously unsung heroes have emerged during the pandemic, and quite rightfully been given proper recognition and respect, the relentless efforts of the wider building fraternity to keep performing in adversity has, in our opinion, largely been overlooked. It's certainly true that, after years of inherently biased and negative press coverage, the construction sector clearly has a lot of ground to make up, but, as we have always pointed out, a few rotten apples shouldn't be allowed to spoil the whole wonderful barrel.

With winter upon us, and Christmas looming, there are bound to be the usual flurry of rip off stories in the media, with scurrilous tales of unscrupulous cowboys exploiting an already horrible situation. What you tend not to hear so much of – if at all – are the thousands upon thousands of endorsements from ever grateful homeowners cooped up for days on end, whose festive periods and, in some cases, lives have been saved by the fixing of a leak, a broken boiler or a patched up roof. These men and woman will not think twice about curtailing their own celebrations to help a customer in need. Perhaps it's too fanciful to call them the fifth emergency service, but in essence that's what they are although, as usual, you can be sure that they will be well down the pecking order when the presents come to be handed out. And yet, if it were based purely on hitting all the right notes, and providing music to all of our ears, we know exactly which Band would already be guaranteed the coveted festive number one this year.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas to all of our readers and a special mention, of course, to our loyal advertisers and distributors for supporting us during these extremely challenging times.



Get the right tool for the job and save.

Tradespeople can save
up to 40% on their
phone bill. On a network
with 99% UK coverage.
Job done.

Search Tesco Mobile Business
0800 032 1160



Advertised saving based on current pricing of EE, O2 and Vodafone for a 12-month SIM only plan with a 5GB data allowance per month. Pricing correct as of 22/10/20. For comparison verification see tescomobile.com/business. Unlocked 4G enabled phone and contract with Tesco Mobile required. 99% 4G population coverage (indoors and outdoors) across UK. Subject to status. Fair Use Policy applies. See tescomobile.com/terms

RIGHT TO BUILD

The Government's commitment to increase self and custom builds will prove invaluable for SME house builders, according to the Federation of Master Builders.

"It's no secret that this country is in need of more, high quality, sustainable homes," declares Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, "so this boost to Right to Build is welcome. The Housing Secretary's determination to increase diversification in the housing market and promote greater numbers of self and custom builds is good news for small to medium-sized (SME) house builders. Reversing the decline of SME house builders, who today build just 12 per cent of new homes, compared to 40 per cent 30 years ago, will mean more development that truly caters for local communities."

The trade association has also called on Whitehall to reform the planning system. It needs to be quicker and more efficient, with Ofsted-style



© Eisenhans/Adobe Stock

ratings introduced for local authority planning departments. "Land availability is another key issue for SME house builders," concludes Berry. "To help make more small sites available Homes England should be ensuring public land disposals provide a greater proportion of small parcels of land aimed at small housebuilders."



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV001

MAKING A MARK

Shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, explains the change in UK legislation from CE to UKCA Marking

As the UK leaves the EU in 2021, the UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) Mark will be phased in from 1st January 2021 to replace the CE Mark in the UK (this includes England, Wales and Scotland). A transition period will run from 1st January 2021 to ease the changeover to the UKCA Marking which means all products placed on the market in Great Britain with the CE Mark will remain valid until 1st January 2022. The final reseller of the products – in this case the plumber – has a legal responsibility to ensure the products they are specifying conform to the necessary standards.



FOR FURTHER FULL ON THE CE MARK
CHANGES VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV002

ACTIS LESSONS

Dust-free insulation could help prevent lung disease says Actis, as HSE launches respiratory risk campaign

The Dustbuster campaign will see HSE officials checking up on construction firms across the country to help protect workers from the dangers of dust. Insulation specialist, Actis says one change which



could help is to switch from using traditional, solid insulation

products, which create dust when cut, to those which generate no irritants or dust whatsoever. Because there's no fibres, there's also no need for a respiratory mask or any special clothes.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
ACTIS VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV003



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE
HSE DUSTBUSTER CAMPAIGN VISIT:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV004

GREEN SHOOTS OF RECOVERY

British Gypsum is providing the products and training for the trades to capitalise on the Green Homes Grants

£2 billion of government money is available to homeowners to upgrade their homes under the Green Homes Grant scheme. It is estimated that 24 million homes across the country need energy-efficiency improvements. That represents a huge opportunity for tradespeople to increase customer volumes but tradespeople will need to be Trustmark or Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) registered to take advantage.

British Gypsum's dedicated training centres can help builders prepare for internal wall insulation projects, and provide knowledge of the relevant energy efficiency regulations, whilst it also supplies a range of IWI solutions.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON BRITISH GYPSUM TRAINING COURSES
VISIT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV005



REGISTER AS A CERTIFIED INSTALLER WITH TRUSTMARK HERE:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV006



REGISTER TO BE A GREEN HOMES GRANT INSTALLER HERE:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV007

MASTER AT WORK



Entrants for the 2021 FMB Master Builder Awards are now open

From new residential homes to major commercial developments, the 2021 Master Builder Awards will showcase incredible projects by Master Builders across the UK. In 2021 there are 11 award categories, which includes three new categories: Building Company of the Year, Sustainability Award and Tradesperson of the Year. The overall Master Builder of the Year award winner will drive away in a brand new, yet-to-be-released model of an Isuzu pick-up truck worth more than £36K! Unlike most award schemes, the Master Builder Awards are free to enter, but you must be a Master Builder to be eligible. If you're not a member of the FMB, you can start your application to join via the link below.

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV008

A BROKEN 'VAN'!

Devastating van theft sets trades people back £264 million a year

A survey of more than 1,037 tradespeople commissioned to mark the launch of Honcho van insurance, has revealed that tool theft costs tradespeople a whopping £5,584 on average each time their van gets broken into.

On average, a tradesperson's van is broken into every 23 minutes in the UK, and the impact of this on workers' livelihoods can be devastating. Van theft not only sets workers back financially due to needing to replace the stolen goods, but it also costs them work and income in the meantime.

According to Honcho's data, having tools and supplies stolen during a van break-in puts the average tradesperson out of work for 30 days.



A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

It's Christmas cheer with a Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity £25,000 prize pot

With Christmas events cancelled across the country, the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity has just the thing to lift the spirits of your employees, suppliers and sub-contractors. Many companies already opt for an e-card or 'charity cards' but this one comes with the opportunity to win a share of a £25,000 prize pot whilst raising much needed funds for charity. Cards cost just £1 each and there's a top prize of £10,000, 1 prize of £5,000, 5 prizes of £1,000 and 10 prizes of £500. The draw will take place on 18 December 2020 at 20:00hrs and it promises to be a party atmosphere too, so don't miss out!



FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV009

NORMAL SERVICE RESUMED

Covid-19 support from the Rainy Day Trust

The Rainy Day Trust (RDT) is continuing in the drive to spread awareness of its support during the COVID-19 crisis with the launch of a leaflet designed to appeal to businesses potentially at the beginning of any restructuring process.

The leaflet, 'Help for your business to cope with the new normal', urges companies to get in touch with the RDT at an early stage – as Bryan Clover CEO of the charity explains: "We're worried that in some areas, furloughed staff will turn into redundant staff. That's never an easy thing to deal with. But we can bring a fresh perspective to your plans and help individuals concerned or affected by any changes." The charity has also announced a new phone number 0800 9154627.



FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV010



MATES RATES

The study by Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles revealed that 77 per cent of van drivers regularly carry out work free of charge

Whether it's fixing a friend's leaky tap or quoting for house renovation work that they never get contracted to complete, on average, workers spend four hours a week pricing up quotes for new customers who never book the job in, plus another three hours doing free work for friends or family – equivalent to £4,300 a year. Tradesmen and women in London are the worst affected, carrying out 10 hours of free labour each week. That's compared to the south west where van drivers average less than four hours a week on family favours or new quotes.

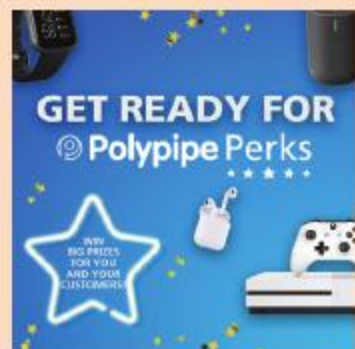
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV012



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HONCHO VAN INSURANCE VISIT:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV011

POLY INTO LOLLY

Launch of Polypipe Perks provide installers with prizes



Installers visiting merchants for plumbing products across the country, could end up winning a selection of top-of-the-range prizes by entering

the new Polypipe Perks scheme.

Each month, Polypipe will conduct a new online prize draw to win a variety of epic tech prizes ranging from an LG 50" 4K television, iPhone 11 and Xbox One, through to Amazon Echo Dots, and Amazon Fire Sticks.

There are also a host of prizes for installers on the move, such as Apple AirPods, Anker Powerbanks and the FitBit Versa Smart Watch.

All a participant has to do is purchase, upload their proof of purchase to the Polypipe Perks website and then they will be entered into the prize draw.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENTER VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV013

JUST REWARDS

Permaroof launches inaugural rewards scheme

The UK's leading importer and distributor of Firestone RubberCover has launched its first ever loyalty scheme to reward both old and



new customers for spending with them. The Permaroof Rewards Programme gives customers the opportunity to build up points with every purchase they make, which can then be redeemed and put towards future investments. Tracked through a bespoke app, customers will be entitled to exclusive rewards and

offers, as well as given access to the latest product launches the moment they go live.

TO SET UP AN ACCOUNT, VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV014

YOUR LETTERS...

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Alexandre Zweiger/Adobe Stock



Dear Professional Builder

We've been specialising in building bespoke garden rooms for clients in London for about 10 years now, and since the lockdown we've had a record number of enquiries. The longer the pandemic goes on the more that the changes to the way we live and work are going to be permanent and not temporary. My point being, that although things do seem very bleak for a lot of people at the moment, there are always opportunities. Whilst I wouldn't want to be doing my own company out of work, there's going to be good money to be made in home offices and the like for years to come now.

● Richard Wakeham, Battersea, SW11

PB: There is an old saying that every crisis is an opportunity and Covid-19 is no different. Many of the lead generation sites are reporting record levels of engagement, as homeowners look to adapt their domestic spaces. Professional Builder is always packed with ideas for fresh sources of revenue for the trades, and the fact that construction has been singled out as a sector that needs to continue during any lockdown is a testament to its importance.

TRADE UP

Dear Professional Builder



Just a quick note to say how much I enjoy the viewpoint in your magazine. I always find it interesting and a good read, particularly this month about youngsters going to

university. I've said for years that people look down on the building trade, I am proud to be a craftsman and would encourage anyone to take up a trade, particularly joinery. I have experienced people looking down on me because I am only a tradesman and we need to stand up for the trades. Keep up the interesting articles.

● John Skelton, JS Joinery, via email

Dear Professional Builder



I have worked for a leading builders' merchant at Lydney in Gloucestershire for 23 years. In my other job I am the County Councillor for Lydney. I must congratulate you on your viewpoint article "No News Is

Good News" – you absolutely have hit the nail well and truly on the head.
● Cllr Alan Preest, Vice-Chairman Gloucestershire County Council, Lydney Division.

A MATERIAL WORLD

Dear Professional Builder

Whilst it's true to say that the shortages of building materials have eased for the moment, my worry is that if there is another lockdown we're going to be back to square one. Is there any way that something like plaster and plasterboard could only be sold to tradespeople?

● Jason Nicholls, Guildford, Surrey



PB: The shortages were, of course, caused by leading manufacturers being forced to cease production at the height of the lockdown, and then playing catch up in subsequently resupplying the market. With some products this was exacerbated by the fact that the world and his wife took the opportunity to undertake a spot of often ill-advised DIY. These are very uncertain times – and no-one can say for certain, of course – but at present factories have been told to remain operational, along with building sites, and it's unlikely that will change at this stage. As for only selling to builders, it would be very difficult to enforce and police, and even if it were feasible would almost certainly involve the introduction of additional costs into the supply chain – which is not something anyone would want to see at present.

© Daisy Daisy/Adobe Stock

BAND OF BUILDERS

Band of Builders has come to the aid of a plasterer with a debilitating neurological condition. Professional Builder's Lee Jones visits the site to find out more.



What the Band of Builders team has done for me is overwhelming and deeply humbling," declares Chris Joy, "and I really can't thank them enough." The Norwich-based tradesman is the latest beneficiary of a unique charity that comes to the aid of construction workers in crisis, with a group of volunteers undertaking a major home improvement project that will help Chris in his battle against a devastating illness.

When the former plasterer first noticed his health deteriorating it was the beginning of a long and stressful road to diagnosis. Eventually, the 41 year old spreader would collapse on site, and three MRI scans, four lumbar punches and a battery of other tests later, he was told that he had contracted Cerebellar Ataxia, a rare disease where a region of the brain begins to shrink, and which has left Chris spending up to 50 per cent of his time in a wheelchair.

Desperate to maintain his independence for the sake of his family, Chris turned to the charity which is itself founded and run by tradespeople, with a mission to help builders in need. The week-long renovations that the Band of Builders crew has taken on will lay a new

driveway, and create a level access entrance from the side of the house. Chris will then be able to move from his property to his vehicle more easily.

Volunteer army

"At the start of the job we had around 22 volunteers on site, and there's been an average of around 14 or 15 every day since," explains Project Lead, Tony Everett. "When we put out a call for the trades to help we get people from all over the country, all of whom are not only taking the time off their own jobs, and not earning as a result, but also paying for their own fuel and lodgings."



Left to right, Band of Builders Volunteer, Tony Height, the beneficiary Chris Joy, and Project Lead, Tony Everett

Bricklayer, Tony is a regular on Band of Builders' projects, participating in four of their assignments to date, and fulfilling the role of Project Lead on two of them. In addition, to the week-long building work itself that's a role that also requires a full site assessment and considerable planning prior to the event, all of which takes time out from running his own successful business, but the project is its own reward. "There's a real sense of camaraderie with Band of Builders, with everyone pulling together because they know they're doing something worthwhile. My first experience was two days on a job and I just got hooked."

That's an attitude that is reflected in the suppliers who have bequeathed materials and equipment free of charge. Chris was well known to the local branch of a major builders' merchant, and they have supplied all of the plant, as well as the Type 1 for the driveway's sub-base. Weber has donated all the through coloured render the job will require, whilst Talasey Group contributed the artificial grass, driveway resin and natural stone setts.

Shane McCormick is a Talasey Group Sales Director and trustee of Band of Builders, an organisation which has held registered charity status since 2019. "We were originally scheduled to begin the

work here in March," he recalls, "but the pandemic intervened. When we asked for volunteers through our social media channels for this job we actually got more responses than we could ever use, and it can be complicated by the fact that we will need specific skills on site on certain days. Who volunteers often dictates the kind of improvements we'll do in the course of the week. We had some plasterers turn up, for instance, so we were able to re-render the garden wall as well."

Shane recently completed the virtual London marathon to raise funds for the

charity, and like many such organisations the pandemic has disrupted its income stream, but it is the time and skill that ordinary tradespeople devote to the cause that allows Band of Builders to help those, like Chris, who are in real need. "We often find that our presence galvanises the local community," he enthuses. "A local homeless charity has supplied both lunch and dinner to everyone who's working on site, for example. Businesses in the surrounding area come down with cakes for the team, and we have flags with our logo on next to the busy main road here,

and there's drivers sounding their horns in acknowledgement of what we're doing all day long."

Band of Builders was originally founded by Adam Smith to help his friend Keith Ellick when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. It is that selfless spirit of togetherness which has seen the movement grow beyond all expectations in just a few years. Chris Joy's is the 14th such event they have embarked on, with many more members of the construction industry who have fallen on tough times in need of their services.

"I think it's taken a few days for it to sink in exactly what the guys have been doing here for me," concludes an emotional Chris Joy. "When you're a proud man, and you've worked and supported your family your whole life, getting this kind of help can leave you with conflicting feelings, but it's important that I stay as independent as I can be, not just for me but for my wife and four children. The work the volunteers have done here will help me to do just that, and at the same time it really does restore your faith in people."



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
BAND OF BUILDERS VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV015



Are you the **best builder** in the UK?

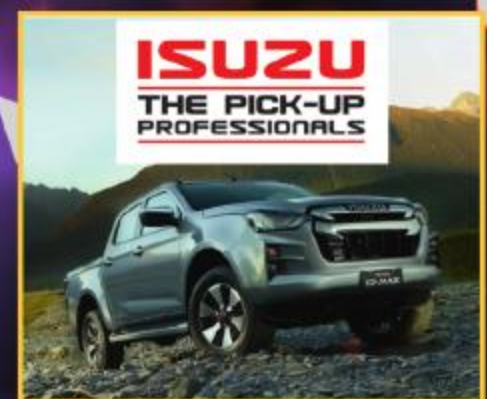


After a most unusual year, we're looking forward to celebrating the best building projects delivered by Master Builders across the UK.

If you have recently completed an outstanding building project, or if you know a tradesperson, apprentice or small building company that deserves recognition, submit a nomination!

The Master Builder Awards celebrate high-quality craftsmanship, exceptional customer service and building excellence.

Nominations are now open.
Visit: www.fmb.org.uk/pb-mba



**You've got to
be in it to win it!**

The overall winner will drive away with a brand new, yet-to-be-released model of an Isuzu pick-up truck worth more than £36K, thanks to our headline sponsor Isuzu.



@fmbbuilders



@federationofmasterbuilders

If you're interested in sponsorship opportunities, please email connections@fmb.org.uk or call **020 7025 2900**

The awards are free to enter but you must be a member of the Federation of Master Builders to be eligible. Apply to join today at: www.fmb.org.uk/pb. Nominations for the 2021 Master Builder Awards open on 12 November 2020 and close on 15 January 2021. Terms and conditions apply – see the website for more details.

TIME FOR TEA

Invented by electrician, Dan Anderson, The Builder's Tea Box could be just your cup of char. Lee Jones talks to the Dorset tradesman about the handy drinks making kit

A hot brew on a winter's day is a blessing for a builder, but the means to rustle up a respectable cup of Rosie Lee is not always readily available on site. Whether it's a kettle with more layers of paint and plaster than a Victorian townhouse, a base that went missing in that black hole between van and job, or ceramic mugs that were never meant for the muck and bullets that's a tradesman's lot, there's invariably a vital component that's gone astray – and you're not going to be keeping that spoon for all the tea in China.

"It started as a throwaway comment on site," recalls Bournemouth-based, sparks, Dan Anderson. "Yet another kettle that had been kicked about the back of the van had broken and I said to the lads what we really need is a tea box. That then became a bit of a standing joke with blokes bringing in cardboard boxes and the like, but it did get me thinking that there could be a market for something purpose-built."

It was an idea that the proprietor of Ando Electrical then kept brewing in the back of his mind for some time before he set about designing a suitable solution. "I originally envisaged something like a high-end toolbox, with draws and compartments," he explains. "The problem with that is that it's expensive to manufacture, which pushes up the cost, and it's fiddly for a builder to use. I went



Bournemouth-based electrician, Dan Anderson has break times off to a Tea thanks to his invention

through a few prototypes but realised that simplicity and durability had to be the guiding principles."

Tea-ing off

Like many an aspiring inventor, Dan would soon realise that bringing a product to market was certainly no tea party, especially when working as an electrician and bringing up two small children. "I was mostly working on it weekends and evenings, but the further I got into it the more determined I became. Having found

a local firm who could help me with the designs, it's now being manufactured very cost-effectively in China. It's took three years to get in a position where we're selling units and I'm very happy with the finished product"

The Builder's Tea Box is designed to safely contain all the accoutrements you need for that crucial caffeine boost. It contains two enamel cups, two enamel containers to store tea, coffee or sugar, one stainless steel spoon, and a kettle that will boil two cups of water, all safely stowed in a sturdy case with a handle and shoulder strap. "It looks simple but there's a lot of thought that has to go into it," he

**YOUR
CHANCE
TO WIN!**

continues. "The carry case material is EVA, which is strong enough to take a knock, and everything has to be designed to be easy to clean. It can't be too big, of course, but at the same time needs to compactly hold exactly what you need. There's a 12V version in the pipeline, and we certainly have ambitions to get it into builders' merchants. Not only does it keep everything safely in one place, it's going to save you time looking for cups and so on when you want to brew up."

Dan's investment in time and his own money is considerable, but he is also indebted to his silent partner, Carole Knifton. Originally a client of Ando Electrical, when he explained The Builder's Tea Box idea, she immediately saw the potential and has helped him realise the product. "The best testimony I can give it is that it's made by a tradesman for the trades," concludes Dan, "and just like your toolbox and your radio it can be just another part of your everyday kit."



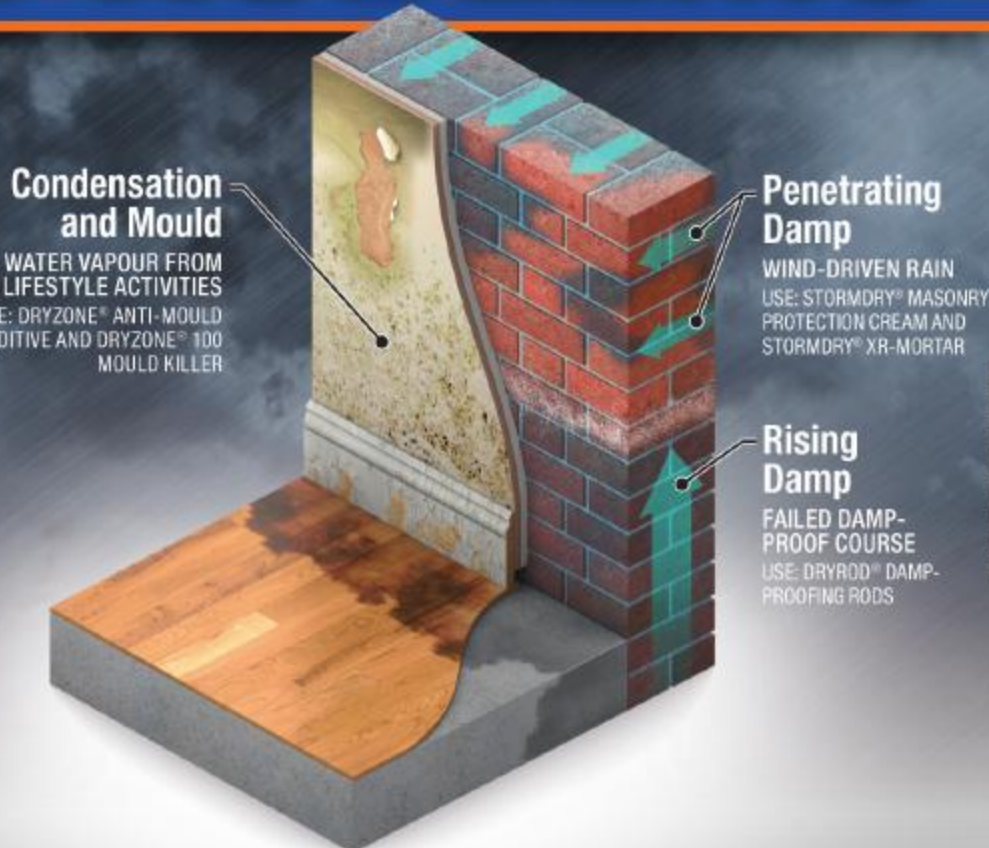
**WE HAVE 3
TO GIVE AWAY**

If Dan Anderson's drinks making kit sounds like just your cup of tea, you're in luck because we have three to give away. All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is enter the link below into your browser, provide your contact details, and you could be drinking deep with a Builder's Tea Box.

TO ENTER THE COMPETITION GO TO WWW.RDR.LINK/BV016

For further information on The Builder's Tea Box visit www.rdr.lnk/BV017
For further information on Ando Electrical visit www.rdr.lnk/BV018

DAMP PROBLEMS



DAMP SOLUTIONS



Rising Damp

DRYROD® DAMP-PROOFING RODS

Condensation & Mould

DRYZONE® ANTI-MOULD ADDITIVE
DRYZONE® 100 MOULD KILLER

Penetrating Damp

STORMDRY® MASONRY PROTECTION CREAM
STORMDRY® XR-MORTAR

OUT OF SIGHT, BUT NEVER OUT OF ACTION

NEW

- 24/7 MOTION RECORDING
- TRANSFERS DATA FROM CAMERAS VIA 4G SIM IF YOUR BROADBAND IS DOWN*
- HD 1080P CLOUD RECORDING AND ACTIVITY LOGS
- CONNECT DIRECTLY INTO YOUR ROUTER OR WI-FI
- CAMERAS AND ALARMS WORK FROM ONE APP
- PROTECTED CABLES FOR ANTI-VANDALISM



CLOUD BASED



SMARTPHONE
CONTROL



WIFI



1080P HD
CAMERA

* when fitted with Protect Alarm and full subscription package



Alarm and cameras
can be controlled by
a single app**



KM 722890

ONE SYSTEM, ONE SMARTPHONE APP AND A MULTITUDE OF CAPABILITIES

Out and about or broadband down, viewing your property at any time is never out of action!

Awarded the IoT Kitemark, the Outdoor Camera is searching 24/7 for motion via PIR sensor.

Backed by the next generation of alarm system, the Outdoor Camera works seamlessly with the alarm, transferring data from the cameras to the cloud in an alert situation, using the Protect Alarm built in 4G SIM.



Now available with flexible
Professional Monitoring Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

0345 257 2500

www.eraprotect.com

ERA
PROTECT

SERIOUS ABOUT SECURITY



ESTIMATING



ESTIMATING WITH
BUILD AVIATOR

Reduce the time you spend estimating by up to 80%. Build Aviator's specialist software uses real prices and easy-to-use templates to take the hassle out of pricing up jobs.

Swap paperwork for proper work.

✉ estimates@buildaviator.co.uk

☎ 0333 332 1518





As an industry stalwart enters a new era, Professional Builder puts the questions to Mannok Sales Director, Lee Gillman

PB One of the big news stories in construction during the past few weeks has been the announcement that the long established, and highly respected, Quinn Building Products business has been rebranded as Mannok.

What is the background to the original company – and the decision to rebrand?

Mannok (M): The original business has been operating for almost 50 years now, having been founded in 1973, and has expanded from the initial quarry aggregates supply to become one of the most diverse producers of building materials in the UK and Ireland. The product portfolio now includes a full PIR and EPS insulation range, bulk, and bagged cement products, aircrete blocks, concrete roof tiles, and a range of precast concrete elements.

The company was acquired in 2014 by the current owners and, since that time, has enjoyed a period of significant investment of around €60m and continuous development to expand the product ranges, enhance the service offerings and innovation to improve infrastructure, process efficiencies and sustainability credentials. This five-year development period has also seen employment increase by almost 200 people, and has positioned

the company for further growth, particularly in the GB market, where we have had significant gains.

Now, the company is in its strongest position since acquisition, with a strong financial footing, and we've earned a solid reputation as a trusted supplier of quality building materials. The rebranding from Quinn to Mannok is a major milestone for us, but very much part of the strategic development plan to build a robust brand name which appeals to the wider industry and fits with the expansion plans for the long term.

PB Why now, at such a challenging time?

M: Yes, it comes at a time when everybody in the industry faces unprecedented challenges in the form of Covid and Brexit, but we believe that continuing with our rebrand plans, even in this most challenging landscape, gives a very strong signal of our intention to our customers, to our 800 strong workforce, and to the wider construction industry, and that is a very firm commitment; a message that we are here for the long term and we are going to continue to advance, invest and innovate in the same progressive manner they have come to expect from us.

PB What can customers expect?

M: For our customers, they can expect more of the same, so they'll have access to the same products and be dealing with the same people, and I think it's very important to reassure our customers that they can still rely on that. There will be administrative changes associated with the name change, but the processes around ordering stock, deliveries and customer support are not affected by the name change. As we move forward under the Mannok name, we will continue to enhance our processes to ensure the best customer experience. A key objective for us is to expand our product range, and this is a message which will appeal to our merchant customer base and, in turn, their customers.

The brand name changed to Mannok in November, so customers will have already seen a number of changes. Whilst the full rebrand will take up to 12 months to complete, our product packaging and promotional materials for merchant customers is a high priority, and they will see all of this changing very soon. We have revealed our new look cement bags, which will carry the distinctive Mannok colours, and these will be in production

SPECIAL REPORT

COMPANY PROFILE

early in 2021, and the feedback has been very positive. Old, branded stock can be sold as normal as the new stock is phased in.

PB What are the values of the new Mannok brand?

M: We have defined a clear direction for the company going forward under the new Mannok brand, and it is very much centred around people, our communities, and the environment.

Providing quality products and excellent customer service is the core of what we do, and it's what we have built our reputation on and will continue to excel at. We have a trusted team of very talented people working with our customers and suppliers across the UK and Ireland to ensure the very best for our customers, from our sales teams, to despatch and delivery, our installation crews and administrative teams, backed

Mannok roof tiles



Precast hollowcore flooring



by our innovative product developers and designers, and expert technical support.

These people are the very backbone of our business, and we have a responsibility to them which we take incredibly seriously. We have built an organisation which will offer sustained and rewarding employment far into the future, nurturing talent and offering our people opportunities to develop their skills and progress their careers to reach their goals. Sustainability is a core priority for us, and we will continue to grow our business through continuous product and process enhancements, and the development of innovative, industry leading solutions, to ensure everything we do is done in the most environmentally responsible way.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
MANNOK VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV019



VORTEX[®]

EXTERIOR POWER SCREWS



1000-HOUR SALT SPRAY & ACQ TIMBER RESISTANCE FINISH
Perfect for the winter months



Magsho Silver
Organic Coating



Sharp, Wide and Deep Thread
featuring Sawfix Technology



Recessed Double Countersunk
Head with Sharp Milling Ribs



Oblique-Angle
Sharp Gash Point *

- MULTI-PURPOSE POWER SCREW DESIGNED FOR EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS.
- MAGSHO SILVER ORGANIC COATING.
- EASILY POWERS THROUGH A RANGE OF EXTERNAL TIMBER MATERIALS INCLUDING HARDWOOD, DECKING AND FENCING.
- DIAMETERS: 4.0MM & 5.0MM.
- LENGTHS: 30MM-100MM.

* Majority of sizes

Part of the Vortex range

VORTEX[®] VORTEX^{TX}

Includes Driver Bit



NEW
IN STOCK
AND
AVAILABLE NOW



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STOCKIST FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE MULTI-AWARD WINNING

Korniche®

ALUMINIUM ROOF
LANTERN

2020
WINNER

Best Rooflight
Supplier

Homebuilding
& Renovating
Awards

G&O

CONSERVATORY & ORANGERY
AWARDS 2019
WINNER 2019

CHARLES GODFREY

INNOVATION
AWARD
Professional
BUILDER

THE
BUILDER
TOP
PRODUCT
AWARD
2019

mft

MADE FOR
trade

**Struggling
with supply ?**

Request a Made for
Trade quote today
and let's get you
building...

NEW
CUSTOMER
**10%
DISCOUNT**

QUOTE REF:
PB-K01

**FITTED
IN
MINUTES**

 **FASTER**
Glazed in seconds

 **STRONGER**
Performance Engineered

 **WARMER**
Thermally Broken

 **SLIMMER**
Uninterrupted Sight Lines

 **SUPPORT**
The best trade lantern

www.madefortrade.co
Tel: 01642 610799

* Discount applies to new trade customers and first, single item purchase only of the Korniche Roof Lantern.



find us on facebook



SELF HELP

With the countdown to self-assessment upon us, Mike Parkes, Technical Director at GoSimpleTax, explains how you can get your house in order.

The days are shorter and the temperature's dropped. It can only mean one thing: the start of self-assessment season.

The looming tax deadline is an unavoidable fact of life for many builders – but there is a way to tackle tax head-on and take the headache out of your tax return.

The key is proactivity. Waiting until the last possible moment before the deadline to sort through invoice copies and receipts for materials is a surefire way to make your self-assessment a painful and protracted process. But by grabbing the bull by the horns, builders can make their self-assessment simpler and get a better understanding of their business.

There are things you can do now to make next month's self-assessment – and the ones each year after that – easier.

Give yourself time

GoSimpleTax data shows that most people file their tax return online in the

final 72 hours before the 31st January deadline. Many builders feel uncomfortable with the financial side of their business, and their natural instinct is to ignore it for as long as possible, but this can lead to costly mistakes.

Common errors include not adding all of your income, claiming for the wrong expenses, missing out details and assuming you don't need to declare something if you've not made a profit. Getting your affairs in order ahead of time gives you time to spot errors – so you don't end up being penalised by HMRC – and it lets you know what tax bill you have coming, so you can plan to pay it.

Manage your invoices

It's very easy to lose track of invoices and expenses if you don't proactively manage your finances all year round. It's important that builders:

Organise paper trails. If you're a traditionalist at heart, and you process expenses manually, you need to keep a

rigid filing system for your forms, invoices and receipts. Ultimately, any lost paperwork could lead to a hefty penalty from HMRC. Do not keep things in shoeboxes to sort out later!

Consider switching from manual invoicing to an online system. These allow you to invoice electronically, providing you with real-time data and all the information you need for a tax return at the click of a button.

Make sure that you keep records of the work you're doing and track your jobs properly, so nothing falls through the cracks.

Keep on top of your finances

Good financial management is about getting in the habit of staying on top of the pennies and pounds. It's easy to neglect the paperwork when you're busy on site, but you'll thank yourself for doing it when the time comes to do next year's self-assessment.

By keeping a close eye on the books

all year, you'll see where you could save money, understand what areas of your work are most profitable (so you can do more of that and less of others) and be aware of upcoming debts and bills.

Prepare for the next financial year

The Government's support packages provided much-needed financial assistance to self-employed builders and small businesses. But each support scheme will ultimately come to an end. It's essential that builders understand the implications and tax liabilities that come with these emergency measures.

An example is VAT deferrals.

Businesses weren't required to make VAT payments during the deferral period and were instead initially given until 31 March 2021 to pay any liabilities which accumulated. However, it was further announced in the Chancellor's winter economy plan that, rather than paying in full at the end of March 2021, businesses



will be able to choose to make 11 equal instalments over 2021/22.

All businesses which took advantage of the VAT deferral can use this new payment scheme, however, they will have to opt in, with an opt in process expected to be put in place in early 2021.

Effective tax planning

It's next year's tax bill that will be dominated by coronavirus and it will pay to get ahead of the curve. You should complete your 2019/20 tax return and submit it to HMRC as soon as possible.

31st January may seem like a long way off, but it will soon be soaked up by the Christmas period, and you'll get the year off to a more positive start without this outstanding task hanging over you as you enter January.

You may even want to consider starting to compile your 2020/21 tax return. This will give you a good understanding of next year's potential tax bill, so you have plenty of warning and less chance of unexpected costs.

GoSimpleTax provides straightforward software for your self-assessment and invoicing. By keeping your financial information up to date, you can save yourself hours of valuable time and prevent the stress of completing your annual tax return when you could be focused on your business.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
GOSIMPLETAX VISIT:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV020



Aluminium Bi-Fold Doors

MAKE THE SMARTER CHOICE

Struggling with supply ?

Request a Made for Trade quote today and let's get you building...

NEW CUSTOMER
10% DISCOUNT
QUOTE REF: PB-B01

FROM ONLY
£345*
per leaf
Including delivery



- Quote turnaround within hours
- Up to 1200mm sash widths
- Stock colours: White, Black, Grey, Grey on White



Call: 01642 610799 | www.madefortrade.co

* Per leaf price is unglazed and may vary depending on size and specification of the door. Lead time is based on a standard colour. Postcode restrictions apply.
10% Discount applies to new trade customers and first, single item purchase only of a single set of Bi-folding Doors.



AS YOU LIVE AND BREATHE

The UK Asbestos Training Association (UKATA) urges construction workers to take asbestos training more seriously

It's been more than 20 years since asbestos was banned in the UK but, because of a lack of awareness of the dangers, the deadly building material is still claiming the lives of more than 1,000 tradespeople every year.

Deaths from asbestos exposure have increased dramatically in the last 15 years after widespread use between the 1950s and '70s. Asbestos is now considered the largest single industrial killer ever seen in the UK.

John Dunn, a self-employed bricklayer, is paying the price for his exposure to asbestos 42 years after entering the construction industry as an apprentice bricklayer in 1978. Diagnosed with Atypical Tuberculosis (TB) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), John attributes his life-limiting illnesses to not wearing PPE. A problem, he says, that's still present in the construction industry today, despite stringent health and safety regulations.

He said: One of the biggest health and safety concerns that bricklayers face is dust, yet many do not follow best practice and damp bricks with water before

cutting, use dust suppression kits, suitable extraction tools or even masks.

"All too often PPE is viewed as a hassle. It costs time. It costs money. Even the tools required highlight the cost of working safely – a disc cutter which spews dust freely might cost £500 but an arborer, which creates minimal dust and can have vacuums fitted, might cost upwards of £1,500. The worries of providing for your family dwindle when you realise that you can't provide for them beyond the grave. PPE saves lives."

Because of its resistance to heat, corrosion and electricity, asbestos was used widely in construction for 100 years prior to its ban. So much so that it is estimated that even today there is six million tonnes of the highly toxic material in as many as 1.5 million buildings in the UK.

Hidden killer

Asbestos is thought to have been used in more than 4,000 products, including ceiling tiles, cement fireplaces and textured ceilings, often mixed in with other materials and making it almost impossible to detect.



When undisturbed, asbestos rarely poses a threat. However, if the microscopic fibres are released, people are at risk of inhaling them and developing deadly asbestos-related diseases, such as asbestosis and mesothelioma (cancer of the lung linings). These are not identified immediately after exposure, and can present themselves anywhere between 15 and up to 60 years afterwards. The latency period of asbestos, coupled with a substantial drop in training numbers during the pandemic, could mean that the UK will be facing a greater amount of deaths from asbestos over the next 15 – 60 years.

The HSE recommends that asbestos refresher training courses should be undertaken to help ensure knowledge of asbestos awareness is maintained. The asbestos regulations also make it clear that asbestos training for non-licensable and licensable asbestos works should be carried out at least annually.

Under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015), tradespeople are also legally required to ensure construction work and repairs are undertaken safely and without damaging worker's and other people's health.

Craig Evans, Chief Operating Officer of UKATA, a leading authority on asbestos, urged contractors to take asbestos more seriously: "Since UKATA was established ten years ago, our members have provided asbestos training to more than two million people, but this is still not enough particularly when you consider how many construction workers there are in the UK."

To ensure asbestos training continues to be accessible during the pandemic,



BUILDING BLOCKS...

*to a brighter future
in association with*

H+H

PARTNERS IN WALL BUILDING



DOWNLOAD THE H+H BROCHURE
APP AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV021



UKATA approved its 200-member companies and individuals to deliver asbestos courses by video conference technology. Craig added: "It is now vitally important that all construction employers and workers ensure that all asbestos training is up-to-date. These are difficult times, but this is a matter of life or death."

Training providers

Low cost UKATA-approved asbestos training is widely available throughout the UK.

The half day Asbestos Awareness course is designed for demolition workers and those workers in the refurbishment, maintenance and allied trades where it is likely that their work will disturb the fabric of the building and, therefore, asbestos containing materials may become exposed during their work.

Similarly, UKATA also offers an Asbestos Awareness Course for Groundworkers where ground drilling and manual excavations, fencing installation, on site remediation and waste disposal, may be likely to disturb asbestos containing materials.

The majority of UKATA-approved training providers are now fully operational and either delivering courses remotely online or face-to-face and observing social distancing guidelines.



TO FIND A UKATA TRAINING PROVIDER IN YOUR AREA
VISIT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV022



POCKET DOOR EXPERTS



PERFECTING POCKET DOORS FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS



Quick-click easy to assemble frame

Smooth, reliable running gear

Strong galvanised steel frame

Extractable track

High quality timber lining kit

Complete with fixings,
self-centering door guide and
under door profile

**FD30 AVAILABLE
TOO!**



TESTED TO 25!



EXPERT SUPPORT



NEXT WORKING
DAY

CALL 0333 5770828

TO REQUEST A COPY
OF OUR LATEST BROCHURES

www.eclisse.co.uk

FREE FOR ALL!

30 ON-SITE DIP TESTS

FERNOX

EXPRESS INHIBITOR TEST

The easy-to-use Fernox Express Inhibitor Test shows whether the system is fully protected with inhibitor in just seconds. What's more, results can be logged and managed with the free-to-download Fernox Water Test App – if the test passes, users will receive a digital certificate that acts as evidence that the test has been completed and the system is fully protected.

Professional Builder's Free-for-All feature has stood the test of time and continues to offer free products each and every month, and it's now easier to enter than ever before!



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV023

10 BOXES OF WOOD SCREWS

TENZ FROM PERRY

Tenz From Perry feature patented Tenz Stairs Thread Technology. In development for over a year, these wood screws are suitable for use on both hard and soft

wood. The manufacturer promises an unrivalled grip, fixing and overall drive performance ability which reduces energy need and extends the battery life of the drill.

We have 10 boxes of 5mm x 70mm No.6090 Tenz High Performance Woodscrews – Pozi Head – each containing 200 screws. So join the new woodworking revolution and make use of our digital reader enquiry service to enter.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV024

1 POCKET DOOR

ECLISSE

TORINO TECH SLIDING DOOR SYSTEM WITH SOFT-CLOSE

Have you thought about a surface mounted sliding door track for your next project? The doors are perfect for an en suite, utility, pantry or living area, where a hinged door is impractical and takes up too much space. The Torino Tech sliding door system with Soft-Close is a practical and interesting addition to any property.

Another great round of giveaways is opening doors to all kinds of prizes including a practical Eclisse pocket door!



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV025

10 ROLLERS AND CAGE FRAMES

HAMILTON PERFECTION

The Perfection roller range from Hamilton provides what the manufacturer describes as superb paint pick up and coverage, is low splatter, easy to clean and gives an excellent finish whatever the application.

Perfection roller sleeves are manufactured using a thermobonding process which prevents unwinding even when soaked in water or solvents, whilst the cage frames are sturdy and built to last.

Roll with it for a chance to win one of ten Perfection Medium Pile 9" rollers and cage frames right here.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV026

2 PAIRS OF SAFETY SHOES

EMMA SAFETY FOOTWEAR JACK SAFETY SHOE

With all the Snickers Workwear hallmarks of comfort and user satisfaction, this new JACK safety shoe from the EMMA Safety Footwear brand is fully accredited for safety with all the features you'd expect. Wear these and you'll be doing your bit for the planet because every component in the shoe is made from recycled or fully recyclable materials without any reduction in comfort, quality or safety. **Improve your footprint with the Jack Safety Shoe from EMMA. We have two pairs to give away.**



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV027

Easy to Enter! It's now easier than ever before to enter the competitions on our website. We've collected all the competitions on one handy page, meaning you only have to enter your details once! www.rdr.link/BV028

 **CaberDek®**



 **CaberFix® D4**



**The complete
flooring system**



Use CaberFix D4
BBA approved for
42 days exposure*

Dirtproof, peelable protection*

- Highly durable, waterproof top surface withstands high site traffic and is non-slip
- The nation's favourite P5 protected with an easy-to-peel film
- Foaming D4 adhesive fills and seals joints



*When installed according to manufacturer's instructions

 **Norbord®**
Make it better

The UK's No 1 producer of
engineered wood panels

 **SterlingOSB® Zero®**
Strength you can build on

 **CaberFloor®**
Systems you can trust

 **CaberWood MDF®**
Legendary performance

NEW

Powerfast II Screw

The only screw you'll
ever need.

Available NOW across the UK!

Unique Core miller Geometry to
reduce edge spacing and increase
load capacity.

Fast bite tri-blade tip for the best
immediate start.

The only performance woodscrew
that can be used in wall plugs.

Unique Shank miller technology
reduces driving torque.

Stick fit Pozi seat for
reduced Cam-Out.

Recessed miller rib pockets for
improved appearance in wood
and metal.



TOP PRODUCTS 2020

And the winner is...

...take a journey along our red carpet and enter the star-studded realm of Professional Builder's Top Products



Professional Builder's much coveted annual industry accolade is bequeathed by the best judges in the business – and that's you, the builders with the breadth of knowledge and hands-on experience that will ultimately determine the success of a manufacturer's solution. The following pages showcase the products that have attracted your attention through our multiple platforms – in print, online, via social media and from our e-newsletters. Much more than a

magazine, Professional Builder is dedicated to providing you with all the latest industry information in every possible format. Thanks to our digital reader enquiry service, for instance, it's now easier than ever to source more resources online. Simply enter the relevant www.rdr.link direct into your browser, including the short code, and a whole world of video guides, technical data and advice is at your disposal.

The Charles Godfrey Award 2020

Flexi Block Spot

A brickie's improvement on one of the makeshift staples of the trade is spot on!

Professional Builder's Charles Godfrey was always supportive of tradesmen who had turned inventor, so it is fitting that the award that bears his name should be bestowed on a bricklayer who has developed his own building product. A spot board is as much an on-site fixture as a mixer and a trowel, and more often than not it's nothing more complicated than an off cut of ply. Trouble is they're normally heavy to lift onto scaffolds, and out of a van, absorb the water in the mortar – drying it out in the process – and are rarely the right size.



The answer is the Flexi Block Spot, a high-quality rubber cover which sites over a standard pile of bricks or blocks and provides a perfect, clean non-absorbent surface for the mortar. They are extremely pliable and light – a labourer can easily carry up to ten in a bag onto the scaffold – and, of course, at the end of the day can be washed down and left in place for the next day's building, at the same time providing frost and driving rain protection overnight.

"After working through a number of designs and approaching some potential manufacturers, we came up with prototypes which I used on my own sites and put out to some other builders I know in the area," enthuses inventor, Mar Foley. "The feedback was tremendous, with the usual stuff of being so simple why didn't we think of it ourselves. Of course, I am under no illusions that we can change so



many years of practice overnight. Bricklayers are a conservative bunch, and with good reason, but I really think we have something which will improve their ability to lay more bricks per day which in turn means greater productivity and profitability on the job."

Our readers could certainly spot the difference, Marc, because this new kid on the block has certainly demonstrated some 'Flex' appeal with them!

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on the Flexi Block Spot visit www.rdr.link/BV030

TOP PRODUCTS 2020

For more information on each of our winners use the relevant www.rdr.link for more information online

EDITORIAL



MIRKA UK DUAL VOLTAGE LEROS

Make it a double with the Dual Voltage LEROS

from Mirka. All that needs to be changed to switch this machine from a 230V to a site-work compatible 110V is the lead. There's no more shifting a heavy transformer around or having to invest in two separate tools.

www.rdr.link/BV031



MAGPLY MAGNESIUM OXIDE BOARDS

It's the strength, durability, stability and fire resistance

of this Magply product that has builders flocking to Magnesium Oxide Boards. The product can boast superior frost, moisture and mould protection, along with some important sound insulation qualities, whilst they're easy to cut and fix.

www.rdr.link/BV032



MAKITA 40V MAX XGT

Makita has taken power

and torque to the MAX with a new 40V battery platform that can rival corded tools in performance, with the added convenience of fast charging times. The tools currently available in the XGT range include an impact driver, rotary and combi-hammer drills, angle grinders, combination hammers, circular and reciprocating saws.

www.rdr.link/BV033

ROMAN PRODUCTS JO BLOX



Meet Jo Blox – an entirely new concept in Structural Insulated Blocks from

Roman Products. Quicker and easier to assemble than SIPS – and requiring no specialist skills – this is a completely dry system, requiring no mortar, with pegs and screws used to fix the units into place, whilst U-Values and acoustic characteristics are also superior.

www.rdr.link/BV034



BOND IT RELOAD

Stick with the sustainable choice with Bond It's Reload range of silicones.

Three of the

manufacturer's most popular silicones and sealants – WP100, Frame-Mate and Multi-Mate – are currently being offered with special sausage refills, reducing waste, providing up to twice the shelf life, and a lighter, more space saving solution.

www.rdr.link/BV035



PEUGEOT PARTNER OVERLOAD INDICATOR

This simple device helps

you stay the 'light' side of the law and avoid heavy fines. Exceed the payload capacity of your Peugeot Partner and a warning light will flash on the load bay control panel and on the dashboard.

www.rdr.link/BV036



GYPROC EASIFILLER

If you're in a hole reach for one of the three-strong ready mix Gyproc EasiFiller family. Alongside the original EasyFiller, there's now EasiFiller Light, with

lightweight air balls in the mix that dramatically reduce shrinkage, and resists slump. Completing the trio, EasiFiller Finish is designed to allow decorators to cover larger areas.

www.rdr.link/BV037



BUCKLER BOOTS BUCKZ VIZ BOOTS

Comfort and safety

combine with a new concept in footwear from Buckler Boots. The manufacturer's Buckz Viz Boots are high vis for your feet and have been sight tested to in excess of 150metres. In addition, a composite toe cap and non-metallic anti penetration midsole both protects and keeps you light on your feet.

www.rdr.link/BV038



SPIRAL CELLAR

Builders could be raising a glass to a specialist in wine storage thanks to the opportunity to purchase a kit

form of its Spiral Cellar as part of an assisted install. Whether it's an extension, new build, or retro-fit, offering the ultimate in 'wine upmanship' home improvements to a client could well represent a commercial advantage over the competition.

www.rdr.link/BV039



DUNLOP POWDERED TILE ADHESIVE

Improvements to formulations and two brand new products are part of the refinements to Dunlop's range of powdered tile

adhesives. The new S1 solutions have increased deformation, which means they can be used on substrates where limited movement or vibration is possible.

www.rdr.link/BV040

TOP PRODUCTS 2020

ADVERTISING



WUNDATHERM RAPID RESPONSE FLOOR HEATING SYSTEM

Our readers were quick to see the benefits of the

Rapid Response Wundatherm Floor Heating System. This water-based UFH can be installed by any good tradesman, is compatible with all current heating technologies – as well as alternative fuels – and is suitable for extensions, renovations, lofts, basements & new builds.

www.rdr.link/BV041



OMNIE TORFLOOR

The trades continue to warm to the high output and fast heating times of the OMNIE TorFloor. This original, and only, structural

certified UFH chipboard is lightweight, moisture resistant and environmentally-friendly, with a multi-directional pipe channel pattern that reduces the need for hand routing.

www.rdr.link/BV042



ACTIS HYBRID

With insulation and airtightness properties combined – and fast installation times – when it comes to this manufacturer's

Hybrid range it should be Actis on instinct. The total system solution includes the HControl Hybrid multi-foil, Hybris reflective insulation, and Boost Hybrid, with its built-in breather membrane.

www.rdr.link/BV043



TUFFX FIXED FLAT ROOFS

With bespoke sizes at no extra cost, Tuffx are taking the tough out of specifying roof lights. Choose from

double 1.2 U-Value or triple 0.7 U-Value options, with clear, solar and privacy glass available, all within a delivery time of three-four working days as standard.

www.rdr.link/BV044



EVERBUILD EB25

Celebrating a quarter of a century as a brand, builders are sticking with Everbuild. EB25 is described as the company's most

advanced sealant and adhesive ever, benefitting from an advanced formula, superior flexibility and bond strength. Not only that, it works on virtually anything, in all conditions – even underwater.

www.rdr.link/BV045



ERA DOORCAM

Getting involved in the installation of the ERA DoorCam smart doorbell is a clever move for tradespeople. With this device the

homeowner can see, hear and talk to a caller remotely via their smartphone, with additional functions including adjustable motion detection video recording and photo snapshots.

www.rdr.link/BV046

ECLISSE POCKET DOOR SYSTEMS

It's the 100 per cent galvanised steel frame and super strong profiles that means the durable and space saving Pocket Door Systems from Eclisse can



be supplied with the reassurance of a 15 year warranty. Installers can count on expert support on the job, and there's next day working delivery.

www.rdr.link/BV047

RWC

Let RWC take you on a journey from boiler to point of use. From JG Speedfit plastic pipe connection technology, to the SharkBite push-fit system – and Reliance Valves – with this company's family of brands there's everything you need to complete the job.

www.rdr.link/BV048



BOSCH GRL 600 CHV PROFESSIONAL ROTARY LASER

Get the measure of outdoor levelling with the Bosch GRL 600 CHV Professional

Rotary Laser. There's a working range of 600m variable speed controls for maximum visibility, all protected by IP608 dust and splash resistant housing. This Bluetooth compatible device can even be controlled via you smartphone.

www.rdr.link/BV049

PERMAROOF FIRESTONE RUBBERCOVER



Generations of roofers have now given this trouble-free flat roof solution the

rubber stamp. A one-piece answer, Firestone RubberCover is easy to install, cold applied, and enjoys a 50-year life expectancy. There's no specialist tools required and Permaroof offers comprehensive training and technical support.

www.rdr.link/BV050

TOP PRODUCTS 2020

Whether it's through social media, online or straight to your inbox via our eNewsletters, our digital platforms are the perfect stage to showcase the latest industry solutions

DIGITAL



HIKOKI POWER TOOLS UK 'CATACOMB' TOOLS

Get a head on site with the SKULL range from Hikoki. This collection of limited-edition tools includes the DV18DBXL 18V Brushless Combi Drill, the WH18DBDL2 18V brushless Impact Driver and the WR18DBDL2 18V Impact Wrench.

www.rdr.link/BV051



ARISTON VELIS EVO WI-FI COMPETITION

Professional Builder's Ariston Velis Evo Wi-Fi competition gave off all the right signals for you on Instagram. It is the only electric water heater of its kind currently on the UK market with Wi-Fi controllability.

www.rdr.link/BV052



TRACER PROFESSIONAL MARKING PRODUCTS

Tibby Singh Chodha's review of the Tracer range ticked every box on Facebook. This extended marking tool family includes the Deep Hole Construction Pencil, designed to reach to a 100mm depth in a 3mm hole, and up to 145mm depth in a 6mm hole.

www.rdr.link/BV053



TOUPRET JOINT, SKIM & FILL HOODIE COMPETITION

One coat, no shrinkage, no need to spot prime and easy sanding – that's the promise for Toupret Joint, Skim & Fill. Our branded hoodie giveaway introduced a collection that also includes Quick Dry products and Ready To Use fillers.

www.rdr.link/BV054



DALLMER DALLFLEX

The brains behind drains have developed a new solution for level-access showers. The Dallmer DallFlex system separates the drain body from the shower channel, allowing for easier cleaning, precision fit and more flexibility in installation.

www.rdr.link/BV057



BOSCH GSB 18V-55 COMBI DRILL DRIVER

The Bosch GSB 18V-55 Combi Drill Driver was the 'torque' of the town on social media. It's the manufacturer's Pro CORE18V 4.0 Ah battery that provides the performance, whilst this compact power tool benefits from the control of a two-speed gearbox.

www.rdr.link/BV055



SNICKERS WORKWEAR ALLROUNDWORK 4-WAY STRETCH TROUSERS

Let Snickers Workwear do the leg work with the latest in slim-fit stretch trousers. The hi-tech fabrics and body-mapping design delivers maximum freedom of movement, ventilation and comfort, with the Cordura in the KneeGuard system ensuring protection.

www.rdr.link/BV056



KNIPEX NEW TOOLS

It's as easier as 1,2,3 with a trio of new tools

from Knipex. Whether it's the TubiX Pipe cutter, the cable cutting PreciStrip16, or the compact Cobra XS water pump pliers, the manufacturer promises quicker, easier and smarter additions to your toolbox.

www.rdr.link/BV058



HOPPINGS SMARTFRAME

It will be the smart move to choose this structural grade, incised, premium treated 4"x2" or 6"x2" softwood from Hoppings. Designed for use in high risk situations, such as deck posts and framing, garden structures, fencing and sole/binder wall plates, there's the added reassurance of a 25-year performance warranty.

www.rdr.link/BV059



ROYD TOOL GROUP TRACER CLOG

With Professional Builder's eNewsletters we're hitting your smartphones and tablets with all the latest time-saving solutions. The Clog-Free Construction Marker from Tracer is available in black, blue and red and will work on almost every surface.

www.rdr.link/BV060



Rooflights? Take your pick.

Fixed flat rooflights

- Thermal aluminium, fully glazed system
- Double 1.2 u-value, or triple 0.7 u-value
- Available in clear, solar & privacy glass
- Anthracite grey frame as standard
- Delivery 3-4 working days on standards

Standard stock size & prices for double glazed clear 1.2 value

1000 x 1000mm*	£505 ex. V.A.T.
1000 x 1500mm*	£630 ex. V.A.T.
1000 x 2000mm*	£770 ex. V.A.T.
1000 x 2500mm*	£940 ex. V.A.T.

*Internal opening size

- Walk-on, toughened laminated glass
- For internal & external installations
- Quick turnaround with bespoke sizes at no extra cost
- Available in clear, privacy & anti-slip glass

Thermal aluminium, fully glazed, walk-on rooflights designed to transform dark basement or roof terrace areas, allowing natural light to flow into the rooms below, whilst maintaining the thermal properties within your home.

Walk on rooflights



TUFFX
GLASS MANUFACTURERS

Tel: 0845 3400 200 | Fax: 0845 3400 201 | Email: sales@txpro.co.uk | www.tuffxglass.co.uk

TuffX Processed Glass Ltd. Nexus House, Randles Road, Knowsley Business Park, Knowsley, Merseyside L34 9HX

MORTAR THE POINT!



Simon Chudley from Tarmac Cement and Lime, outlines how builders can get the most out of mortar in the winter months.

It goes without saying that good organisation is key to the smooth-running of any project but, when the cold weather rolls in, outdoor construction projects can suddenly get a little more challenging. Without careful pre-planning, the change in weather can affect product performance and productivity on site.

Beating the frost

The cold weather can affect a lot of things when it comes to outdoor construction but, for mortar, temperature can have a significant impact on its usability and strength. At temperatures below 3°C, for instance, cement will not hydrate sufficiently which can lead to frost damage, slow setting and poor strength. Additional care must be taken, therefore, when working with a mortar mix.

This can be managed, in the first instance, by simply avoiding either mixing or laying the mortar when the air

temperature falls below 5°C. It's also important that, once placed, the mix is kept above 5°C for 48 hours. Freezing temperatures can have a huge impact on the compressive strength and the bond strength – that's aside from the detrimental affect it has on the water penetration resistance of masonry. If newly placed mortar does fall below freezing before it has a chance to develop, it can lead to cracking, scaling and crumbling of the product.

While the best advice is always to hold off until temperatures are above 5°C before carrying out tasks involving mortar, this is, of course, easier said than done and the formation of cracks and spalls can still be annoyingly unpredictable. When time is of the essence, and frost threatens to hinder the project, an insulation quilt sandwiched between two

sheets of polythene sheeting will provide the mortar with some protection.

Resisting the elements

It's not just the cold that can affect mortar. Extreme wind conditions can lead to increased evaporation and cause the product to dry prematurely. It's important to pre-plan here simply by putting up wind barriers and securing the area with plastic sheeting.

Another uncontrollable and troublesome factor to consider is rainfall. If the mortar mix has not had sufficient time to cure and is left uncovered, a heavy downpour of rain can easily wash some cement out of the mortar.

Without the necessary protection from wet weather, you can be left with a weakened surface which may lead to problems later down the line. This might



include dusting of the surface, resulting in a porous surface that will allow far more water to be absorbed and, therefore, less resistance to freeze-thaw cycles. The most serious consequence, however, could be surface scaling – particularly in more torrential rain.

To ensure a strong bond, and overcome slow curing, it is crucial to protect new mortar from the elements with a water-resistant tarp or similar plastic sheeting. Any covering should be adequately secured to prevent it from being dislodged, as well as facing away from masonry facework to avoid sweating and consequent staining. It's important to ensure that any pallets of bricks and blocks on site are also sufficiently covered to protect from the rain frost and snow. Any bricks that do get saturated should not be laid.

The product performance

As those in the trade know, in colder months the quality of the mortar mix itself is as important as the working conditions and opting for a high-quality manufacturer ensures that the product is air-entrained. Mixes, such as Blue Circle Quality Assured Mortar, contain billions of microscopic air pockets that relieve internal pressure on the mortar by providing small chambers for water to expand into when it freezes. This gives the concrete increased resistance to freeze-thaw attack.

The cold winter months can easily see cement spoil when left open outside, so choosing a product with the right packaging is also important to consider. To keep cement dry and prevent any wastage, go for products that are available in weather-proof packaging and tubs. This is often overlooked but, nevertheless, can save time and money associated with replacing cement spoiled by exposure to the elements.



Tool maintenance

Tools, too, need extra attention in the winter months to prolong their life. Keeping your tools clean and well-oiled throughout colder periods can prevent the tedious job of chipping away at hardened mortar or dirt and removing rust in the spring. After all, good tools are quite an investment!



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON BLUE CIRCLE,
VISIT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV061



I've got the power

Pica-Dry® Construction Marker
Now with Power Lock Mechanism
for 3x stronger lead holding force to
prevent the lead from slipping.



SHIELDING AT HOME!

When Horsham-based construction, renovation and oak framing company, Cartwood UK was ordering materials for its latest project, its local merchant suggested trying Norbord's CaberShieldPlus.

Peter Woodley, co-owner of Cartwood, certainly wasn't disappointed with the results! "It is the first time we have used a fully waterproof system like this on our developments," explains Peter. "We were impressed with the versatility of the product and how easy it is to use. It handles well and there are no fussy storage requirements for the sheets pre-fitting. It cut nicely with a circular saw and fits together without issue using CaberFix D4 adhesive."

Cartwood used CaberShieldPlus over the entire first floor level at a property development in West Sussex, and, as is all too common in the UK, the construction company was challenged with the usual rainstorms. "We had experienced extreme rainfall over the whole floor but we were really pleased it has dried without any signs of failure".



So impressed were Cartwood that CaberShieldPlus will be used on all future developments and refurbishments. "We will not be using another product due to its effectiveness. Just fit and forget it!" says Peter.

CaberShieldPlus is a P5 flooring protected on both sides with a tough, waterproof coating. It is BBA approved for 60 days' exposure to the weather when used with CaberFix D4 adhesive.



Head to the new housebuilder page on the Norbord website to download a selection of tools, including a fully-interactive guide to all Norbord products, and a checklist to make sure you have everything you need for your build.

Samples of CaberShieldPlus and Norbord's other construction panels – as well as more information on these and other products – can also be ordered on the website at **WWW.RDR.LINK/BV062**

PYC CONSTRUCTION'S BESPOKE PASSIVE HOUSE MAKES GOOD USE OF NORBORD'S CABERDEK FLOORING



Welsh passive housebuilder, PYC Construction naturally selects high quality timber products to create low energy, high performance homes.

A fine example of the company's sustainable buildings is a bespoke two-storey house with vaulted ceilings which is under construction in Nesscliffe, Shropshire. Constructing fully-insulated panels in the housebuilding factory enabled PYC Construction to erect the house on site in just two weeks from slab to watertight shell.

The efficient build process was aided by the use of Norbord's CaberDek flooring. A go-to product for PYC Construction, Project Manager, Ben Wilson, said: "We use 22mm CaberDek on the intermediate floor of all our projects as it provides a great structure for a floor when coupled with our posi-

joint system. It is strong and provides a flooring covering that is both robust and cost-effective".

Another advantage of CaberDek that PYC Construction favours is the film covering which Ben says: "is excellent at keeping moisture out during construction and makes it really easy to keep the site tidy as dirt doesn't stick to it. The film, along with the tongue and groove edges on CaberDek, makes it easy to work with and prevents delays to our on-site time". CaberDek is designed to withstand the elements for up to 42 days between laying the floor and fixing the roof.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON NORBORD'S CABERDEK
VISIT **WWW.RDR.LINK/BV063**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON PYC CONSTRUCTION VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV064

NEW

AkzoNobel



SCUFFS DON'T STAND A CHANCE

Protect walls in high-traffic spaces with new **Dulux Trade Scuffshield Matt**. Its unique formula withstands knocks and bumps from everyday objects, leaving your paintwork scuff-free and looking pristine for longer.



- ULTIMATE SCUFF RESISTANCE
- CLEANABLE MATT FINISH
- SCRUB AND STAIN RESISTANT



WITH SCUFFSHIELD MATT



WITH STANDARD MATT



We promise our paint will give you the perfect colour with a uniform finish and the coverage stated, or we'll replace it. Visit dulux.co.uk/promise

Terms and conditions apply. Claims must be made within 6 months of purchase. Proof of purchase required. Colour claims limited to 10L per-customer. Manufacturer's tips and instructions must have been followed. UK purchases only.



UNDER YOUR ROOF



Adrian Buttress, managing director of EPDM rubber roofing specialists Permaroof, discusses why EPDM rubber is ideal for the winter season.

Finding practical solutions for carrying on through all the weather conditions that the UK likes to throw at us can be particularly challenging when it comes to roofing, where the trade is faced with braving the elements to quickly and effectively repair issues.

Despite the colder and wetter weather meaning a likely drop in enquiries for external building and maintenance work, when a roof needs repairing it's usually a job that can't wait. Incorrectly specified or installed flat roofs can be particularly susceptible to issues. A hot summer, like the one that the UK has just had, can mean sun-scarring on the roofing material, which a drastic drop in temperature then worsens to become cracks that result in leaks.

Why EPDM is made for winter jobs

EPDM is a 100 per cent cured, single-ply roofing membrane made of a synthetic rubber ethylene-propylene-diene terpolymer. It's a long-lasting, simple to install and low maintenance solution that provides a reliable waterproofing system for any type of flat roof – whether domestic or commercial.

The reliability and longevity of using an EPDM rubber roof either in the first instance, or as a replacement material, is ideal for winter projects. It is an incredibly durable material, and homeowners enjoy the peace of mind that such a long-lasting material provides – especially when it comes to garages and sheds that are for the purpose of keeping expensive equipment safe and dry.

The innate nature of the material is behind this durability. EPDM rubber roofs resist UV and ozone, namely due to the material containing a high proportion of carbon black and no plasticisers or antioxidants, giving it a life expectancy of more than 50 years.



Ease of installation

When the weather is bad, you just want to get a job completed before moving on to the next. Plus, a repair to a leaking roof needs to be as swift as possible to prevent further damage to the client's property. Again, the speed of installation makes EPDM ideal.

The membrane is supplied in large, seamless sheets of up to 15.24m in width and 61m long. This makes it fast and simple to achieve coverage across the whole roof, and removes the need for seams, further improving the longevity of the installation.

We strongly recommend that installers attend our Firestone EPDM training centre to guarantee the best possible finish on a project, with over 5,000 roofers and counting having already benefited from this training. An EPDM rubber roofing installation requires no specialist tools and no heat or flame, which means less time on site and an easier application when out in the elements.

Speedy repairs

As mentioned, when a tradesman hasn't completed training, it is still possible for an EPDM rubber roof to be installed incorrectly which will cause greater issues down the line. It doesn't matter how durable a material is – if it isn't laid correctly, it's going to cause problems for the clients and ultimately damage the reputation of the installer.

Fortunately, EPDM rubber roofing also offers a quick and reliable repair method through liquid PU. Again, making it simple to create a watertight and weatherproof roof even in the winter.

Liquid PU, or "liquid rubber" as it is often referred to, is ideal for repairing split or cracked flat roofing. It is easy to apply and it cures quickly on a variety of surfaces – ideal characteristics for when you are working within a short and unpredictable gap in cold, wet, or dark conditions.

We advise every roofer to have a tin of liquid rubber in their van for those emergency calls or temporary repairs when the rain will not allow for a full roof

refurbishment. It comes in a pre-mixed solution that can be applied straight from the tin using a brush, and you only need to apply one coat.

Roofing in the winter

There are many construction and maintenance jobs that the winter months just make impossible. Fortunately, the natural attributes of EPDM rubber, and associated products such as Liquid PU, make it ideal for rapid and effective roofing installations or repairs.

With smaller projects on the rise due to the impact of people spending more time at home, as well as larger extensions being considered, flat roofing is certainly a market that offers plenty of opportunities for installers.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
PERMAROOF VISIT

WWW.RDR.LINK/BV065



TO WATCH A VIDEO OF A LIQUID
PU INSTALLATION VISIT

WWW.RDR.LINK/BV066

For powerful plunge cutting

BRUSHLESS

The new cordless plunge saw with 66 mm cutting depth.

NEW

www.metabo.com/uk

metabo[®]
PROFESSIONAL POWER TOOL SOLUTIONS

COME IN FROM THE COLD

This year has seen contractors facing unprecedented challenges and the construction sector has worked hard to implement COVID secure procedures to ensure sites can continue to operate safely. As we head into the colder months, protecting the workforce from COVID remains the priority, but at the same time, the inherent risks of working in winter must not be overlooked.

In the winter, strong winds, freezing cold temperatures, snow, ice, and lots of rain can create major hazards on building sites, particularly for those working at height. As well as the risk of slips and falls, prolonged exposure to the cold can cause construction workers to suffer from more colds, bronchitis, asthma, painful joints, chill blains, fatigue and even hypothermia.

That's why it is so important for contractors to review their winter working policies now and make sure the usual measures they take to mitigate winter risk, are also compliant with the latest COVID site operating procedures. For example, in winter there are likely to be additional demands on welfare facilities, which could affect social distancing and there is a greater use of PPE. Self-isolation requirements are also likely to put greater pressure on workforces, alongside the regular cold and flu season.

So how should builders and roofers prepare for working this winter?

► Review policies

Check that your winter safety policy is compatible with the latest COVID site operating procedures from the CLC. WWW.RDR.LINK/BV067 and update it if necessary. You can also refer to the NFRC guidance notes for specific information for roofers.

WWW.RDR.LINK/BV068

► Clear guidance

As we head into the cold and flu season, make sure there is clear guidance about COVID symptoms and when employees are expected to self-isolate.

As temperatures drop, Stuart Nicholson, Roof Systems Director at Marley, gives advice on how contractors can keep themselves and their workforce safe this winter



► Review welfare facilities to ensure there is enough capacity

In winter, there is often greater pressure on welfare facilities, and they can become more crowded. Construction sites need to ensure there is adequate space for workers to socially distance in communal areas, so this may require the provision of more covered areas, or a review of existing rota systems.

► Winter hazards and PPE

Make sure workers are trained on winter hazards and ensure they have the appropriate PPE for the weather conditions. Re-usable PPE should be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared between workers. Single-use PPE should be disposed of so it cannot be reused.

► Monitor the weather forecast to anticipate and prepare for poor weather conditions

Carry out a risk assessment every day to check that it is safe to work and that conditions haven't changed. Pay particular attention to working at height platforms and do not work on roofs in icy conditions – this is a requirement of the Working at Height Regulations 2005.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV115

"It is critical that contractors remain vigilant over the winter season, to help slow the spread of COVID and protect their workforce. So far, construction sites have been able to remain open, despite a large part of the country being in lockdown. It is therefore critical we continue to act responsibly on-site, following the Site Operating Procedures and NFRC's freely available Covid-19 Guidance Notes;

Gary Walpole, Safety, Health and Environment Officer at NFRC
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV069

wundatherm®



The best
Rapid Response®
floor heating system
on the planet!

...and it's a real game changer for all trades

Water based Underfloor Heating used to be seen exclusively as a plumbing job, but not anymore - Wundatherm can be fitted by any good tradesman. Hundreds have moved to retro-fitting Rapid Response® Wundatherm Floor Heating in their projects, to increase profits and keep their clients happy.

Compatible with current heating technologies as well as alternative fuels of the future. Wundatherm is ideal for extensions, renovations, lofts, basements & new builds because there's no need to dig up floors.

Buy direct from Wundatrade and get the best Quality, Service & Value on the market.

WATCH THE VIDEO TO SEE HOW EASY IT IS!
wundatrade.co.uk/builders

- No quibble industry leading guarantees
- £10 Million product liability insurance
- Free tech support & advice 6 days a week
- Free bespoke pipe layout drawings & reworks
- Free next day delivery

 **Trustpilot 4.8/5** ★★★★★
Based on genuine trade customer reviews

Approved for tiling direct to primed boards by



Proud to be members of
The Tile Association



UKAS accredited testing for
thermal resistance



WUNDATRADE
Underfloor Heating Specialists Since 2006

Send your plans in for a free estimate wundatrade.co.uk/builders
Tel: 01291 634 145

WARM WORDS

Nigel Sanger, Divisional Director, Technical Support at RWC UK, looks at how the winter season can affect plumbing and heating systems, and what installers can do.



In the winter season installers receive an increasing number of emergency callouts to fix broken plumbing and heating (P&H) systems. These issues can range from frozen pipework to ineffective heating. Here are three ways plumbing and heating systems can be winterproofed to avoid disruption and comfort for homeowners during the colder months.

Preventing pipes from freezing

Frozen pipes can cause major damage to a property and impact the performance of hot water and central heating systems when they are needed the most. But plumbing contractors can futureproof these systems for all seasons while carrying out the initial installation by keeping these six Ps in mind: preparation, pressure, placement, protection, prevention and programming.

Whether it's new build or retrofit installations, pipe layouts should be carefully considered. Best practice is to avoid placing pipes in rooms that are prone to getting cold, such as lofts or basements. If pipework does need to be placed in these areas or outside, they should be adequately protected and lagged with insulation. Without lagging, water in the pipes can freeze, creating internal pressure which can cause them to burst.

Alongside this, installers can plan ahead and drain pipes in unoccupied new builds, and also advise homeowners to do the same when bad weather is forecasted. This is particularly important

for external taps that are exposed to plummeting temperatures. The process of draining external pipes is simple as you just need to close the internal shutoff valve to stop the mains supply and then drain the exposed pipe. Once the cold weather has passed, you can open the valve to turn the water supply back on.

Plumbing and heating installers can also avoid the perils of frozen pipes by keeping them warm at all times. As SSE advise, thermostats should be set at 12-15° when the property is unoccupied to prevent internal pipes from freezing. Smart heating controls, such as JG Aura can help deal with these concerns when the properties are left vacant. JG Aura enables homeowners to manage their thermostats remotely via an app to ensure they are keeping their heating systems safe even when they are away.

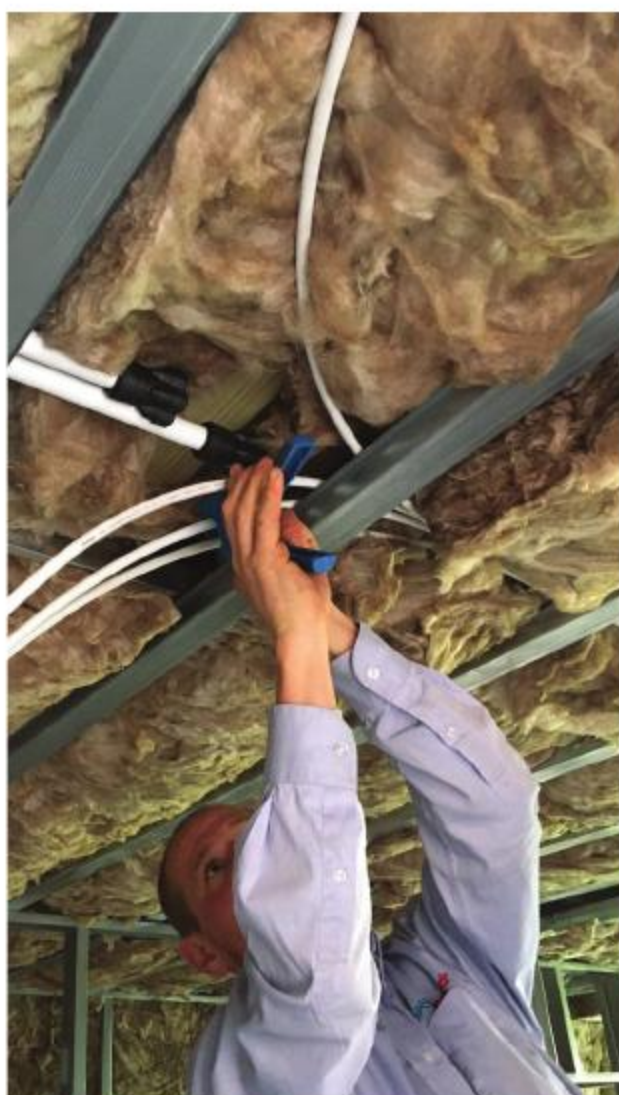


Add anti-freeze when installing UFH over winter

Another area that needs winterproof planning is the installation of underfloor heating (UFH). In new builds or renovations, these projects can span over weeks and even months. It's not uncommon that UFH pipework is installed and screed is laid months before the property is actually ready for use.

If the UFH pipework in the screed is subject to sub-zero conditions while the rest of the project is being completed, the water in the pipes can freeze. This runs the risk of the pipework weakening and splitting as the water expands upon freezing. These concerns aren't usually





detected until much later, when the flooring is already down and the UFH is being used by the homeowners, which can result in costly remedial work.

However, installers can easily avoid this by adding antifreeze to the water in the pipework if it is known that the UFH system could be exposed to freezing temperatures. Once the winter has passed, this water can be flushed out of the system and replaced.

Smart heating controls

One solution that installers can recommend to battle fuel poverty is smart heating controls that enable homeowners to heat up specific rooms rather than the whole house. Traditionally most UK homes would have one thermostat to control the heating of the entire house. This results in energy wastage and increased heating bills as not all rooms are used at the same time. You wouldn't have one light switch for all the lights in a house so why one thermostat?

Smart heating controls, such as JG Aura, can control both UFH and radiators through a single controlling system via its wireless thermostats and TRVs (Thermostatic Radiator Valves).

These can be programmed to deliver desired temperatures in certain rooms, at specific times throughout the day. The heating can be controlled either from a smartphone app or directly through the thermostats and helps cut fuel bills by up to 30 per cent. While there's an initial upfront cost of installing smart heating controls, the energy savings over the years pay for the technology.

And, when it comes to infrastructure disruption for carrying out the installation, systems such as JG Aura can be fitted wirelessly, limiting the hassle of carrying out re-wiring work.



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE RANGE OF SOLUTIONS FROM RWC VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV070



THINK IT'S TOO **COLD** TO SEAL YOUR ROOF?

Think again.

The Seal It Liquid Membrane System includes a gel-like additive which accelerates the curing process and allows you to use our roof seal liquid in temperatures as low as **minus 20°C**.

Supplied in 1L bottles for ease of dosing, you simply mix it into the liquid membrane before application and get on with sealing your roof. Like the rest of the Seal It system, no special training is required.

Make yourself a nice, hot drink and visit www.bonditgroup.com for the full story.



Unit G16, River Bank Way, Lowfields Business Park, Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9DN
Tel: +44(0)1422 315300, Fax: +44(0)1422 315310, Email: salesuk@bonditgroup.com, Web: www.bonditgroup.com



WELFARE TO WORK

In the winter months welfare facilities take on greater significance but are you aware of your obligations? Toilets+ provides a guide



The changed circumstances under which the trades are obliged to work has brought the issue of site welfare into sharp focus. Even before Covid-19 was among us, HSE rules were, of course, in place, but many builders might be unaware of when, what and how many welfare facilities to have for the number of workers on-site. Therefore, we've answered the most common questions you may have in order to stick to the HSE's guidelines.

Q When are contractors obliged to provide welfare facilities on-site?

Welfare facilities are required to be set up and functioning as soon as employees are expected to start working on the project. Inevitably, without successfully operating facilities, on-site projects cannot begin, and choosing to do so without the necessary facilities will result in severe consequences.

Q Which welfare facilities are compulsory for on-site work?

For every working environment, the Health and Safety Executive states that "Welfare facilities' are those that are necessary for the well-being of your employees, such as washing, toilet, rest and changing facilities, and somewhere clean to eat and drink during breaks."

Construction and on-site work are no different, apart from a few specifics. For instance, breakout spaces for eating and taking a break should be adequately warmed due to employees predominantly working outside.

Further information about compulsory welfare facilities:

TOILETS

For on-site work, either mains toilets or chemical toilets and hot water are the best options to comply with HSE's standards. On top of this, these toilets cover the washing facilities requirements as long as clean cold and hot water, soap, towels, ventilation and lighting are readily available. In order for these sanitary facilities to work for all employees, it is important to ensure either mixed use or separate men's and women's toilets are available.

If any of your workers require disabled access toilets, this should also be considered when setting up the mandatory welfare facilities set out by the Health and Safety Executive.

To know how many toilets are legally required on-site, contractors will need to review the number of people at work as to how many toilets they need. For

example, if you're hiring mixed use toilets, one toilet will be required for anywhere between 1-5 workers, whereas for men only toilets, one toilet will be required for every 15 workers. To work out all the correct numbers, visit the HSE website.

DRINKING WATER

As declared by Safety and Health Practitioner (SHP): "Drinking water must be provided or made available at readily accessible and suitable places." Whether this comes in the form of a drinking water fountain, cold water dispenser or a fridge stocked with water bottles. Either way, as long as there's enough for every employee, it's clean, and cups are provided if there is no jet available, you can rest assured that you're complying to the set regulations for this.



■ CHANGING ROOMS AND LOCKERS

This is an important necessity for on-site workers. With site employees working with and around materials such as dust, dirt, concrete, brick and stone on a daily basis, being able to store personal items and valuables somewhere safe, as well as change back into them at the end of the day in private, is crucial.

■ DESIGNATED BREAKOUT SPACES

Notably, workers need a designated space for relaxation and rest that is clean to provide employees with a space to eat and drink on their break. The provisions for these areas include supplying enough tables and seats for the number of workers on-site, facilities to prepare and

eat food and boil water, and ventilation in the summer and heating in the winter.

Q What will happen if I don't execute these obligations?

Heed our warning that failure to comply with welfare regulations on-site can have severe consequences for companies and the individuals who are breaching health and safety standards. These consequences include fines, imprisonment and disqualification.

Rightly so, all contractors and employers should adhere to these guidelines, not only to avoid being penalised by the HSE governing body but because all employees should be protected and well-looked after whilst at work.



SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, SUCH AS WHAT THE REQUIREMENTS ARE FOR REMOTE WORKING, TEMPORARY WORKSITES, AND OTHERS OF THE LIKE, READ THROUGH THIS PDF AT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV071



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TOILETS+, VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV072

ABOUT TOILETS+

Toilets+ have been trusted providers of portable toilet hire to the construction industry for over 25 years. It's needless to say, they have a thorough understanding of when, what and how many welfare facilities a site needs to be in line with the Health and Safety Executive standards.



QUICK, EASY AND TROUBLE-FREE ROOFING SYSTEM

Firestone RubberCover EPDM is a high performance waterproofing system for small residential flat roofs. Installation is quick, easy and flame-free. No special tools are required and most projects can be covered with one piece.

- 1 piece rubber roof system
- 50 year life expectancy
- NO FLAME - cold applied
- Full training available to stockists around the UK

Firestone



Available same day from hundreds of stockists around the UK

Authorised Distributor
Permarmorof^{UK}
Permanent solutions to age old problems
Limited

Call Debbie on
01773 608808

www.permarmorof.co.uk

HIGH IN FIBRES

Peter Dumigan MD of the Hultafors Group UK, explains how the manufacturer is developing sustainable alternatives to traditional workwear fabrics

Just as the effects of plastic waste on the environment has been brought to the centre of consumer consciousness in recent years, so the problems caused by the disposal of clothing and shoes are coming to the fore.

Fabric technology has always been a key driver in the design and development Snickers Workwear garments. Fabrics that deliver comfort and functionality, flexibility and durability are key components of every single product in the range. Now, as consumers and corporates strive to reduce their impact on the planet, the Hultafors Group is implementing a policy of replacing conventional fabrics in its workwear products with sustainable fabrics – Preferred Fibres.

This product development and design philosophy is being applied to every new product in the collection with the additional assurance that design, comfort, functionality and durability will not be compromised in any way.

Snickers Workwear's objective is to ensure that, by 2030, 70 per cent of the fabrics used are Preferred Fibres – those with sustainable properties and a lower environmental footprint. As early as 2023, the company will be at 40 per cent – a significant achievement by any measure. For those that haven't come across the term, Preferred Fibres are those that have more sustainable properties compared to conventional man-made alternatives.

Given that almost any fabric and garment can be developed with recycled polyester yarn, Snickers Workwear's aim is to replace conventional fibres, such as polyester, with Preferred Fibres, which have full manufacturing

FLEECE JACKETS FOR WINTER

Snickers Workwear's new Fleece Jackets for men and women are made from 100 per cent recycled POLARTEC polyester, increasing the breathability of the fabric and making them comfortable and warm.

They're lightweight with great insulation properties and, with designs for both men and women – and a fit that ensures mobility and flexibility on site – these soft and versatile garments are great for both work and leisure. Either as an everyday outer jacket in dry, cold weather or as an insulating mid-layer on cold and wet workdays.



transparency, traceability and thus reduce our climate impact and prevent waste from going into landfill.

Man-made materials, such as nylon and polyester fabrics, can easily be recycled to create new, Preferred Fibres that have the same performance levels in comfort, flexibility and durability. Snickers Workwear's new Fleece Jackets and Gilets are a good example.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE HULTAFORS GROUP UK VISIT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV073

SAFETY FOOTWEAR WITH A POSITIVE FOOTPRINT

We've all seen how quickly clothing and footwear containers at waste disposal centres fill up almost as quickly as any other, which is why we all have to ensure that footwear and garments are disposed of in an environmentally responsible way.



The Hultafors Group's latest brand addition to its market-leading PPE portfolio – EMMA Safety Footwear – has the solution. It's a policy of '100 per cent Circularity' in all its products. Every shoe and boot in the EMMA range is made entirely from recycled or recyclable materials. It's a 100 per cent 'circular' manufacturing, usage and recycling process for every shoe and boot it produces. So, check out the EMMA Safety Footwear range to make a positive footprint in your workday.

Peter Dumigan is MD of the Hultafors Group UK, which owns Snickers Workwear, Hultafors Tools, EMMA, Solid Gear and Toe Guard safety footwear as well as Hellberg Safety PPE.



GLOVES

It is the ultra-lightweight, cut resistant liner in the new Rayza RX432 glove that provides flexibility and touch sensitivity for the wearer. Manufacturer, **STALSEN** has produced this lightweight

polyurethane coated glove with Japanese yarns in the lining, offering not only cut resistance but comfort. The glove performs to EN388:2016 cut resistance level 4 and has an index level of 'B' for the ISO 13997 blade cut standard.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV074

SITE LIGHTING

Easily transportable and energy efficient, the **Bull Products** portfolio of construction site safety equipment includes temporary

lighting and cabling products. The lighting range will extend autumn and winter days to help contractors work smarter and brighter, and to keep to schedule. It includes 110V LED Festoon kits, 110V LED Non-Corrosive Tripod and Heads, 110V LED Non-Corrosive A-Frames, 110V LED Site Non-Corrosive Fittings and Slimline Floodlights.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV075

CHAINSAW BOOT

A milestone in chainsaw safety is how **Grubs** is describing the CHAINAMIC. The first insulated neoprene Level 3 chainsaw boot, the patented design can protect



against chainsaws at 28 metres per second. The orange vamp located on the front contains a special material that clogs up the chain on the chainsaw to stop it moving round and preventing injury. Completely steel-free, the manufacturer's composite toecap does not conduct electricity and is extremely cold protective, as is a CR-Foam bootie that keeps feet warm in -20°C temperatures.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV076

HI-VIS

There's a comprehensive selection of ergonomically designed Base-, Mid- and Top-layer clothes, in the **Snickers Workwear** Hi-Vis collection and ProtecWork range. The new garments include waterproof and windproof AllroundWork Hi-Vis Jackets that provide protection in low-light, high-risk environments.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV077

WINDPROOF JACKETS

Snickers Workwear's Windproof Jackets feature a fleece-lined interior for warmth and climate control fabric to keep your body warm or comfortably cool. With a water-repellent fabric, it can be worn on its own or combined with Snickers' Mid and Base Layer garments. A high collar delivers extra wind protection and stretchable side panels provide flexibility.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV078

MASONRY PROTECTION CREAM

Creams are the most effective method for keeping walls free from the damage caused by penetrating damp and extreme rainfall, according to the manufacturer of Stormdry. It's the colourless cream's longevity, coverage, powerful accreditations, and the unique mechanism by which it binds to brickwork, which has made the **Safeguard Europe** product so popular. Stormdry works by lining the pores of brickwork and other masonry rather than blocking them. This enables water vapour to escape while preventing moisture, and means it can be even be applied to wet walls.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV079

WINTER JACKET

The needs of site professionals in winter are not leaving **Dassy** cold with the introduction of its latest winter jacket. The Nordix combines the freedom of movement of 4-way stretch with the durability of



polyamide fibre. The 100 per cent watertight taped seams and the water- and windproof membrane protect against precipitation, whilst the material is also breathable. What is more, the DWR finish (Durable Water Repellent) adds an extra layer of protection by making water droplets bead up and roll off.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV080

A SOUND INVESTMENT

James Mills of Rockwool outlines the best practice for effective sound insulation.

Q How is sound measured?

Sound is measured in decibels using a scale of intensity organised from low to high. As can be seen from the image opposite, a normal conversation registers at approximately 60 dB, a truck at 80 dB, and a jet taking off at 130 dB! As a rule of thumb, sounds above 85 dB can be harmful, dependent on how long and how often there is exposure to them and whether ear protection is being worn.

Q How does sound travel?

Sound travels through the air in 'sound waves' as well as through solid objects which causes them to vibrate. In the context of the building trade, we classify sound into two types; airborne sound, an example would be a conversation we are overhearing, and the impact sound, which is produced by two elements coming into contact, such as when we can hear someone using a hammer to knock in a nail. Both types of sound (airborne and impact) can be reduced with a well thought out sound insulation solution that uses the right type of product.

Q How does insulation work?

Insulation works through acoustical sound absorption. That means it has the ability to absorb rather than reflect sound. Rockwool products can help reduce sound between rooms as well as noise from the exterior environment. Also depending on the application, the acoustic properties of the building materials and fixtures and fittings you choose will play a significant role in overall soundproofing and noise reduction.

When dealing with noise, tackling the routes through which it can enter a room is important. Windows, doors, walls, and floors are the key areas to focus on.



► Windows

Double or triple glazed windows can help to significantly reduce external noise sources, such as those from road, rail, and air. Fitting windows using an insulated DPC, such as ROCKCLOSE, will not only improve the acoustic performance, but also add fire resistance and reduce thermal bridging. While adding extra glazing layers is beneficial it is also vital to ensure there are no gaps or holes in the sealant around the frame. The window system is only as good as its weakest point. By using an acoustic sealant, such as the Firestop Acoustic Intumescent Sealant, it is possible to further enhance the effectiveness of double or triple-glazed windows and ensure maximum return on investment for your customer.



► Doors

Solid wood doors have a density and mass that helps block out unwanted noise. For specialist applications, such as a home studio, sound-proofed internal doors, with a sound insulation core, are available. Once again, make sure the details are considered: pay close attention to the fit of the door and consider using draft excluders to maximise the acoustic performance, even for internal doors, where appropriate.

► Walls

Preventing noise transfer from room to room within a house is vital if effective acoustic control is to be achieved. To enhance the noise reduction of a framed partition wall there are several things that can be done. You could use acoustic-rated plasterboard, but this can be expensive. Another approach would be to insulate the wall frame behind the plasterboard. This is a highly efficient and cost-effective way to reduce noise transfer. Rockwool Sound Slab adds mass to a wall and the non-directional fibre orientation means that it is highly effective at trapping and absorbing airborne sound waves. Also, one (or both sides) of the plasterboard can be decoupled using a

resilient bar. This has the effect of preventing vibration, or impact- based noise from transferring through the structure. Again, select an acoustic sealant that seals weak spots which could compromise hard work and investment.

► Floors

Sound wave vibrations are surprisingly efficient in travelling through a solid structure and in homes with hard floors, particularly apartments, impact noise caused by footsteps can be a challenging problem to deal with. There are two key elements to consider in trying to resolve this issue. The first (as with walls) is to use a resilient layer to decouple the plasterboard from the floor joists. This breaks the chain of

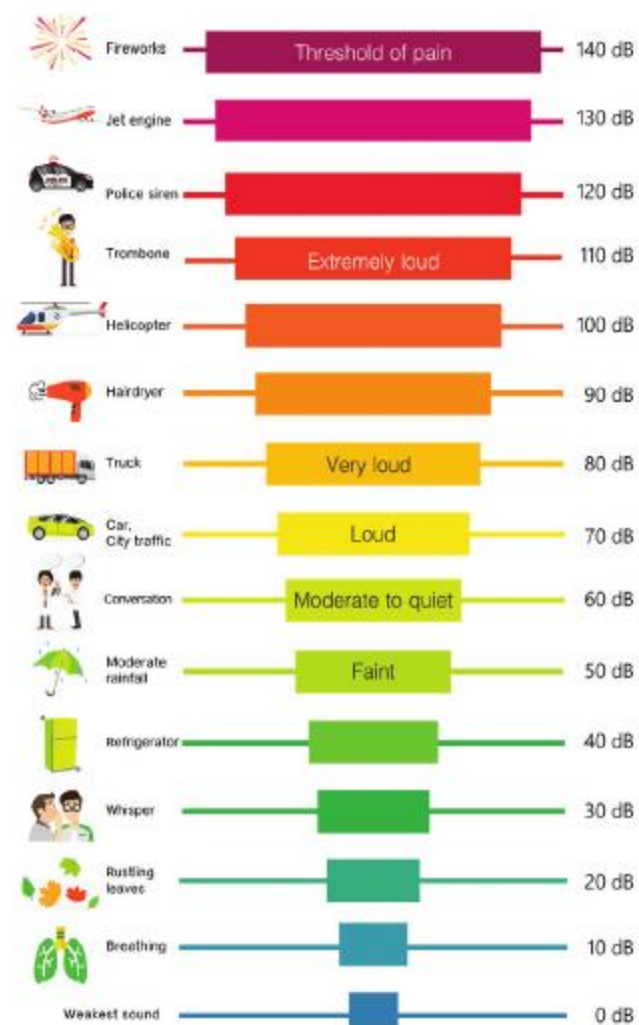
continuous structure and stops the vibration noise in its tracks. Another effective method is to add a layer of Acoustic ROCKFLOOR, which offers immensely robust impact sound protection. When laid at a thickness of over 20mm it is especially effective at reducing the hard to combat, impact noise generated by footsteps coming through the floor from above. When combined with Sound Slab between joists, decoupling of the ceiling plasterboard, the product can solve problems that leave many scratching their heads.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
SOUND INSULATION
SOLUTIONS FROM ROCKWOOL
VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV081

Decibel Scale (dB)

An explanation of the decibel scale and what it tells
for measuring sound/noise levels.



FULL STEEL POCKET

- Excellent Customer Service
- From £119.50 + VAT
- Next Day Delivery
- 12 Year Guarantee

TEL 0330 998 0617 EMAIL info@rocketdoorframes.co.uk WEB www.rocketdoorframes.co.uk

THE TRADESHOW BUILT FOR THE TRADE

PROFESSIONAL BUILDER

TOOLFAIR 2021

POWER TOOLS • HAND TOOLS • BUILDING EQUIPMENT

A photograph of two men at a tradeshow. The man on the right, wearing a black HIKOKI t-shirt, is holding a green and black HIKOKI power tool. The man on the left, wearing a dark jacket, is pointing at the tool. In the background, other power tools are visible, including a large green and black tool. A water bottle is on a table in the foreground.

All the latest tools, live demos, show specials – all under one roof!

For the latest show info visit us at: www.toolfair.info



THE A GAME



Now is not the time to compromise on quality argues Michael Van Harmelen, Senior Brand Manager for Armstead

This year has been tough for the trade. There's no escaping that. The impact of the first nationwide lockdown is still being felt by many professionals, while new restrictions are likely to cause further disruption.

The result is that now, more than ever, finding ways to be cost effective is becoming a priority. But cutting costs can come at a risk to the most valuable asset you have – your reputation. Hard won and easily lost – protecting it is vital, especially in this current climate, where competition is fierce.

That's where Armstead can help. We're committed to producing high-quality trade performance products at competitive prices. Our advanced formulation, developed by AkzoNobel experts, gives you the tools to do a good job, while keeping costs down.

And that's so vital as the trade continues to build back from the disruptions earlier this year. If a poor product lets you down, that's your livelihood on the line. If the finish isn't up to scratch that can spell very bad news. Word travels quickly – especially online – a poor review of your work can see your new business pipeline dry up overnight. And no one can afford that at the moment.

That's why you can rely on the Armstead range. It has some real muscle behind it from the experts who also produce brands including Dulux, Cuprinol and Hammerite, that pushes paint performance to new levels. For example, our Armstead Durable Matt shares the same class one standard of scrubbability and stain resistance as premium brands, giving you a quality, durable finish you can rely on to last.

It wins plaudits for its performance

offering the opacity and coverage that a pro is looking for. Making smart choices on products can be critical for sectors where budgets are tight but high quality is still required. It's equally great for decorators who operate in the rental market – where properties get redecorated every three years. It allows these homes to remain looking better for longer in a cost-effective way.

We understand that people like to stick to what they know, especially in the current climate. But we find that those who give us a try stay with us for the long haul. And that covers the whole spectrum of the industry, from sole traders to small decorating firms, large contractors and beyond.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ARMSTEAD RANGE VISIT:

WWW.RDR.LINK/BV082



Dulux Announces 2021 Colour Of The Year

Dulux has revealed its Colour Of The Year for 2021

Brave Ground is described as an organic tone that's reflective of people's growing desire to align how they live with our planet. "The organic tone of Brave Ground will allow decorators to talk to customers about creating a really comforting environment within their homes," declares Karen Wilkinson, Marketing Lead at Dulux Trade. "To support decorators in talking to customers about colour, we've created a Colour Of The Year decorator guide, a handy booklet that can be used when guiding customers to make those important colour decisions."

TO DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE VISIT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV083

Highly Decorated Work!

Decorators talk about life on new Dulux Academy Podcast

The Dulux Academy Podcast: Life as a decorator features the voices of the nation's professional painters and decorators. Each half-hour episode will allow professionals to share best practice, business tips and personal stories, on subjects as diverse as mental health, the new normal and how they are building up their businesses again.

Episode one features Darren Whitfield, Morley Lane and Les Copestake, all of whom own their own decorating businesses working mostly in the domestic sector. The guys discuss lockdown, how their businesses survived and have evolved, along with the practicalities of managing their own health and completing the painting jobs at home. Above all they share how each of them is facing up to the new ways of working that the pandemic has brought to everyone.

Hosted by Tony Pearson-Young from the Dulux Academy, who has put down his brush and picked up a mic with ease, the idea for the series was borne out of the lockdown. Vickie Mather, Dulux Academy Lead, adds: "Like everyone in the industry, we have had to innovate to keep on doing what we do best. In our case, it's helping decorators learn new skills, and helping them grow their businesses, so by sharing best practice from across the country via the podcasts we can keep decorators connected at this time."

Since opening, the Dulux Academy has trained more than 8,500 decorators with more than 50 different courses now available to professionals in the industry. In June, Dulux Academy Live was launched to provide workshops online for the first time.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
DULUX ACADEMY LIVE VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV084

THE DULUX ACADEMY PODCAST: LIFE
AS A DECORATOR IS AVAILABLE ON
ITUNES AND SPOTIFY VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV085

'Fillin' in the Christmas spirit?

Introducing Gyproc EasiFill 20. For those smaller interior snagging repairs.

Part of the Gyproc powder filler range

- Ideal for quick filling and snagging jobs
- Easy to mix, apply and sand
- Low shrinkage and no cracking
- Create your own mixture for more control

Also in the EasiFill powder range:



Available at your local builders merchant

THE BEST OF BRITISH



Gary Blackburn,
Plaster Support
Manager at British
Gypsum, takes a
look at some of the
manufacturer's
product options and
their benefits.

Choosing the right plaster for a refurbishment

Using a good quality plaster product not only enhances the professional finish of refurbishment projects – it can also help to improve life for occupants, too. That means the trade can offer extra value to customers by considering how the different plaster products available might match with their needs.

Improve indoor air quality

The majority of people spend most of their time indoors, whether they are sleeping, working or relaxing. Despite this, there is low awareness of the health problems that can be caused by the poor air quality of some indoor environments.

It's not uncommon for people to complain about feeling ill following extended periods of time spent indoors

and this can be the result of various airborne pollutants found in both our working and living spaces. These pollutants are called VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and are naturally emitted into rooms by pets, cleaning products, furniture, carpets and paints. The most common VOC found indoors is formaldehyde, which can cause symptoms such as headaches, nausea and fatigue, as well as affecting breathing and concentration.

Walls and ceilings provide a large surface area exposed to the indoor environment and installing the right type of plaster products can help improve indoor air quality. The technology present within these products has been designed to decompose formaldehyde emissions into non-harmful inert compounds, which improves the air quality within buildings*.

Plaster products that include this technology can be painted with a breathable emulsion paint. The technology will last up to 50 years and will not re-emit formaldehyde over time. This type of plaster installation can provide long-lasting improvements to air quality and therefore offers a valuable advantage for building occupants, whether that be an entire home, a child's bedroom, a school or even a care home

Provide a more durable finish

It can be frustrating when your walls receive a small amount of accidental damage, such as scratching, gouging or scuffs. This can build up, especially in places that get used by people most often, like hallways and stairwells, or areas where children play and run around. Having to repeatedly repair this everyday wear and tear can become





costly for occupants and as one area is refurbished, another can then become damaged shortly afterwards.

Regular maintenance work can also be inconvenient. If parts of a building need to be closed, people and services have to be moved elsewhere. They also have the problem of dealing with dust, disruption, cleaning and redecorating.

The solution is to supply a more hardwearing finish that can resist minor impacts and accidental damage like knocks and scrapes. These finishes can dramatically increase resistance, making them far more durable than standard plasters. A cleaner, more pleasant environment is nicer for people to spend time in, so they are likely to stay there longer.

Durable plaster products will benefit occupants by helping to reduce the need for maintenance and therefore providing lower long-term costs.

Magnetic plaster

A refurbishment doesn't just have to iron out existing irregularities – it can also



transform buildings so indoor environments can be used in new ways.

Magnetic plaster contains a mineral element that is attracted to magnets, enabling it to turn any wall into an interactive surface. It helps free up space as people can attach items directly to the wall, instead of needing to install additional shelves and noticeboards.

It's ideal for schools and workplaces, as well as in homes, where it can be the perfect space-saving solution for kitchens or children's bedrooms. The magnetic surface allows children to express their creative sides, while workers can organise their thoughts and host brainstorming sessions. It also offers a more flexible way of displaying pictures at home and can be changed around as many times as the homeowner likes, with no holes or mess.

Magnetic plaster can also be decorated with paint or wallpaper, including chalkboard paint, with minimal impact on the attraction of the magnets. The plaster attracts magnets but it won't attract metal objects or affect Wi-Fi – think of it as being similar to a fridge door. One of the advantages of magnetic

plaster is that it can be applied in a similar way to any standard skim finish, which makes it easy for plasterers to install.

All occupants are looking for quality workmanship with a smooth finish, but they can gain a host of other advantages compared to standard plaster. By choosing the best plaster for their buildings' needs, tradespeople can offer more choice and add an extra dimension to their plastering service as well as securing higher value work.

You can find out more about enhanced performance plasters in your local builders' merchants and via the link below.

** Formaldehyde reduction is based on experimental data following ISO16000-23 standards from 0.4m² to 1.4m² installed/m³ room. Lifetime is based on a calculation assuming constant formaldehyde reduction with indoor formaldehyde concentration of 25µg/m³ for ceiling, drywall or combined drywall and ceiling configurations.*



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
BRITISH GYPSUM VISIT:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV086



ZYKLOP
SPEED

SIX-IN-ONE
FUNCTIONALITY

SMALL RETURN
ANGLE OF 5°

FREELY
PIVOTING HEAD

UNBELIEVABLY
FAST MOVERS

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Zyklop by **Wera**



   @weratoolsuk

 **Wera**

TAKING IT EASI

Professional Builder's Lee Jones investigates the Gyproc EasiFill range, along with the same manufacturer's Plasterboard Patches – the perfect complement to its range of fillers

When you consider the products that should be a fixture in the back of a tradesman's van a reliable filler would be an obvious contender. Artex, a leading distributor of construction product brands, would argue that Gyproc Plasterboard Patches are an equally indispensable companion.

Launched in 2019 to complement the existing EasiFill powdered offering, the Gyproc EasiFiller range now provides a full complement of ready-mix products, and it is a choice that the trades have welcomed. A ready-to-use solution clearly scores on convenience, whilst the beauty of a powdered option is that it can be mixed to a particular builder's preferred consistency, and delivers more control.

"If you've got a slightly bigger or deeper hole to fill, then mixing up a thicker mix of a powdered product like Easifill 20 will provide a good finish, and reduce the drying times," reveals Artex Technical Product Manager, Ted Elliot.

"When used in conjunction with our Gyproc Plasterboard Patches the time and hassle you're saving yourself can be quite considerable."

Many tradesmen will have experienced the sinking feeling when they've cut out the holes for downlights only to find that the homeowner has changed their mind, but it is in just these scenarios that Gyproc Plasterboard Patches can be your saviour. "They are a self-adhesive solution so it's just a matter of removing the backing, sticking them over the hole and covering," enthuses Ted. "It's really that simple, and if you use Gyproc EasiFill 20 over the top you can apply a second coat within around 30 minutes. Once that's dried you might need a rub over with some fine sandpaper, but within an hour you've effected an invisible finish. Not

only that but this is a compound that's fine enough to fulfil the role of both filler and finish, which means it can be immediately painted over."

Of course, as with any job, there's a technique and degree of workmanship, and it's important that the hole is free of any burrs, protrusions or loose material. The second coat is required in order to effectively disguise the hole, and the material should be adequately feathered out from the edge of the patch to provide that seamless finish. If, for instance, the Gyproc Plasterboard Patch is 100 x





100mm then you should be looking to cover an area of at least 50mm either side with the first coat, and at least 100mm either side on the second coat.

The patch itself is metal reinforced with an embedded fibreglass mesh, and decorators should ensure that metal is completely covering beyond the edge of the hole. Each pack of 12 contains three sizes, depending on the extent of the repair – 5 x 150mm x 150mm for the likes of double sockets and larger holes, 5 x 100mm x 100mm for single sockets, and 2 x 50mm x 50mm for smaller areas or downlighters.

The fast setting time of Gyproc EasiFill 20 makes it the ideal snagging solution, and is part of a range that includes Gyproc EasiFill 45, and Gyproc EasiFill 60, with the

numerical value in each case relating to the available working time. With a pedigree of more than thirty years, the portfolio is very well established in the market.

Over the years, its set time, ease of use, consistency and smoothness would inspire a loyal following with decorators as a filler, as Ted concludes: "What the trades want is a solution that's easy to mix, apply and sand, and Gyproc EasiFill has all

those characteristics well and truly covered. It adheres to paint very well and, with a choice of working times, allows for larger areas and multiple rooms to be worked on. These are also chemically setting products, which makes them much less susceptible to seasonal atmospheric conditions, whilst there's reduced shrinkage."

Indeed, with a choice of ready mixed and powdered solutions, the latter complemented by the ease of use and convenience of Gyproc Plasterboard Patches, the Gyproc range is a tradesman's ace in the hole.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GYPROC EASIFILL RANGE VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV087



THE MANUFACTURER HAS PRODUCED A VIDEO GUIDE TO THE APPLICATION OF ITS GYPROC PLASTERBOARD PATCHES AND EASIFILL 20 WHICH CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.RDR.LINK/BV088

TRADE SMART

Helping tradespeople select and apply the right paint for the job **Leyland Trade** has developed two new paints – Smart Matt and Smart Multi-Surface. Smart Matt has been specifically designed to eliminate the risk of brush and roller marks showing on interior walls and ceilings. Smart Multi-Surface is the new mid-sheen paint that can be applied to multiple surfaces, including interior walls and ceilings, wood and metal.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV089

FLEXIBLE TILE ADHESIVE

For those difficult tiling jobs, or when tiling in hot or humid conditions, reach for the slow-set **Dunlop** CF-24 Flexible Tile Adhesive. Not only does it benefit from reduced slip, it is available in Grey and White, has a pot life of 5 hours and an open time of 30 minutes on the wall or floor. It is suitable for grouting in 24 hours, is water resistant, and can be used internally or externally in dry or wet areas.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV090

RENOVATION PLASTERS

All four variants in the **Safeguard Europe Dryzone** plasters collection have been scientifically developed and tested to provide resistance to hygroscopic salts, whilst providing a highly breathable surface. The pre-blended plasters – Dryzone Damp-Resistant Plaster, Fast-Set Plaster and Hi-Lime Renovation and Hi-Lime Finishing Plaster – form part of the Dryzone System for replastering after Dryzone Damp-Proofing Cream or Dryrod Damp-Proofing Rods have been used to create a remedial damp proof course.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV091

DECORATORS' CAULK

Introduced under the **Bond It Superheros Brand**, the hard wearing, gap filling No Crack Caulk, is a water resistant, decorators caulk that prevents craze cracking when painted. Suitable for interior and exterior jobs, this white, solvent-free, water-based sealant is highly flexible, contains a fungicide to retard mould growth – with a joint movement capability up to 12.5 per cent – and can be overpainted within one hour.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV092

ROLLERS

It's the thermobonding process during manufacturer that prevents the **Hamilton** Perfection Roller range from unwinding, even when soaked in water or solvents, whilst a bearing system prevent skidding and sliding when applying paint to surfaces. Available in short, medium, long and extra long pile, the rollers are low splatter, easy to clean, with the option of screw fit extension poles.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV093

GENERAL BUILDING



ONLINE PLATFORM

Search A Brick is an online platform that aims to bring builders and brick merchants together at the click of a mouse. Users are able to browse an extensive database of bricks and stock levels to find the material they need in a timely fashion.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV094

SMART HOME SECURITY

The **ERA** Protect wireless smart security system is the first of its kind to attain the BSI IoT Kitemark. Even when there is a broadband outage, the built-in 4G roaming SIM allows crucial data to be sent to the secure ERA Cloud, all controlled by one smartphone app. The range will launch with an Alarm, Siren, and Accessories along with an Outdoor camera and Floodlight camera.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV095



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

StormForce will see **Wavin** handle the entire design, supply and installation of stormwater tanks and their associated infrastructure, from capture and

attenuation to dispersal. BBA-approved stormwater systems available as part of the service include Q-Bic Plus, and AquaCell – a modular solution for a variety of applications, from landscaped to heavily trafficked areas – and a range of inspection chambers and accessories.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV096

METAL ROOF TILES

The refined look of a traditional-style roofing tile with the lightweight advantages of steel is how the Tilcor Roofing Systems range is described by its new UK supplier, **Pernarroof**. Tilcor's Bond tile can be used on both residential and commercial roofs in either a refurbishment or new-build application. There's a 50-year warranty available, they are 30 per cent quicker to install, and 70 per cent lighter than 'traditional' roof tiles, as well as being suitable for roof pitches as low as 12.5 degrees.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV097

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

TAPE MEASURE

The **RST 5m Black Edition Tape Measure** has a class II nylon coated 25mm wide blade, a 2m standout, both metric and imperial markings and a triple riveted non-slip end hook, which measures from zero. A durable bi-material case consists of a tough ABS plastic shell, covered in a shock absorbing rubber jacket, which is slip resistant and comfortable to hold.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV098



MERINO WOOL

Stay warm or cool in **Snickers** Workwear's 100 per cent All-Natural Merino Wool mid- and base-layer clothes. The short and long sleeve T-shirts, leggings and topwear combine wool warmth and body-mapping designs. Merino wool is soft, naturally odour-preventive, temperature-regulating, repels water, dirt particles, and it is anti-static.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV099

DIAMOND BLADES

The **Norton Clipper** Wood and Composites blades cut through hard and soft wood, wooden panels, OSB and MDF. Multi-materials are designed for timbers, pallets, nails and non-ferrous metals. Veneer and Laminates will tackle melamine faced boards and plywood, and there's specialist Aluminium blades.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV100

OUTDOOR OFFER

Makita UK is offering end users the chance to redeem one of its leading LXT lithium-ion batteries when they purchase selected LXT 18V RT and RTE garden machines. The offer runs until 31st December 2020 and customers that purchase selected Twin 18V PG2 garden machines before then can receive two LXT batteries. Included in the offer is a selection of LXT blowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws and a brushless split-shaft power unit.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV101

TORPEDO LEVEL

There's three solid shockproof UV resistant acrylic vials on the 250mm **Kapro 923** heavy duty cast aluminium torpedo level – horizontal, vertical and 45°. The tools also features a Plumb Site Dual-View vial for easy reading and a 'V' groove for pipe and conduit. The precision milled surface helps ensure an accuracy of 0.5mm/m.



GET MORE DETAILS AT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV102

MAKING THE GENUINE CHOICE



In the latest instalment of our Tech Talk series, Tony Coleman, Technical Manager at Makita, details the importance of using genuine batteries.

Sadly, the increased popularity of online shopping has generated a platform for opportunistic and criminal behaviours from sellers and scammers looking to take advantage of consumers. Unfortunately, non-genuine construction products are becoming more common online, particularly through online auction sites that provide anonymity, and their use can lead to serious issues.

Safety

In many cases, counterfeit products have not been manufactured and tested to the quality and safety standards required by law and, in particular, non-genuine batteries, that have not been manufactured with the correct materials and technologies, pose significant risks. This includes the danger of permanent damage to the product as a result of leaking or over-heating to such an extent they catch fire, as well as personal safety risk.

Lithium-ion batteries specifically, are precision engineered to control charge and discharge current, cell voltage and temperature – a combination that requires critical manufacturing technologies and processes to ensure the battery performs as required and, importantly, remains stable. If the temperature of a Lithium-ion battery is not controlled accurately, a 'thermal runaway' can occur, triggering a chain of events that can cause the

battery to catch fire or, in severe cases, explode – risking injuries to the user.

Applying a counterfeit or untested battery sold by a third party to a Makita product may also lead to a thermal runaway, as the cells may be incompatible and cause the battery to heat up quickly.

Quality

The quality of a counterfeit battery cannot be guaranteed to provide the correct levels of performance. There are non-genuine batteries on the market that claim to have the same Amp hour (Ah) rating as our genuine solutions yet are significantly less powerful. To ensure the battery performs as desired, look for test standard IEC 61960. This is equivalent to the UK BS EN61960 standard. Without the necessary testing and accreditation, non-genuine solutions can claim performance standards that can never be achieved.

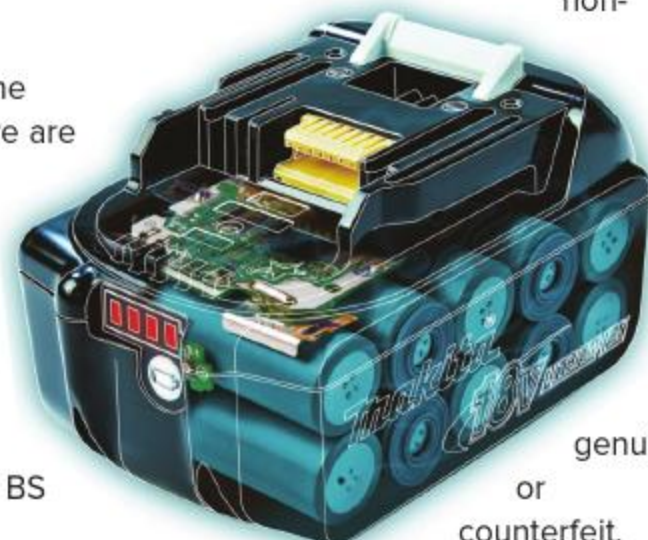
A genuine Makita battery will also include an in-built communication chip that optimises battery life, protecting the battery cells during the charging process, as well as when in use with a tool. This device is designed to protect the cells against overload, over-discharge, and overheating. Therefore, not only does opting for a non-genuine battery solution represent a more dangerous decision, but also something of a false economy.

Additionally, whereas all Makita

products are backed by a long-term, reliable warranty, non-genuine and third-party refurbished solutions are not.

How to identify non-genuine battery products

When buying products, especially online, it is important to recognise the warning signs that signal the product is non-



Firstly, buying from authorised Makita UK distributors and merchants can help ensure your purchase is from a trusted provider. Be cautious of sellers with unusually low prices. Cheap imitations are available on-line, even from internet sites that seem 'safe'.

Genuine Makita battery products will always include the Makita trademark logo, and the STAR connectivity mark. Further indications can present themselves on the packaging, spelling errors, variations on logo design or an image that doesn't look right or match the images on Makita's website.

If you think you may have purchased a non-genuine battery, we will be more than happy to arrange for it to be inspected, with its proof of purchase, at one of our Factory Service Centres.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT MAKITA VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV103

Mark Humphreys gets to grips with the Grabo

UP FOR GRABO



Are you getting a grip, struggling to hold on, or letting things slip? Well, here is a wonderful little invention that may bring you back from the brink. I was recently asked to product test an electric vacuum grabber. “A what?”, I hear you say. Well, yes – I said the same, to be fair.

It's a battery-operated suction cup that allows you to grab hold of almost any surface, rough or smooth, and claims it has been tested to lift up to 375lbs. I have been in the building industry for over 35 years now and, as we all can testify, lifting and carrying materials around homes or building sites isn't one of the most pleasant parts of our day.

My trade is tiling and, given that the trend in tiles seem to be that they are getting larger and heavier, I am always on the side of anything that can make my day easier. Recently, I laid 45m of 800x800 marble tiles, which were very heavy, and very cumbersome. It was on that job that I tried out the Grabo for the

first time. I'll be honest with you – it's a game changer. If your trade involves having to move heavy materials imagine if you could simply put a handle on them. Well, that's what the Grabo does.

I was able to pick up and carry 20lb tiles with one hand. I simply attached the Grabo, pressed the button and away I went. The suction is so good I could carry the tiles by my side with total confidence, and never once did they slip – the grip is that strong. Then, when placing the tile, I could again single handedly put the tile directly in position, with the added bonus of being able to lift it again if the floor needed building up.

Gripping yarn

The Grabo comes with two rechargeable batteries. I used the device constantly on a single battery charge for two and a half days. There are indicator lights that will keep you informed of the charge level and it can hold its grip for up to an hour,

even if the battery fails.

Overall, it has immediately become an essential bit of kit, just as electric whisks did after years of mixing by hand, a tool for helping you carry safely and confidently surely is a must in my book.

The Grabo will work on both rough and smooth surfaces, enabling you to carry anything from plasterboard to fence posts, it will grip to almost any surface and, like I said at the top, I really think it's a game changer.

I have always adhered to the saying, 'never give a sucker an even break'. Well, I think I have just changed my mind; I'm certainly holding on to one of these.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THE GRABO VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV104



Plywood



Stone



Paving



Marble

BRIGHT SPARKS

Electric and hybrid commercial vehicles have come a long way over the past few years, and this means there are some excellent alternatives to the once trusty diesel van. What's more, with fuel prices creeping up and many cities introducing urban pollution charging zones, like London's ULEZ, these non-diesel vans could save you a packet when it comes to running costs and fuel.



LEVC VN5

The VN5 is based on the London electric taxi, can travel 61-miles on electricity alone and has a maximum payload of 830kg. However, when the battery runs out of charge, it uses a turbocharged 1.5-litre petrol engine to act as a generator for the battery. With a full charge and a tank of petrol, the VN5 will travel 300 miles and return up to 313mpg.

www.rdr.link/BV105



Ford Transit Custom PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle)

Britain's best-selling van has gone green. The Transit Custom is now available as a plug-in hybrid, which combines a 1.0-litre petrol engine with an electric motor and a battery located under the loadspace floor. It can cover up to 35 miles under electric power alone and return up to 91mpg. With the batteries positioned underneath the floor, this van is just as practical as a

standard Transit Custom. That means there's a useful 6.0 cubic metres of load space in the back and a maximum payload of 1,130kg.

www.rdr.link/BV106



Renault Kangoo Z.E

Easy to use, practical and capable of travelling up to 120 miles on a single charge, the Renault Kangoo Z.E shows that you don't have to downsize your expectations when it comes to choosing a non-diesel panel van with zero tailpipe emissions. The Kangoo Z.E is available in two load lengths – standard or maxi – and can be specified as a two-seater panel van or as a crew cab with five seats. Maximum payloads peak at 640kg and the largest models provide 4.6 cubic metres of loadspace.

www.rdr.link/BV107



Nissan e-NV200

Easy to drive, practical and capable of covering up to 186 miles on a single charge, the Nissan e-NV200 has lots to offer builders who want a versatile van with low running costs. The van has 4.2 cubic metres of load space and room for two Euro Pallets weighing up to 705kg. Charging is stress-free, too. Find a 'rapid' charging point and you'll juice the battery from 20 to 80 per cent from flat in just 40 minutes.

www.rdr.link/BV108

Concerns over air quality and fuel prices mean diesel may not be the best fuel choice for your next van. Dan Powell of Honest John Vans unveils his top five electric and plug-in hybrid alternatives.



Mercedes-Benz eVito

The eVito is the electric van that kicks off the new 2020 range of plug-in commercial vehicles from Mercedes-Benz. Capable of covering 93 miles on a single charge, this electric medium-size van can carry payloads weighing up to 1,073kg. The eVito is available in two load lengths – long and extra long – and cargo volumes range from 6.0 to 6.6 cubic metres.

www.rdr.link/BV109

SAVE £8,000 ON A NEW EV VAN

You can get a discount on the price of new low-emission van through a grant the government gives to vehicle dealerships and manufacturers. The grant will pay for 20 per cent of the purchase price for an electric van, up to a maximum of £8,000.



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON HONEST JOHN VANS VISIT
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV110**

FOR MORE VAN ADVICE VISIT: WWW.HONESTJOHN.CO.UK/VANS OR TYPE "HONEST JOHN VANS" INTO YOUR ONLINE SEARCH ENGINE.



It's been a particular hobby horse or perhaps, more accurately, a workhorse of ours for many years now that, in the clamour for glamour, the original purpose of the ubiquitous pick-up truck has been somewhat overlooked. With the average spec from the leading exponents now resembling – and often exceeding – that of a well-heeled family saloon, the majority of the latest offerings seem more inclined to the weekend poseur than the weekday grafter.

Thankfully, all is not lost, because there is still a vehicle out there which looks like its spent its formative years down on the most exposed farm, or remotest building site, rather than a pristine beach. Isuzu has one of the most extensive range of pick-ups on the market and the Utility version of the highly versatile D-Max is probably the only one where you don't have to feel guilty about clamouring aboard with mud-caked size nines and cement encrusted overalls.

From its washable seat covers to its carpet bare interior, the Utility is what is says on the tin, a no frills, plenty of spills workhorse, which is ultimately about one

thing, helping the owner to consistently move men and equipment (not to mention livestock) from point a to b in the most efficient but not necessarily most comfortable manner.

Pick-up a bargain

In fact, to give our double cab Agrican aluminium canopied vehicle a proper test we felt like we should have a least a couple of sheep or pigs in the back. Isuzu has a long and favourable reputation with

the take-no-prisoners farming community, but this budget end set up works just as well for carrying an assortment of building equipment and materials. It will certainly fit the bill in more ways than one (prices start at just £17,000 plus VAT for a single cab version up to £23,000) with busy landscapers, for example, who are not too put out by a few bumps and scratches from heavy slabs and bulky foliage. The 125,000-mile warranty is a good indication of its expected reliability and resilience.



Isuzu took the decision a few years back to reduce the engine size across the D-Max platform below two litres and, whilst raising a few eyebrows at the time, the replacement 1.9litre four cylinder returning a healthy 164hp and 360 torque is more than up to the task. That includes a capacity for 1.141kg of payload and 3.5tonne towing ability, with a six-speed manual gearbox set up. Kerb weight at less than 2,000 kg is pretty light for a modern pick up, but explains why the doors have a much lighter feel to them and don't produce that familiar clunk of their testosterone fuelled rivals.

As we have indicated, the interior is at the bottom rung of the D-Max range, but it comes with most of the features needed to make a full working day more than bearable. Electric windows, air conditioning and basic Bluetooth hands free radio with a decent amount of storage contained in some cheap and cheerful low grade black plastic. Our model came with a rear reversing camera, which is especially handy given the added parking risk of the towing bar. Heated door mirrors – standard on all double cabs – was an unexpected luxury for those cold winter mornings.

To the four

We didn't get to go into full farmer Giles mode but a bit of off piste driving enabled us to try the four wheel drive system, which is a typical switchable set up with an electronic dial for changing between three options 2h, 4h and 4l. There's no diff lock for the rear axle though, which means it doesn't have the mud escaping abilities of some on the market, but is nevertheless more than capable of dealing with what most UK building sites could throw at it. Quite literally, you could say, because unlike its preening counterparts, which demand to be kept pristine and polished at all times, the unassuming Utility will be more than happy with the occasional hosing down both inside and out.

Utility Prices start from around £17,000 plus VAT for a standard Single Cab rising to £23,000 for the Double Cab version featured here.

WWW.RDR.LINK/BV111



It's a pretty safe bet to assume that anyone of a certain age who has spent their entire working life in the building industry will know only too well what it's like to wake up with a stiff back. Hours upon hours of shovelling aggregates from the back of a flatbed only to then have to move it all again closer to the job is just one of the routine daily tasks bound to take its toll.

In recent years, of course, the emphasis has become almost exclusively focused on bagged deliveries from the merchant, but this is a naturally more expensive process than buying loose, and is not always guaranteed to arrive exactly when and where it is needed on site. The obvious answer is to invest in your own tipper truck, but traditionally this has meant a hefty investment in one of the big brand larger commercial vehicles and then forking out for a not in significant conversion package.

Launched earlier this year, Isuzu believes it may have the perfect solution in the initially, it has to be said, somewhat surprising shape of its D-Max pick up tipper, based on the Utility Extended Cab. Converted to feature a Tipperdeck load bed measuring 1,977mm long by 1,800mm wide, the floor is constructed using robust 18mm thick interlocking lightweight alloy panels and features 300mm high sideboards and tailboard.

Take a load off

This tailboard opens to 180 degrees and features a two-way hinge assembly – meaning it can be opened from both the top and the bottom – and rubber buffer stops to protect the body. The spring latches on the sideboards are recessed to avoid catching on objects and the corner posts are removable to provide a flat platform for easy loading and unloading.

The electro-hydraulic power pack that

lifts the body is activated in the familiar big truck manner using a wander lead control, whilst the dual tone alarm activates at the same time. The tipping gear and sub frame have all been reassuringly fully galvanised to protect from the elements and, once raised, there's an integral body prop and hose burst safety valve to stop the body from failing unexpectedly. The conversion also uses powder-coated tubular gantry infilled with a protection panel to shield the cab, which inside is pretty much the same basic spec as described for the standard Utility version with the opportunity for the usual upgrades in connectivity etc.

The extended cab with pull down seats for two passengers and internally accessed rear doors is okay for short journeys but, at the end of the day, this is a vehicle all about getting materials quickly and efficiently to site, some of which may be difficult to access for larger vehicles. Payload is around 1,000kg, with a towing capacity of 3.5 tonnes, and will be available through the Isuzu dealer network benefiting from the same aftersales support, including five-year mile warranty and five years road assistance.

With a four-week lead time and coming in at around £4,000, Isuzu are confident that they will very soon be preaching to the converted!

WWW.RDR.LINK/BV112



Let's talk about HEARTBURN...

THIS MONTH'S COLUMN IS ABOUT A PROBLEM MANY PEOPLE WILL EXPERIENCE AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES – ACID REFLUX

For some people, heartburn (caused by acid reflux) is an occasional problem, and for others it can happen longer term. So what exactly is happening when we experience heartburn? Our stomachs are full of acid. Stomach acid is needed to help break down the food we eat so it can be digested properly, and our bodies can take the nutrients we need from it. In acid reflux, the acid from the stomach comes back up into the oesophagus (the gullet). Sometimes it can come back up as far as the throat, or even into the mouth.

Heartburn is felt as a burning pain just behind the breastbone. Other symptoms of acid reflux can include bad breath, a sour taste in the mouth, voice hoarseness, a persistent throaty cough or the sensation of something stuck in the throat. Sometimes, you might never have heartburn but you might have any of these other symptoms – this is called silent reflux. The symptoms of reflux are generally worse after eating (especially large meals), when lying flat or when bending over. This is why some people have particularly bad symptoms at night time.

Acid reflux can happen for no obvious reason. It is known that for some people the following may trigger acid reflux or make it worse:

- Certain foods (especially spicy food, tomatoes, onions, chocolate, and coffee)
- Alcohol
- Being a smoker
- Being overweight
- Stress
- Taking Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID) medications like ibuprofen
- Pregnancy

Also having a condition called a hiatus hernia can make you more likely to suffer with acid reflux. Having a hiatus hernia means that the top part of the stomach can move up into the chest cavity. This makes it more difficult for the acid to stay in the stomach, so it may escape upwards.



"If you have heartburn, tackling any triggers is the best way to help yourself. These include losing weight, reducing alcohol consumption, or stopping smoking."

If you have heartburn, tackling any triggers you know cause your symptoms is the best way to help yourself. As we know, losing weight, reducing alcohol consumption and stopping smoking will have many overall health benefits, as well as helping acid reflux symptoms. Taking smaller meals, avoiding food triggers and not eating 3-4 hours before going to bed may also help. Sleeping with the head of the bed raised, or with an extra pillow, might also help gravity keep that stomach acid where it is supposed to be.

Sometimes, despite all of these measures, heartburn can still cause problems. You can buy over the counter medication to help. There are many different type of antacids – they work by acting on the stomach acid to neutralise it; this often quickly relieves symptoms. Antacids are best taken with, or soon after, meals.

If, despite trying lifestyle measures, and over the counter medications, you are still struggling with heartburn, it may be time to see your GP. Sometimes, we prescribe another type of medication called a Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) which acts on the stomach lining to stop so much acid being produced in the first place. Common PPI medications are omeprazole and lansoprazole. These medications may be used as a course or longer term. They may have long term side effects if used for years at a time – this should be discussed with your GP if needed.

Simple heartburn is a not a worrying condition. Severe heartburn, heartburn that persists despite medications, heartburn associated with swallowing difficulty, vomiting, weight loss or abdominal pain may need further investigations to find out if there is an underlying cause for it. Often the best test for this is a camera test called an endoscopy which your GP can refer you for. Don't ignore heartburn with other symptoms – visit your GP who can help you get to the bottom of it.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ACID REFLUX AND HEARTBURN FROM THE NHS VISIT: WWW.RDR.LINK/BV113



No. 21

ADRIAN'S 'CALL'!

QUICKSLIDE
WINDOWS & DOORS

Adrian Barraclough runs Quickslice, one of Britain's leading window & door manufacturers.

Make sure the windows and doors on your projects arrive before Santa does, urges Quickslice

It happens every year: Everyone wants their nice new extension/loft/garage conversion/garden room finished in time for when Auntie Doris/Uncle Fred/cousin Phil and his snooty wife and...breath...the in-laws come round at Christmas (social distancing permitting, naturally) and, of course, that is when everything goes wrong...everything, right?

And, whilst I can't do very much at all about any other building products, I can offer a few choice words of advice on how you can make sure that the windows and doors are not the things that hold you up; follow my few words of wisdom and you won't be pinning a tarp over the hole that should be filled with the shiny new flush sash in the dining room window.

Of course, the most important advice is: getting your orders in early – but if you are reading this now, you really are up against it. But all is not lost! Even with the Covid surge – every window and door fabricator worth their salt is operating at anything up to 50 per cent over capacity as I write this. Most can still sort your standard frames out in time for you to be Santa rather than the turkey.



Follow these few Golden Rules:

- Get on with it! You are close to last orders even if you are reading this at the beginning of the month, so get the orders in NOW! People need to get out of this ASAP mindset, especially during the current period when product shortages and simple, sheer demand, have totally altered 'normal'. But you should be OK for standard white and stock colours within a couple of weeks; the further you go off-piste, the less likely you are to get them in time for the festivities.
- Measure twice, order once. You don't have wriggle room at this stage so make sure you get it right first time. Your skilled order rep will spot errors and omissions but be as thorough as you can possibly be. We don't have time to do the same thing twice.
- Don't make assumptions. Check that your regular supplier can make your windows in time. We're running three shifts a day now to maintain a sensible lead time for our regular clients, and other suppliers will be making similar arrangements. Before you commit to your customer, make sure you can actually get the windows and doors that you need.
- One stop shop! Make sure the fabricator you buy from has everything in house because shipping stuff out to be finished will take time. We control as many processes as possible in house, by doing our own foiling, painting and glass unit production. That means we're able to keep the lead times down.
- Be nice! Good relationships with suppliers always count because when the chips are down, you need them more than they need you. Don't rant, be understanding, always pay on time and work together to find a solution, all of which goes towards a mutually satisfying relationship that will last for years. Mind you, if you haven't been like that all year, a tin of Quality Street just won't cut it now.

Have a Great Christmas and see you in 2021!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON QUICKSLIDE VISIT:
WWW.RDR.LINK/BV114



The builders' merchants have been great during the lockdown. They were among the first retail outlets to open up and resumed site deliveries as soon as it was practicable to do so. I was so impressed, that I thought I'd try some home delivery grocery shopping too.



Call me old-fashioned, but I had never thought to try getting a home supermarket delivery. Partly because when I go shopping, I very rarely have a list – I prefer to just wander around the store, picking up stuff that catches my eye. Mmm, those pies look nice – maybe I'll try them.

And if you asked me which brand of fish fingers I prefer, I couldn't tell you – I just know which freezer they're in, and what the packet looks like.

Still, getting stuff delivered by the builders' merchants is easy enough, so I thought I'd give food shopping a try. What could possibly go wrong?

Well, my first attempt at online supermarket shopping went spectacularly wrong. What I hadn't factored in was the idea that if the supermarket hasn't got the item you've ordered (even though it was listed as being available on their website at the moment you clicked on it), then they'll just deliver something else instead!

Strangely, they don't say, Sorry we haven't got Product X – would you like Product Y instead? No, they just turn up on your doorstep with Product Y.

My own experience was that – having ordered £40-worth of groceries (the minimum required to get a home delivery) I ended up with only three items that I actually wanted – which were three bags of cheese & onion

crisps. Everything else was stuff that I hadn't asked for, so I had to send the poor driver away with it.

And for my three bags of crisps I was charged £2 delivery. Plus an extra 45p for a carrier bag that I hadn't asked for and wasn't given.

Other customers have had it worse than me. One person ordered a bottle of sunflower oil and got sent an actual sunflower instead. Another asked for red peppers and received red hair dye.

This got me wondering about what might happen if builders' merchants were to adopt the same attitude to their customers' orders.

Suppose you ordered a box of 60mm screws and the driver turned up with 6mm screws as a substitute?

Or 10 sheets of plasterboard, and got hardboard delivered instead?

Or maybe a few lengths of 100 x 50 sawn timber that arrives as 150 x 25 planed?

It would never happen. The merchants would call you first and say the items weren't in stock, and ask if you wanted anything else instead.

When it comes to home deliveries, the supermarkets could learn a thing or two from our excellent builders' merchants.

Jeff Howell

E-mail Jeff via his website www.askjeff.co.uk

Advertisement index

Artex Ltd	(page 52)
Bond It	(page 43)
Buckbootz	(back cover)
Build Aviator	(page 18)
Checkatrade.com	(page 4)
Checkatreade.com	(loose insert)
Dulux Trade/Scuffshield.....	(page 37)
Eclisse UK	(page 25)
ERA Home Security Ltd.....	(page 17)
Federation of Master Builders	(page 14)
Fischer Fixings Ltd	(page 28)
Hamilton	(inside front cover)
Made for Trade	(page 21)
Made for Trade	(page 23)
Metabo (UK) Ltd	(page 39)
Norbord Europe Ltd	(page 27)
Owlett-Jaton	(page 20)
Permaroof (UK) Ltd	(page 45)
Pica-Marker GmbH	(page 35)
Professional Builder Online	(inside back cover)
Quickslide	(page 5)
Rocket Door Frames.....	(page 49)
Safeguard Europe Ltd	(page 16)
Tesco Mobile	(page 8)
Toolfair Exhibition	(page 50)
TuffX Processed Glass Ltd	(page 33)
Wera Tools	(page 6)
Wera Tools	(page 55)
Wunda Group PLC.....	(page 41)

Be social...
join the conversation



NEWS | PRODUCTS | FEATURES | COMPETITIONS | DI-WHY? | MENTAL HEALTH

To get the latest straight into your inbox, sign up to our newsletter-
probuildermag.co.uk/subscribe



twitter.com/PB_mag



facebook.com/probuilderonline



instagram.com/probuildermag



youtube.com/ProBuilderMag



linkedin.com/professional-builder

BBZ 8000

Available
mid
December
onwards



A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR WATERPROOF SAFETY BOOTS

Go to www.buckbootz.com.

To find your nearest Builders Merchant stockist call 01382 82 82 00
or email info@buckbootz.com

BUCKBOOTZ
ADVANCING SAFETY FOOTWEAR
SINCE 1998