

Products



Fiberglass Lath. In contrast to traditional metal lath, woven fiberglass *SpiderLath* is rustproof and unlikely to cut the installer. It's also very light: A 300-square-foot roll weighs 23 pounds. Foam strips running the length of the product provide separation from the substrate and form a seal around nail penetrations. A 4-foot-tall 300-square-foot roll costs \$160.

SpiderLath, 870/725-3902, spiderlath.com.

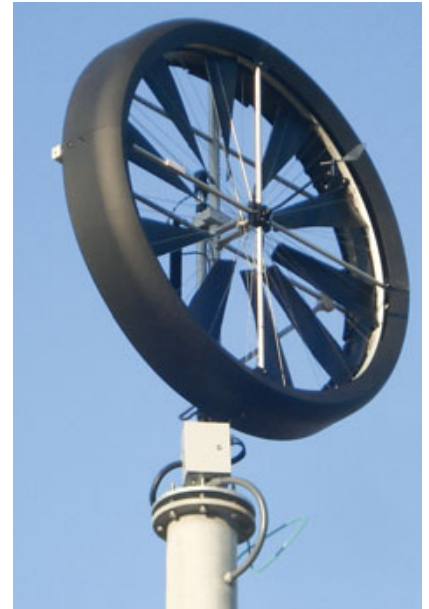
Cordless Sprayer. The new *ProShot* one-quart sprayer — made by Graco for Sherwin-Williams — is powered by an 18-volt lithium-ion battery for easy portability. It comes with two common sizes of reversible spray tips; other sizes are available. The \$450 unit should last through 50 gallons of spraying, and after a pump repacking, it should last for another 50 gallons.

Sherwin-Williams, 800/524-5979, sherwin-williams.com.



Low Emissions. *UltraStock-Free MDF* by Temple-Inland has no added urea formaldehyde, meaning that it contains only trace amounts naturally found in the wood-fiber ingredient itself. Use of the product counts toward various green-building program credits. Sheets from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{15}{16}$ inches thick are available in dimensions up to 5 feet wide and 16 feet long. Expect to pay about \$30 for a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-thick sheet in a standard 49-by-97-inch size.

Temple-Inland, 800/231-6060, templeinland.com.



Wind Power. The *Honeywell Wind Turbine* by WindTronics is a wind power plant intended for home use. Its 6-foot-diameter blades start making power at wind speeds as low as 2 mph and can handle wind speeds up to 42 mph. According to the manufacturer, this turbine has the lowest installed price per kilowatt-hour of any unit in its class. The \$6,500 price covers both the turbine and the control box that connects to the home's panel.

WindTronics, 866/632-7840, windtronics.com.

Products

Pour It On. Pro Spec *Level Set Deep Pour 3* is a self-leveling non-gypsum underlayment that can be poured up to 3 inches thick in a single lift. The calcium aluminate cement (CAC) formula cures smooth and flat with no troweling required and protects finish flooring from alkali in the concrete below. A 50-pound bag sells for about \$17.

Bonsal American, 800/738-1621, prospec.com.



Softer Washer.

Delta Rim Composites' *Yellowbead* washers are made of silicone rubber. Because this material is more elastic than neoprene (which is what traditional washers are made of), valves require less tightening to seal. Silicone is also less likely to harden over time, and it's tear-resistant, so the washers will work even on moderately damaged valve seats. They come in six faucet sizes and one hose size. A six-pack costs about \$3.

Delta Rim Composites, 877/465-7901, yellowbead.com.

Quiet Ventilation.

Broan's new *Ultra Silent Series QTRE080R* retrofit bath fan is designed to be installed from below the ceiling. It runs quietly at .8 sone while exhausting 80 cfm and is Energy Star rated. According to the manufacturer, it costs only about \$1 per year to operate. You can find it online for around \$100.

Broan-NuTone, 800/558-1711, broan.com.



For Lasting Paint.

Polymatrix is an elastomeric paint additive that can make an exterior paint job last 20 years or more, says maker Gulf Synthetics. It's designed to keep the paint coating flexible through many years of temperature variations, minimizing cracking and chipping. One quart of the product treats one gallon of any exterior latex paint and costs \$36.

Gulf Synthetics, 678/584-9309, gulfsynthetics.com.

Products

Fan Control. The *DewStop* bath-fan control by GTR Technologies monitors air for high humidity and activates the room's exhaust fan as needed. Once it's been triggered by condensation, the switch stays on for 30 minutes after the room is dry. The fan can also be operated manually. It costs about \$60; a model that controls lights, too, costs \$70.

GTR Technologies, 360/876-2974, dewstop.com.



Sticky Edges. 3M's latest masking tape, *ScotchBlue Advanced*, has a moisture-activated additive that reacts with the water in latex paint to better seal along the tape edge. Since the adhesive treatment can't be rinsed or scraped off the tape, the rolls require no special handling, says the company. The tape comes in multi-surface and delicate-surface versions starting at about \$5 a roll.

3M, 888/364-3577, scotchblue.com.

Lighter Backerboard. U.S. Gypsum has replaced its Durock backerboard with a version called *Durock Next Gen*. Perlite filler material makes the new cement board 25 percent lighter than the original — each 1/2-inch sheet weighs 36 pounds. The company says the new board also scores and snaps more easily for faster installation. A 3-by-5-foot sheet costs \$9.

USG, 800/874-4968, durocknextgen.com.



Better Bucket. Bercom's *Handy Paint Pail* offers a couple of advantages over painting right out of the can. The biggest is its one-handed grip: An adjustable rubber strap makes holding and maneuvering the container with one hand easy and comfortable. Other convenient features are a flat wiping lip on one side of the pail and a brush-holding magnet on the other. The 6-quart container costs \$10; optional liners go for less than \$1 each.

Bercom, 877/464-1170, handypaintpail.com.