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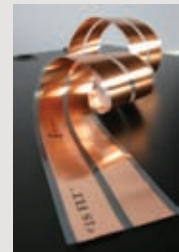
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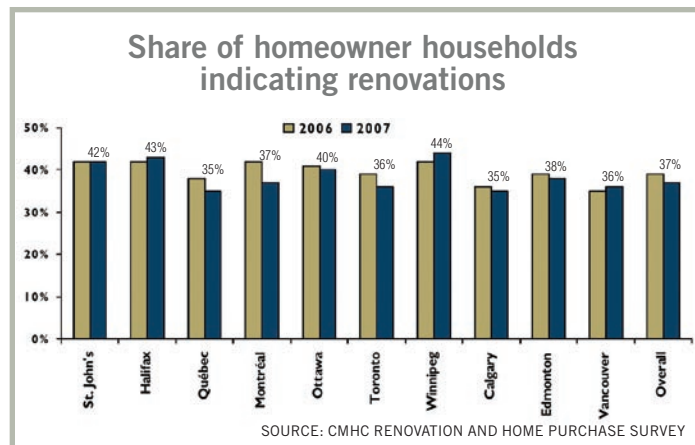
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Renovation Spending Stays Steady



Thirty-seven per cent (or about 1.5 million) of households in ten Canadian markets renovated their home in 2007, spending close to \$19.7 billion, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's *Renovation and Home Purchase Survey*.

The share of homeowner households who renovated last year was the highest in Winnipeg (44 per cent), Halifax (43 per cent), and St. John's (42 per cent), while Calgary and Quebec had the lowest share with 35 per cent. The share of households that intended to renovate in 2007 (46 per cent) was higher than the share of households who undertook renovations of \$1,000 or more in 2007 (31 per cent). In last year's survey, households in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax indicated that they expected to spend, an average of \$11,200 on renovations in 2007, where in fact, they spent an average of \$13,200. 🏠

MAILBOX

Our firm was extremely proud and grateful that you included our Ottawa project (Eco-Cité on the Canal) on the cover of your May 2008 edition of Home BUILDER. Unfortunately, the article neglected to mention the project was designed by our Ottawa firm Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc., an award-winning Green/LEED design firm.

D.E. (Don) Peterman, Bsc.arch. Eng, Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc.

Editor's Note: We regret this oversight and thank Mr. Peterman for supplying further information about the Eco-Cité project.

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CMHC: Starts Remain Strong

New home construction will trend downward in 2008 but remain high by historical standards, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). For 2008, starts are expected to decline by 6.0 per cent, to reach 214,650 units. Seven out of the ten provinces will see housing starts move lower in 2008. Alberta and British Columbia will be responsible for the biggest part of the decline in 2008 while Ontario, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland are expected to post slight increases this year.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts was 217,800 units in June, down from 227,700 units in May. "Despite the decrease in June, total housing starts remain at high levels," said **BOB DUGAN**, Chief Economist at CMHC's Market Analysis Centre. "This is mostly due to the multiple segment which has been continuously above the 100,000-unit threshold since the beginning of the year." 🏠

MLS Reports Record Sales

Existing home sales through the Multiple Listing Service® (MLS) established a new record of 520,192 sales in 2007. Rising mortgage carrying costs in recent years will move the sales lower to just under 476,000 units in 2008 and to 465,000 units in 2009.

The average price of existing homes grew at a strong pace (11.0 per cent) in 2007. A more balanced market in 2008 will reduce upward pressures on house prices. The average MLS® price will increase by 5.1 per cent in 2008 and 3.3 per cent in 2009. 🏠

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CANPLY Re-emerges as CertiWood

After taking time to “re-think, re-imagine and re-structure”, the Canadian Plywood Association (CANPLY) has become CertiWood, a new organization servicing Canada’s engineered wood products sector and based at the 8,100-square-foot CANPLY Technical Centre in North Vancouver, British Columbia.

CANPLY and its predecessor organizations have provided certification, testing and quality auditing services exclusively to Canadian plywood and veneer manufacturers for over 50 years. CertiWood will continue to provide these services and CANPLY member companies will become founding members of the new organization. CertiWood will also offer these services to manufacturers of oriented strand board (OSB), glue-laminated lumber (Glulam), laminated veneer lumber (LVL), I joists (I-Joists) and other engineered wood products.

In making the announcement on behalf of the board of directors, CANPLY president **JIM SHAW** stated, “We are confident CertiWood will enjoy even greater success than CANPLY because it can serve a larger cross-section of the wood products industry. Our staff is highly educated, trained and dedicated to providing our members with service and support that in turn, provides an ‘edge’ to those companies in the marketplace.”

CertiWood has launched a new Web site (www.certiwood.com) detailing the full range of services and support available to members. The site also includes a visual tour of CANPLY’s Technical Centre. 🏠

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CIPH Sponsors 5th Habitat Build

MONTREAL — Habitat for Humanity Montreal launched the building of a new duplex in the east end of Montreal in late June, the fifth HfHM home sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating.

A family with a strong commitment to the Hochelage Maisonneuve community will become proud homeowners of one of the units. The **ROCHON** family includes three children: 12-year-old twins and their 17-year-old sister. The family was selected based on its need for decent housing, its capacity to pay an interest-free mortgage adjusted to its income, and its willingness to work with Habitat for Humanity. The Rochon family must, in fact, contribute 500 hours of “sweat equity” to the construction of its own home.

“CIPH believes in a hand up, not a hand out,” said **PIERRE COTÉ**, CIPH Quebec Region Build Chairman. “I am thrilled on behalf of the Institute to be involved in a very rewarding partnership with Habitat for Humanity. This home is the start of a new life for the Rochon Family where they can feel safe and the children can grow up with pride and dignity.” 🏠

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Back row (l to r): Claude Robitaille, CIPH QC Region Coordinator; Pierre Dandurand, CIPH QC Region President; Ralph Suppa, CIPH President & GM; Pierre Coté, CIPH QC Region Build Chair; front row: The Rochon Family.

TECO to Acquire Structural Board

MARKHAM, Ont. — The Structural Board Association (SBA), which for 32 years has served and represented OSB manufacturers around the world, will dissolve and transfer its assets to TECO by the end of this year.

Founded in 1976, SBA’s member-driven programs have helped make OSB the panel of choice for sheathing applications across much of North America. Close to 75 per cent of the structural panels used in new home construction applications are OSB.

With this success, the SBA has fulfilled its mandate and, in a special meeting at the OSB World Symposium in San Antonio, Texas, this spring, the SBA Board of Directors decided to dissolve the association, transferring its assets to TECO, the certification and testing agency based in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

“The relationship between the SBA and TECO goes way back,” said **CHRIS REID**, SBA Chairman. “They have cooperated in many ways for years... so having TECO carry on what the SBA has been able to do makes perfect sense.”

SBA President and CEO **MARK ANGELINI** and TECO Chairman and CEO **STEVE WINISTORFER** stated that having TECO acquire SBA’s assets was the best way to ensure that OSB manufacturers will have continued access to those things that have provided the most value to SBA members. 🏠



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Dr. Peter Andersen

Canada's mortgage market has been spared the turmoil underway in the United States.

Canadian Income Growth Still Strong

Canada's housing sector still has positive economic fundamentals. Income growth is strong after adjusting for inflation and employment growth is continuing. Canada's mortgage market has been spared the turmoil underway in the United States. Sub-prime lending has always been a much smaller part of our mortgage market, about 5 per cent. In addition, the excesses of reckless lending seen in the U.S. were never present in Canada. In contrast to the U.S., Canada's mortgage financing flow has not been cut off. Single-detached starts are down sharply but this is mainly the result of developments in Alberta, where a buyers' market has developed because of affordability problems. Many markets did not experience big run-ups in house prices over the past five years.

Condo starts have been very strong but there is a disconnect between high-rise condo starts and actual condo sales. The impressive condo starts numbers reflect sales made several years ago. New sales have slowed and unsold inventories are up in markets such as Calgary and Edmonton. High-rise construction costs are also an issue, especially with buyers resisting higher prices and the banks being much more risk conscious.

Pressures on Energy Prices May Linger

The inflation outlook is a controversial topic. In the past, increased margins of excess capacity would eventually push inflation lower in recessions. The economic models of the past may not be reliable guides to the future though. Economists and central banks may have to abandon the notion of core inflation. Pressures on food and energy prices no longer seem to be random events that will revert to the mean. They may now be structural and here for the long term.

The supply response to sustained high oil prices that happened in the 1980s will not happen again. The key oil producers today are the national oil companies and they have different incentives from the private international oil companies. At the margin and given time, Americans will reduce their oil consumption but it may take pump prices of \$6.00/USD per gallon to make this happen. Market forces will eventually bring oil prices down as a result but this may not happen until after 2010. In the meantime, there is an unhealthy interaction between food and energy prices. Motor transportation costs are a big component of food prices. Also, the shift to biofuels will take up larger and larger shares of the U.S. corn crop each year.

U.S. House Prices Keep Falling

The U.S. housing downturn has not yet hit bottom. If you want to be optimistic about the outlook for financial markets you have to believe that foreclosures will return

to tolerable levels and that house prices will stop declining. Unfortunately these prerequisites seem unlikely anytime soon. House prices are still falling. This is bad news for the financial system. It means more write-downs on structured investments backed by mortgages. Banks will have to set aside more cash for investment losses and loan defaults.

Daniel Mudd, CEO of Fannie Mae, thinks that the U.S. housing crisis is halfway over. George Soros is not as optimistic. He thinks we are not even at the half-way point yet. ARM resets will not decline from elevated level until late in 2011 and waves of mortgage defaults and foreclosures are likely to be a fact of life for the next three years.

At this point all of the federal government's initiatives to stabilize foreclosures appear inadequate. Falling house prices mean more Americans are upside-down on their mortgages. There are already an estimated 8.5 million American homeowners (11 per cent of the total) in this position. A continuation of falling house prices could push this figure to over 12 million in 2009.

Credit Conditions Tightening

This onslaught of bad news about U.S. housing markets has influenced home buyers' attitudes in Canada. House prices are holding up but there is no longer a rush to buy. Existing home sales have been trending downward since last fall. New listings in the resale market are up sharply. B.C., Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick show big increases in listing.

Credit conditions are also tightening in Canada. The banks now require a higher return for taking on risk. Given the international reach of the credit shock it is unlikely that the Canadian banks would move much out of step with their American counterparts.

Our housing start estimate for 2008 is a healthy 212,000 units. However, 2009 is expected to be a more difficult year. We have lowered our housing start forecast for next year to 185,000 units. Looking further ahead into 2010, a decline under 180,000 units is possible.

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Peter Andersen, a CHBA economist, is president of Andersen Economic Research Ltd. of Toronto. The firm specializes in economic research and forecasting for the Canadian home building industry.

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By Mike Swinton

Basements: Back to Basics

A major study carried out by the National Research Council Institute for Research in Construction (NRC-IRC) reinforces conventional wisdom that links long-term basement performance to proper site grading and foundation drainage. This article summarizes some key basic principles from that study.

Moisture in Basements

Basement moisture problems originating from the exterior can be caused by leakage, water migration through the foundation walls and floor, sump pump failure and sewer backup.

Leakage is prevented by directing water away from a foundation by means of site grading and providing drainage around the foundation perimeter, or by waterproofing the foundation. Most foundations in new Canadian houses feature footing drainage systems with complementary wall and floor damp-proofing. This approach normally makes waterproofing unnecessary.

Basement protection against exterior water requires:

1. Site grading and drainage;
2. Foundation drainage (weeping tile and/or a granular drainage layer), combined with effective drainage around the basement walls and appropriate moisture protection of the below-grade basement envelope surfaces;
3. The use of special design details and building in factors of safety; and
4. The selection of proper materials.

Site Grading and Drainage

Improper lot grading can direct water toward the foundation, causing water leakage or settlement — one of the main reasons for customer dissatisfaction and call-backs for builders.

Most surface drainage problems occur between houses, especially where houses are close together. A well-defined swale should be constructed between the houses to allow surface water to be diverted away from the houses, and downspouts should discharge at least 1 m (3 ft) away from foundations and be directed away from a house and adjacent, neighbouring houses.

Specific guidelines should be followed with respect to the minimum height of the foundation wall above grade; the minimum slope away from the house; the minimum slope on the rest of the lot; the minimum elevation of the lot above street level, at the house; the minimum depth of swales; the direction of surface drainage relative to certain building or landscaping features; the impact of

landscaping and fencing projects on planned elevations at the site perimeter.

The site grading and drainage plan should be put in place prior to construction but cannot be executed until construction is complete.

Foundation Drainage and Moisture Protection

Designing to keep water out of the foundation drainage system is crucial. This involves taking measures such as providing adequate slope away from the building, as well as an impermeable cap. Any water that can't be directed away from the building through site grading and drainage must be dealt with by the foundation drainage system.

Proper foundation drainage requires a path to convey water to the bottom of the foundation wall and a drainage system to take the water away. Both free-draining backfill and drainage membranes provide a vertical path that allows the water along the soil/wall interface to drain (see figure), with the damp-proofing membrane or coating providing additional protection.

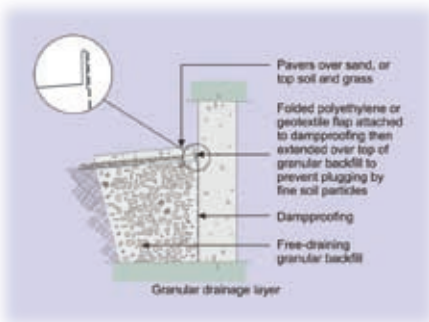
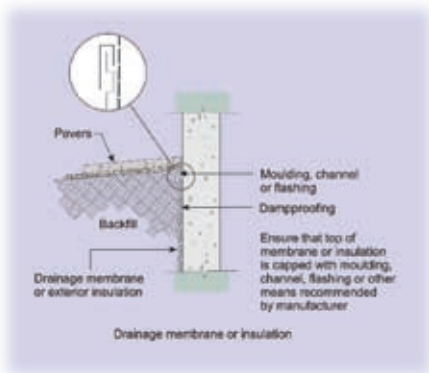
Foundation drainage is usually composed of drainpipe (also known as weeping tile) installed around the perimeter of the foundation wall footing and covered with granular material before backfilling. When there are long runs of drainpipe, a second connection to the storm sewer or sump pump can maximize flow through the pipe. Placing the drainpipe on a layer of free-draining material can offer better flow because any silt deposition will occur in the granular material rather than in the pipe.

Special Design and Construction Measures

Window wells pose design and construction challenges because they are usually below grade and accumulate snow and surface water, and the window units they surround are not designed to resist hydrostatic pressure. Water in the window well needs to be conducted to the horizontal weeping tile by means of a vertical drainpipe and granular material, and the ground surface inside the window well should be well below the bottom of the window opening.

Preventing sump pump failure involves carefully considering various factors, such as the area and configuration of the basement (to determine how many sump pumps will be needed and where they should be located), the permeability of the soil, and the provision of adequate back-up, especially when the basement is used as a living space.

More information on basement grading and drainage can be found in Construction Technology Update No. 69, available at: http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/pubs/ctus/index_e.html. The full report from the NRC-IRC basement study is available at: http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/pubs/rr/rr199/index_e.html.



Drainage of basement walls

Mike Swinton is a principal research officer in the Building Envelope and Structure program at NRC-IRC. He will address basement construction at the NRC-IRC cross-Canada seminar series for 2008/09, Single and Multi-Family Houses: Improving Performance Through a Systems Approach.
Web: www.bsi.gc.ca, e-mail: mike.swinton@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.

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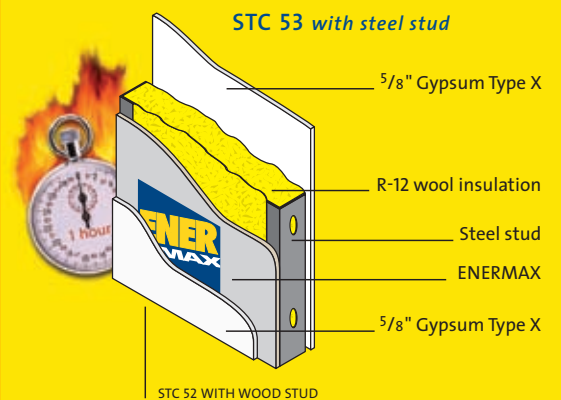
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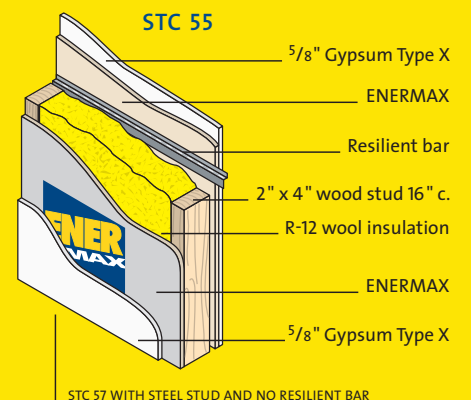
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By Christian Caswell (above) and Paul Cardis

“SWAT is not designed to deal with every customer complaint. Rather, it should be reserved for your most difficult customers.”

Paul Cardis is Founder/CEO and Christian Caswell is General Manager of Canadian Operations for AVID Ratings, a leading provider of customer delight research for the North American homebuilding industry. They can each be reached at pacardis@avidratings.com or christian.caswell@avidratings.com.

SWAT or Not?

Ignoring difficult customers in favour of pleasing satisfied ones is a sure-fire way to destroy your brand.

Much has been said about customer experience management and how builders can reap the biggest returns on their investments. Recently, this has led to more confusion than clarification, and it's time to set the record straight.

The issue has come up for debate following a recent Ontario Home Builders Association event, where one prominent consultant argued that home builders should not focus on satisfying their toughest customers. Instead, she argued, builders should devote their resources to making their happy customers even happier. Her rationale was that it's terribly difficult to turn disgruntled home buyers into loyal advocates for your business, while it's easier to turn moderately happy customers into ecstatic ones. While this simplistic view appears logical, it ignores the positive impact that strategic service recovery can have on the bottom line.

The truth is, home building is a local business, and it doesn't take much to tarnish one's reputation in a way that kills future sales. A customer management strategy that addresses only the moderately happy customers is not just ill-advised; it's dangerous to a builder's long-term success. Clearly, builders should focus their service efforts on the areas of greatest opportunity, but they also must have a process for dealing with those severely dissatisfied customers who can create a public relations nightmare.

In both Canada and the U.S., numerous builder exposés have been aired on local and even national news shows such as Dateline NBC. Clearly, a bit of service recovery would have saved many builders from this type of PR damage. On the Internet, things get worse. Dozens of builder-bashing sites have emerged, which I will not advertise in this article.

Last summer, Sprint Nextel, in the U.S., began dropping thousands of its cell phone subscribers who apparently complained too much. Their performance solidifies the argument that builders cannot ignore their worst customers. According to Sprint Nextel's own press release, 2008 first quarter revenues declined nine per cent compared with the same period a year ago and six per cent from the fourth quarter of 2007. “The declines are mainly due to lower average service revenue per customer and fewer post-paid subscribers,” the company stated. Meanwhile, their competitors all saw increases in the same time period.

On average, builders can expect 7.5 per cent of their customers to make a negative referral. That's why I have always been a staunch advocate of stabilizing your toughest customers. At the same time, I recognize the value in appealing to your happier customers, too. The

truth is, you need to strategically do both!

The best way to deal with tough customers is to establish a “SWAT team” that is ready to go into action when a potentially hostile customer emerges on the radar. Many police departments have a SWAT division trained to handle difficult and dangerous situations. Along those lines, every builder should have in place a SWAT (Special Ways and Tactics) team to effectively deal with hostile customers and to resolve disputes through informal arbitration.

Many builders who struggle with SWAT do so because they misuse it. SWAT is not designed to deal with every customer complaint. Rather, it should be reserved for your most difficult customers — those who have a high probability of tarnishing your company's reputation. Admittedly, it is very difficult to turn an irate home buyer into a raving fan. In these instances, the SWAT team's main goal is to gain psychological control over the situation and to stabilize the home buyer. It's about preventing certain situations from escalating out of the company's control.

No builder can turn around every disgruntled customer. In fact, marginally unhappy customers who are at a low-risk of becoming explosive may not merit a SWAT team's time; a single person can do the job. For some companies who have few unhappy customers, SWAT can be used for all major complaints, but this is only recommended for high performing companies. You must strike a balance between resources and the number of problem customers a builder can afford to address using a SWAT approach.

SWAT is a reactive solution, and you should always empower your staff to proactively resolve problems. That said, it still pays to care for your least satisfied customers. On average, home builders who successfully employ SWAT teams have been able to reduce their percentage of potential hostile customers to less than one per cent, while the rest of the industry hovers at 7.5 percent. The fact is, working with your toughest customers can yield a much better return on your investment than builder liability insurance. Ignoring hostile customers, however, is a disastrous approach and anyone recommending this strategy is misguided. Don't let them put your company in harm's way.

AVID Tips

- Focus individual efforts on all customers.
- Reserve the SWAT team for your least satisfied customers. If feasible, target all unhappy customers; otherwise, strategically target the potentially hostile ones.
- Resolve problems proactively before they require SWAT intervention.



SERIOUS ENTERTAINING | MADE EASY

Introducing GE Café – bringing together great food and friends.

Your guests will admire your new gas range with its 5 burners and extra baking drawer – perfect for baking a pie and a roast beef at once. You'll love the extra space in your GE Café refrigerator, and the convenient ExpressChill™ bin which cools the Chardonnay in minutes. Then, spend more time mingling and less time cleaning with your SmartDispense™ dishwasher that only needs detergent every 2 months... so easy.



GE Appliances Commercial Sales

800.307.8864

The Latest and

7th Annual NEW PRODUCT SHOWCASE 2008

When Archimedes stepped into his tub and suddenly figured out how to measure the volume of irregular objects, he exclaimed “Eureka!” Even in our technologically advanced age, it’s still exciting to discover simple solutions to previously complicated or time-consuming problems.

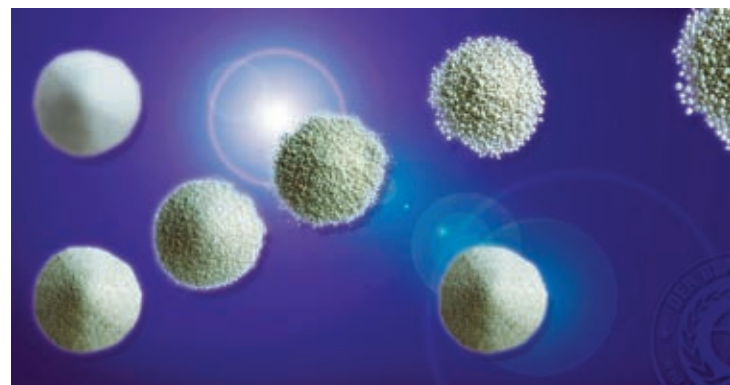
Poring over the hundreds of press releases we received for our 7th annual New Product Showcase, we were impressed by the number of innovative ideas that deserved a double take, “Wow!” or “Why didn’t I think of that first?”

Unfortunately we had to narrow our choices to 40 new products and technologies that, among other benefits, promise great savings (time, cost and energy) to home builders and renovators. Although we haven’t tested or tried each of these, we think they represent an excellent sample of some of the exciting new products and technologies available today.

Thermal Wall Forms

Durisol’s insulating concrete forming (ICF) system features interlocking modular units that are dry-stacked (without mortar) and filled with concrete and reinforcing steel. Available in a variety of widths and insulation configurations, they incorporate mineral fibre insulation that is also non-combustible, moisture resistant and positioned toward the exterior of the wall, resulting in additional energy efficiency not possible with other ICFs.

Durisol Building
Systems Inc.:
905-521-0999
www.
durisolbuild.com



From Blue Box to Green Glass

Poraver® North America collects thousands of tonnes of recycled glass from Ontario blue box programs every year and — using only what can not be used by the glass industry, which for the most part is coloured glass and fine glass shards — turns them into lightweight, porous glass minispheres. Applications include dry mortars, building blocks, veneer stone, and acoustic and partition wall systems.

Poraver North America:
705-431-0022, www.poraver.com

Greatest



Toolbox in a Tube

Bull Seal is designed to replace mechanical fasteners as well as caulks, sealants and adhesives. An MS Polymer™-based adhesive sealant that will cure to form a "bull strength" seal, Bull Seal claims to outperform any latex, silicone and polyurethane adhesive product. It adheres to wet surfaces, may be applied to submerged surfaces and even cures under water. Bull Seal is waterproof, paintable, stainable, and UV resistant, and remains permanently flexible.

TVM Building Products:
1-888-313-3258, ext. 228
www.bullseal.com



Power Shears for Fibre Cement

Malco has developed an all-new air-powered TurboShear, as well as a TurboShear accessory for electric drills, specialized for fibre cement siding. The TSF1 accessory inserts easily into the chuck of a standard 14.4-volt or larger electric power drill and works equally well with corded or go-anywhere cordless drills. Both the TurboShear and the drill accessory use the same replacement blades. (see ad on page 23)

Malco Products Inc.:
1-800-328-3530
www.malcotools.com

Stainless Steel Doors

Lasertron stainless steel cabinet doors and drawer fronts feature a satin brush finish and laser-welded corners that eliminate unsightly refinishing marks. The backs of the doors have rolled edges and there are no external welds or screws used in the assembly, resulting in an elegant and uncluttered appearance. Doors are predrilled for European-style 35mm hinges. Hardware holes can be predrilled, making installation simpler than for wood doors.

Lasertron:
www.lasertrondirect.com, 954-846-8600

► 18



17 ▶ Increase Scaffold Safety

With the help of standard lumber typically found on job sites, the patented T-Brace easily increases span and rigidity of scaffolding planks. Insert a 2 x 10 board horizontally in the top opening of the brace, and a 2 x 6 board vertically in the bottom of the brace, and a T-beam is created.

T-Brace is light (3.3 lbs) but its powder-coated steel construction can withstand up to 500 pounds of weight. Twelve T-Braces, which build four 16-foot walk-boards, can be stored on one 30-inch 2 x 4.

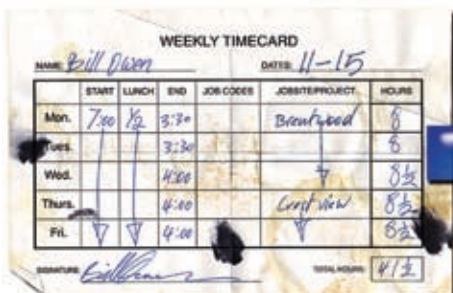
T-Brace:
1-866-454-4983, www.t-brace.com



The Contractor's Timeclock

JobClock significantly reduces payroll expenses, including overtime and workers' compensation insurance payments by accurately tracking employee's attendance and time on the job. Workers clock in and out with green and red "Keytabs" carried on their key rings, and a supervisor retrieves records using a Palm or Windows Mobile PDA. Timecards and detailed reports can be generated and printed out using TimeSummit®. (see ad on page 30)

Exaktime:
1-888-788-8463, www.exaktime.com



Stone Vent Covers

Heating floor registers tend to look unfinished, so Accents of Distinction has come up with The Stone Vent. Using the actual tile being installed, AoD will make a flush-mounted or top-mounted removable tiled vent cover, currently offered in two designs and two sizes and ranging in price from \$85 to \$110. (see ad on page 46)

Accents of Distinction
www.aodstone.com, 416-576-8843



Support for Plumbing Systems

The ProPEX™ Out-of-the-Wall Support System provides a quick-to-install solution for PEX-a plumbing systems all the way to the fixture, eliminating the need for metal stub-outs or connections behind the wall. ProPEX comes with a plastic bend support that snaps into an 18-inch-wide wall support bracket. A flared plastic escutcheon, available in chrome or white finish, conceals the penetration and connection.

Uponor Ltd.:
1-888-994-7726, uponor.ca



PVC Siding Starter Strip

Here's a multi-purpose starter strip engineered to receive all types of sidings and stand up to nasty weather. The 5/4-inch-thick PVC Stealth Skirt Board features an angled top ridge for the first course of fibre cement or composite siding to rest upon. This tapered edge also allows water to run off. Made from low-maintenance PVC, it can come into direct contact with the ground or masonry with no ill effects.

Versatex:
724-266-7928, www.versatex.com



Employee Time Card
Displays the total time worked by each employee

Bill Owen
Time card for: Monday, August 11, 2008 - Friday, August 15, 2008

Jobsite Name	Cost Code	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total
Brentwood Job	Framing	7:38	7:35	7:53	-	-	23:06
Crestview Job	Drywall	-	-	-	7:58	7:49	15:47
		7:38	7:35	7:53	7:58	7:49	38:53

Regular Hours: 38:53
Overtime Hours: - 0 -
Double Time Hours: - 0 -

Signature: *Bill Owen*
Name: Bill Owen

Easy to work with and bonds well with others!



We're talking about FIBEROCK® AQUATOUGH™ Underlayment, from CGC.

FIBEROCK provides superior mould and moisture resistance and a smooth uniform surface. It is 60% more resistant to indentation than traditional wood-based underlayments.

And, unlike many other underlayment products, FIBEROCK demonstrates exceptional bond with a wide range of flooring materials including vinyl, ceramic tile, hardwood, laminate and carpeting. FIBEROCK is also easy to score and snap which means you can finish your installation in record time.

- Specifically engineered to resist water, mould and moisture
- Dimensional stability superior to traditional wood-based underlayments
- 20-year performance warranty
- Easy to install, score and snap
- Made from 95% recycled material



For more information contact your CGC representative 1-800-387-2690



CGC Inc.
350 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W., 5th Floor
Mississauga, ON L5B 3J1

www.cgcinc.com

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FIBEROCK and AQUATOUGH.



18 ▶

Ceiling Fan for All Seasons

In the winter, the ceiling-mounted Reiker Room Conditioner is a remote-controlled space heater. It puts the wasted warm air at ceiling level to work, pushing it down toward the floor and then circulating, filtering, heating and reheating it, distributing it evenly around the room. And then it cools like a regular ceiling fan all summer.

Reiker: 1-866-473-4537, www.buyreiker.com



Flexible Moulding

Now you can easily create "on demand" radii on site to suit most inside, outside or arch radius applications without deforming or excessively stressing mounting surfaces. Orac Decor® Flexible Mouldings can be installed using typical equipment and don't require priming before finishing.

Architectural Products by Outwater:
1-888-772-1400, www.outwater.com

Water-conserving Showerhead

The FloWise™ showerhead reduces water consumption by up to 40 per cent of the current code requirements of 2.5 gallons per minute. Three angle-adjustable spray settings operate at 1.25 to 1.7 gpm while still delivering a spray as powerful as 2.5 gpm. The secret? A small turbine-like mechanism spins the water stream through the head to create an invigorating spray without wasting water.

American Standard:

1-800-387-0369, www.americanstandard.ca



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LASTING IMPRESSION
on Every Project!

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SPECIALTY PRODUCTS INC. Tel: (905) 564-3122 • Toll Free: 1-888-875-4844 • www.valor.ca • Email: sales@valor.ca



An Oldie but Goodie

Jig-A-Loo, the world's first all-purpose invisible lubricant and water repellent, turns 50 this year. Its numerous applications include lubricating outdoor and indoor moving parts, fighting corrosion, repelling water, loosening bots and screws, stopping squeaks, and loosening zippers. Silicone-based, it doesn't contain oil, grease, wax or detergent so it can be used on wood, metal, leather, fabric and most plastics.

Jig-A-Loo:
1-888-544-2566, www.jigaloo.com



Direct Basement Access

PermEntry is a one-piece, concrete "stairwell" that adds or facilitates direct basement access to any home. Precast in one piece and thoroughly vibrated for maximum density, the stairwell features high-tensile threaded rods and anchor bolts for foundation securing. PermEntry satisfies emergency egress standards and provides a safe exit for occupants in case of an emergency. (see ad on page 21)

Bilco:
519-659-7331, www.bilco.com



Environment-conscious Faucets

Ashfield Single Control and Widespread Trough Spout Lavatory Faucets come equipped with a pressure compensating flow restrictor that produces a flow rate at or under 1.5 gpm (5.7 L/m) at 60 psi — a water usage reduction of about 30 per cent — while maintaining a full, gentle stream. The Ashfield Collection is available in various finishes such as chrome, nickel, pewter and bronze.

Price Pfister: www.pricepfister.com

On-site Protection for Permits

Now you can post your permits, building plans and address numbers in a lockable, weatherproof on-site storage box, giving inspectors, architects, engineers and contractors easy but controlled access to important documents.

Protective Products:
1-800-789-6633, www.protectiveproducts.com



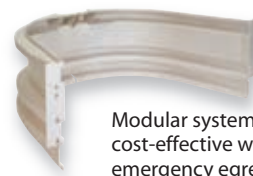
An Improvement to Any Basement...

Bilco Window Wells

Bilco turns window wells into code-compliant safety-escape routes while adding light, ventilation and saleable space to any home.

Bilco Window Wells:

- Meet IRC2006 building code requirements for basement egress.
- Add natural light and ventilation to basements making them as warm and comfortable as any room in the house.
- Simply stack one on top of the other or slide together on-site for fast, easy and cost-efficient installation.
- Are constructed of high-density polyethylene that will never rust, rot or discolor for many years of maintenance-free service.



stakWEL®
Window Wells

Modular system is the most cost-effective way to add emergency egress.

ScapeWEL®
Window Wells



Built-in step design can be landscaped for further visual enhancement.

For more information on all our residential products call
(519) 659-7331
or log on to www.bilco.com



Imagine...
What Bilco can do for your basements



21 ▶ HVAC Networking System

The Climate Cōntrol™ Network System connects all of a structure's HVAC and radiant components to a single system. Users can make comfort control changes via flush-mount wall thermostats, an optional high-definition touch panel interface, or even a computer — both locally and remotely — with Internet access to the entire system. An optional notification system permits service contractors to monitor and manage customers' networks on-line and making rapid-response changes. (see ad on page 7)

Uponor Ltd.:

1-800-994-7726, www.uponor.ca

A Solution for Ventilated Roofs

A new roof underlayment from Cosella-Dörken developed for ventilated roofs with conventional asphalt shingles provides four layers of protection against any type of weather. DELTA-ROOF is reinforced with a tear-proof grid structure and is resistant to UV, abrasion, tearing, or buckling. Available in rolls of 164 x 4.92 feet (50 x 1.5 metres). (see ad on page 42)

Cosella-Dörken Products Inc.:

1-888-433-5824, www.deltarroof.com



Waterproof Roof Underlayment

RoofGard-SB, made of a completely waterproof synthetic material, forms an effective water-shedding barrier under shingles or other roofing materials. Its flexibility even in cold weather and slip-resistant surface make it easy and safe for roofers to work with. All three layers — polypropylene sandwiched between polyolefin — contain UV stabilizers, making RoofGard a suitable temporary roof covering for up to six months.

IKO:

1-800-361-5836 (East) or 1-800-661-1034 (West)

www.iko.com



Sediment Containment

SiltShield® is a sediment containment product designed for residential construction sites, particularly at the curb, where vehicle and construction traffic is prevalent. SiltShield boasts the ability to "Bounce Back" and is flexible, self-supporting and reusable in all seasons.

SiltShield:

586-243-2929

www.siltshield.com



Bendable Concrete for Countertops

Xtreme Countertop is a dual component countertop bag mix that greatly reduces the materials and labour needed to construct a traditional concrete countertop. This "bendable concrete" allows for the fabrication of precast, cast-in-place, or the unique "capping" of existing cabinetry. It can also be used to fashion extreme curving furniture or produce any manner of durable architectural panels.

Surecrete Design Products:

1-800-544-8488

www.surecretedesign.com

INSTANTLY TURN ANY DRILL INTO A "FIBER CEMENT SIDING" SHEAR!
Malco's unique, model TSF1 TurboShear attaches to your existing cordless or A/C drill to go where the work is.

SHEAR POWER!

Versatile, Rugged, Malco TurboShears
for Fiber Cement Siding

PRECISE ARCS

STRAIGHT SHEARING

FINE TRIMMING

AIR POWER!

The model TSF1A TurboShear is the ultimate tool for making quick, easy and clean cuts in fiber cement siding!

90 PSI, 6.2 Bar • 4CFM, 113 L/min

Malco[®]

See Malco's entire
TURBOSHEAR family
of tools on video, at
www.malcotools.com





Merge Home Control and Digital Entertainment

Lifelware™ brings homeowners' digital entertainment together with home automation in Windows Vista® Media Center. Music, TV, home videos, and digital photos become available and controllable along with thermostats, lighting, audio system, security system and surveillance cameras — all at the touch of a button, from anywhere in the home.

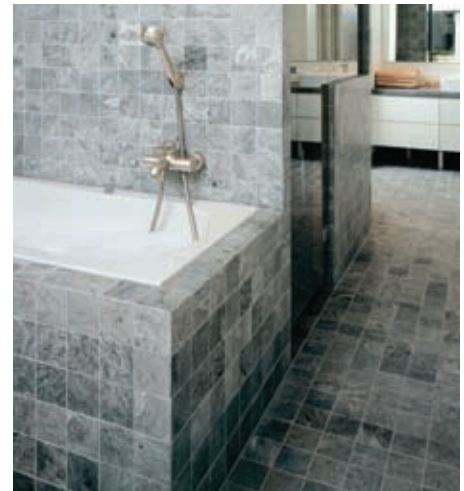
Life|ware:
1-877-901-8886, www.life-ware.com



22 ▶ Turn Wall Space into Counter Space

Franke Active Kitchen Rail System starts with wall-mounted stainless steel rails that come in two lengths of single- or double-slot versions. Once installed, the rail system becomes the pathway for a personalized selection of more than a dozen handle-mounted accessories related to food preparation and clean up.

Franke Kindred Canada Limited:
1-866-687-7465, www.kindredcanada.com



Soapstone for Warm Floors

Radiant heat flooring has met its mate. Tulikivi soapstone tiles are naturally heat-retentive, increasing the efficiency of radiant heating because it absorbs heat and then slowly releases it over time. Soapstone also absorbs sound — but not water, acid or alkali — and resists temperature changes. Tulikivi is available in various sizes, shapes and colours.

Soapstone Heating Systems Inc.
1-877-890-8770, www.soapstoneheating.com



Easy, Stylish Organic Waste Collection

Blanco's SOLON is a stainless steel waste system made up of a bin, frame and lid that can be installed into the kitchen countertop. Two models are available, one for top-mounting to laminate countertops and one for under-mounting in granite or solid surface tops. The dishwasher-safe removable bin is easy to empty and clean and comes with a cover to protect the rim and carrying handle from dirt.

Blanco: 905-612-0554, www.blancocanada.com

Give your career a makeover.

Help build dreams as a Showroom Sales Specialist.



Kitchen & Bath • Appliances Flooring • Millwork • Decor

Bring your passion for home building and consulting to Canada's leading home improvement retailer. Apply in person at any store location or online at:

homedepot.ca

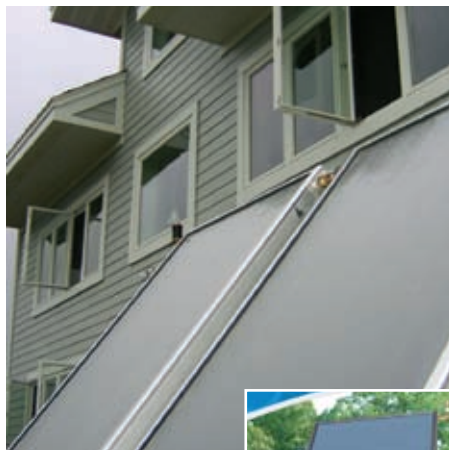
We are committed to diversity as an equal opportunity employer. Available positions may vary by store.



Faucet... or Art?

Now here's a faucet unlike any we've ever seen. The Luna family of faucets feature sleek arches of chrome that are available in vessel filler, roman tub filler and thermostatic shower forms, and use solid brass and German ceramic valves.

Graff:
1-800-954-4732
www.graff-faucets.com



Solar Water Heating System

With the new Baxi Luna wall-hung boilers, water heaters and solar heating systems, homeowners can expect to save up to 53 per cent in fuel consumption — and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. From 86 to 99 per cent efficient, the fully modulating Baxi boiler, approved for closet installation, can heat a home or office space from 600 to 6,000 sq. ft. (see ad on page 42)

Marathon International:
www.wallhungboilers.com



Insulated Louvered Glass for Light and Heat Control

Vision Control technology is now available for residential applications, specifically energy-saving sunrooms and solariums.



Sandwiched between insulating glass in a 2-inch dehydrated air space that provides sound attenuation, the blinds allow a controlled amount of light in while reflecting solar heat back outside. Inside the unit, a primary seal of polyisobutylene, which is highly resistant to UV rays, meets a second seal of polysulfide.

Unicel Architectural Corp.:
450-670-6844
www.visioncontrol.qc.ca

Watertight Aluminum Deck System

An Attractive Appearance & True Non-Skid Finish



- 1" x 6" boards can sustain an amazing 1,088 pounds per square foot on 24" centres
- Deck boards lock together to form a waterproof joint
- Boards use concealed fasteners... clean, safe and attractive
- Embedded crumble in powder coat for a true non-skid finish
- Attractive perimeter trim designed to receive skirting material
- Passed ASTM B117 salt fog spray test on new ACQ treated lumber
- Super-Durable exterior powder coat finish exceeds the highest AAMA 2605 specs
- Colours: Desert Sand and Grey. Grey has the appearance of weathered cedar and blends with any colour scheme.

Structural Railing

Picket & Glass Panel System

Tough aluminum rail for the residential market. Building-Code Compliant

- No exposed fasteners
- Colour-matched die-cast aluminum post bracket cover
- Caps, brackets, etc. all made from die-cast aluminum, no plastic
- Post sizes from 2 1/4" to 5 1/2"
- Top & bottom rails completely concealed, no gaps

Sunrooms Grand Vista

Deluxe, pre-fabricated, Patio Room

3 season glass enclosures



- Heavy duty design with integral window side jambs, header and sill
- Pre-cut system — easy to ship and install
- Exclusive side slider — nylon roller design
- Use with our PanelCraft or Northlander roof systems

CraftBilt

Materials Ltd.

140 Steelcase Road, West
Toronto, (Markham) ON
(800) 668-6430
(905) 475-9492 • Fax: (905) 475-0685
info@cbm.on.ca • www.cbm.on.ca



25 ▶ Tankless Toilet

The Sanistar Macerating Toilet System not only saves water — it uses just 1.1 gallons per flush instead of the standard 1.6 gpf — but it also takes up very little space. Measuring 18 by 20-1/2 inches, the wall-hung unit (which can be positioned at the optimum height for the user) has no external tank. A macerating pump and electronically activated flushing mechanism are combined into a single package housed inside the fixture.

SFA Saniflo Inc.:

www.saniflo.com, 1-800-571-8191

Insulated Brick Panels

Made of a combination of plywood sheathing, polyurethane insulation and 1/2-inch (12mm) fired clay thin brick, Pan-Brick provides an R10 insulating value and boasts several practical benefits. The panels, which weigh just 6.9 pounds, stand up to extreme conditions, require no sealant or caulking to keep them weather-tight, and the concealed fastening system and joint design give the appearance of hand-laid masonry. Installation can be done in any weather — 36 bricks at a time.

PAN-BRICK:

306-545-0808, www.panbrick.com



Better Faucets — From the Inside

Moen has found a way to improve the installation and functionality of its pullout and pulldown faucets. The new Hydrolock™ installation system makes it easier to connect pullout hose and water lines to a new faucet — without tools. It simply snaps together securely with a distinct click. A retrofit kit is available and Moen is also offering a 68-inch fibre hose with ball swivel joint for ease of use, quiet operation and extended range of motion.

Moen: www.moen.ca, 1-800-465-6130



Cover Up Roof Protrusions

ShingleMatch™ Roof Accessory Paint easily — and inexpensively — hides vent pipes, exhaust vents, stacks and flashings. Available in eight colours of acrylic enamel and boasting a tough finish that resists harsh environmental conditions, ShingleMatch works on metal, aluminum, plastic, wood, masonry and concrete surfaces.

GAF-Elk:

973-628-3000, www.gaf.com



Suite Solutions



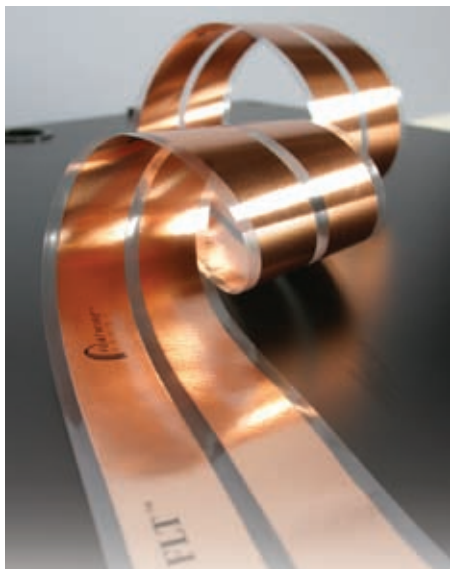
WESTERN CANADA
1.800.267.4774
604.540.9525

EASTERN CANADA
1.800.387.7064
905.362.3660

www.taymor.com

Taymor has served up a new addition to their Professional Locks and Bath Hardware Program in the introduction of **C19 Matte Black Finish Suite**. The new suite highlights the Ashford handle sets, Provence levers, Capri ball knobs as well the Heritage Style Brentwood bath hardware line.

For more information see their website www.taymor.com



Make Wires Disappear

Hiding wires from speakers and audio devices is as simple as snapping on special connectors to FlatWire, which can then be taped to the wall and hidden (just mud, sand and paint over it). This means speakers can be added anywhere, regardless of outlet placement. FlatWire also offers solutions for video, electrical and lighting applications. (see ad on page 44)

FlatWire

1-888-352-8947 www.flatwireready.com

Protect Tubs During Construction

TubSkin™ adheres to tub surfaces — without transferring its adhesive — protecting them from damage during construction. Not to be confused with another company's purple paint on/peel off product, this is a thick layer of puncture- and water-resistant polyethylene foam that can also act as padding for plywood if the tub needs to be used as a standing platform.

Builders' Site Protection:

1-866-788-6886, www.buildsitepro.com



Window Capping System

Watch for a new window trim product from Alum-A-Pole that goes on after siding, with the ease of wallboard, eliminating the need for tedious fitting. The capping system, available in two styles, features corner blocks — no more awkward mitres!

Alum-A-Pole:

1-800-421-2586, www.alumapole.com



Tarp Management

A new family of products makes managing tarps easy — without the need for grommets. Three sizes (1.5, 6 and 20 inches long) of Grabbits™ allow tarps — or other pliable fabrics — to be mounted to structures, seamed together, or grabbed, in just seconds. Using “linear grappling”, the two-piece Grabbits involve a “dogbone” placed where the tarp goes and a sleeve that slides over the dogbone and tarp, holding the two pieces tightly together.

Grabbit Tool Company:

303-960-8140, www.grabbittool.com

► 28

Wolfa Window Wells

Choose the best solution!

Wolfa Window Wells

Add a perfect, clean finish to your basement rooms with Wolfa Window Wells

- Reflect the maximum amount of light into the room
- Made from fibreglass-reinforced polyester: Will not rust, rot or decay
- Easy to install, and is maintenance-free

Standard Window Wells

wolfawindowwell.com (780) 974-7039



27 ▶

Enhanced protection against mould growth

ProRoc® Moisture and Mould Resistant Gypsum Board with M2Tech™, designed for use on interior walls and ceilings in standard residential applications, protects against mould growth. It has a specially formulated moisture and fire resistant core enclosed in nearly 100% recycled moisture and mould resistant light violet coloured face paper and bronze coloured back paper. Fast and easy to install, the product is available in 1/2-inch and 5/8-inch Type X, 48-inch width, and lengths of 8 or 12 feet. (see ad on page 11)

CertainTeed Corporation
1-800-233-8990, www.certainteed.com



Fibre... for Your Floor

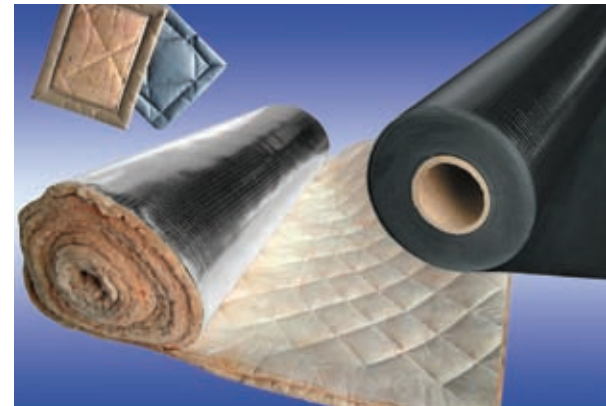
FiberFloor® feels like carpet, keeps like sheet vinyl, and installs like laminate, but it contains an engineered fibreglass inner layer that uses woven fibres to keep the floor flat and eliminate expansion and contraction. Five protective layers in all makes this flooring product both durable and comfortable. FiberFloor is available in three unique styles and more than 100 designs.

Tarkett Inc.
www.tarkett.com, 1-800-363-9267, ext. 8216

High-Performance Soundproofing

Vinaflex mass-loaded vinyl noise barriers are specifically engineered for efficient sound isolation. When combined with mineral fibre, acoustical foam, glass or ceramic fibre, Vinaflex products provide high transmission loss over a broad frequency range. Vinaflex is available in rolls and other configurations, as well as custom sizes, and can be laminated.

GLT Products:
www.gltproducts.com, 1-800-874-1748



Ask the Expert



Home BUILDER Magazine's interactive feature on professional tools welcomes readers to air beefs, share praise and talk tools

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Reviving the Faded

BY DON FORNES

Before your last home got rolling, you built a detailed schedule you thought would help you manage the project to completion. Now you're waiting on permits, two of your subs haven't showed and your homeowners are wondering what's going on. You've got a stack of daily reports that are too overwhelming to sort through before your next homeowner meeting. That faded project schedule on the wall is looking pretty useless.

Project managers need a schedule that is dynamic, just like their jobs. Unfortunately, most project managers are too busy to update their schedule to reflect every change. Moreover, most project managers use separate systems for project control and project scheduling. The change orders and daily reports tracked in one system aren't being reflected in the scheduling system that manages the critical path.

An integrated project management and scheduling system delivered over the Internet can transform your schedule from a printout on the wall to a living asset that reflects the real-time status of your job. Every document that comes through the project management system will automatically update the schedule based on its project impact. By extending access to subs over the Web, they can update their own information so you don't have to track them down.

Here we discuss five ways that integrating project management and scheduling in a Web-based environment can keep your homes on track.

Daily reports drive schedule updates

Daily reports aren't much use if they're just printed and stacked on your desk. Instead, reports should be created, distributed and viewed within a Web-based system. Not only will a Web-based system allow more people to report on job status, but the on-line environment will also transform the report from a simple write-up to a structured set of project information. For example, team members can report on the per cent completion for a given task by selecting from a dropdown menu. Your schedule can then automatically measure that status relative to plan, adjust the schedule and alert everyone affected by the change. At the same time, tasks and processes that are not impacted will continue to move forward on the original schedule.

Proactively control critical project documents

Daily reports aren't the only documents to come across your desk and impact your schedule. Homeowner selections, change orders, insurance certificates, contracts and permits can all impact the critical path. If left sitting on the fax machine or stacked on your desk, it may be days or weeks before their impact is reflected in the schedule. By moving these paper-intensive documents into a web-based collaboration platform, their impact can be measured and reflected in the schedule in real-time. The schedule will automatically update and alert the relevant people.

One way to stay ahead of the curve is to maintain schedules for each of your subs.



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Project Schedule

Moreover, the system can alert you when someone else drops the ball. If your question to the architect hasn't been answered promptly, the system alerts you and the responsible party to keep things moving.

Juggle resources with insight into everyone's schedule

Because the schedule is inevitably changing throughout the job, knowing your subs' availability is critical to staying on or ahead of schedule. One way to stay ahead of the curve is to maintain schedules for each of your subs. This way, you'll know if they are available a few days ahead of schedule or a few days behind. Traditionally, that would mean maintaining more schedules and tracking down more people. With a Web-based system, you can extend access to all of your subcontractors who in turn can update their availability via the system. The same applies to equipment and other resources. The availability of every person, company and resource can be tracked in a Web-based system.

Find everyone you need with ease

Communication is integral to running your job smoothly. You have to talk to vendors, subs, homeowners, managers, and architects. Maintain an active directory of contacts and resources within your project management system and allow everyone to update their own information in

the system via the Web. Next time a sub fails to show, access your global contact list and find an alternate sub, along with his contact info and even his schedules. When the system is integrated with your e-mail, you can manage all of your correspondence through the system as well.

Manage the job from the jobsite

With broadband Internet and wireless cards, it's rare not to have Internet access available at job sites. Why wait until you are back in the office to update the project management system? Laptops, PDAs, and other communication devices allow superintendents and project managers to keep everyone informed about progress, issues, and all the information they have from the site in real time. Rather than wasting a morning driving to and from the site, get all your work done on-site. Meanwhile, the folks back at the office will have instant Web access to all the new information you've updated in the project management system.

By integrating project management and scheduling, you can bring your faded schedule back to life. And not only will you know project status at any point in time, but everyone else who has to know will learn by using the same system, available anywhere. Your job will move more smoothly by staying up-to-date and proactively alerting you about what's going on.

Don Fornes is founder of Construction Software Advice and has helped hundreds of home builders find the right integrated system. E-mail Don at don@softwareadvice.com or visit www.softwareadvice.com.



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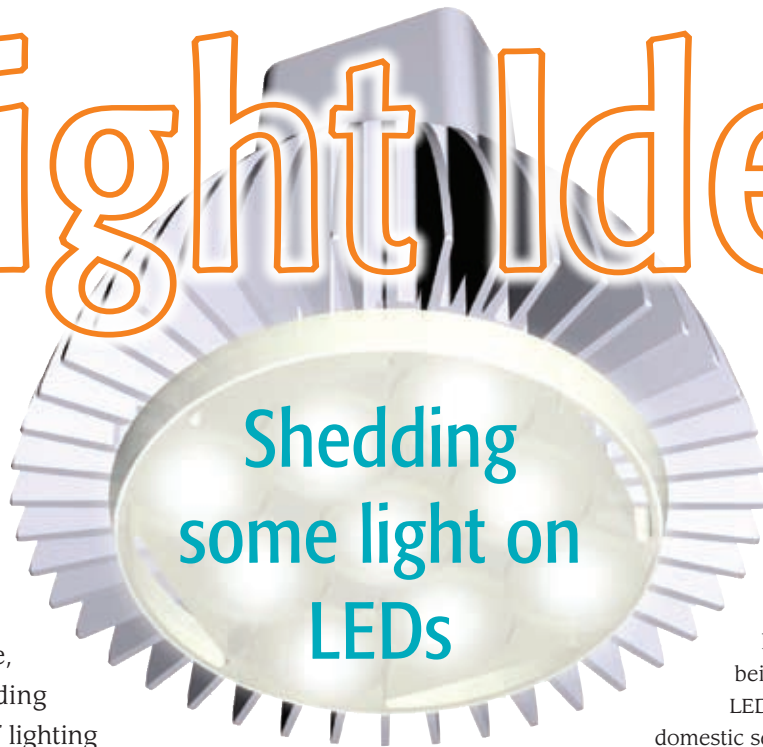
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Bright Idea:



Shedding
some light on
LEDs

BY GIANCARLO LA GIORGIA

Light-emitting diodes, better known as LEDs, have come a long way from just being little coloured bumps that indicate when an electronic device is on. As production methods improve, they are increasingly finding their way into all manner of lighting applications, including domestic ones, owing to their compactness, efficiency and longevity.

"We've just launched a new, 2700K (warm white) 35-watt LED lamp that outputs the same amount of light and can be used in the same fixture as a 50-watt MR16 halogen bulb, only it lasts 25 times longer and uses 90 percent less power," says **Al Hussey**, chief operating officer of Welland, Ontario-based **CRS Electronics**. The company is currently working on LED replacements for fluorescent tubes and parabolic aluminized reflector (PAR) lamps.

Unlike cheaper models of LED lamps, which usually have a relatively low colour rendering index* (CRI) in the 80s, meaning they don't render "ideal" whites, Hussey's LEDs have a CRI of 95.6 — near equivalent to halogen (perfect 100 CRI) and much better than compact fluorescent (89 CRI), but without the harmful UV rays or mercury content, respectively. "Light designers and architects looking for versatility as well as exceptional colour constancy love this product, especially since LEDs give off almost no heat, so they are ideal for lighting artwork or other delicate items that might be damaged by intense incandescent or halogen bulbs," he says.

Darren Naimer, head of business development and marketing at **Union Luminaire & Decor** in Montreal, agrees that, "due to their small size and long life span, LEDs have

become the lamps par excellence for task and niche lighting applications."

According to Naimer, homeowners with LED systems need not worry so much about whether they left the lights on all night: "A two-watt LED lamp can illuminate, for example, steps or a countertop, just as well as a 20-watt

**"Light designers and architects looking for versatility as well as exceptional colour constancy love this product."
— Al Hussey**

xenon or halogen bulb" — with a tenth of the energy consumption. He also notes that LEDs require much less maintenance: They average 50,000–60,000 hours of use (almost six years; with typical household use, they can last over 20 years), compared to about 10,000 for xenon and just 2,000 for halogen.

As for the creativity afforded by LEDs' size, he recalled seeing a closet lighting system where, instead of having pot lights over the clothes, the hanger rod itself had a row of lights along the bottom. "It almost looked as though the clothes were being lit from within," he says.

LEDs are still most popular in non-domestic settings — think traffic, automotive, billboard, stage and display lighting, to name just a few uses. However, Naimer says this is rapidly changing: "I've seen amazing results with indirect pot lights, with the LEDs pointed upwards towards a reflector," which disperses the light evenly through the aperture, eliminating the typical glaring "hotspot" caused by LEDs pointed straight down.

Still, for all their benefits in domestic settings, LEDs have several weak points, most notably, price. Hussey concedes that, due to his products' \$80 price tag — per bulb — the main buyers so far are in the commercial sector. "This technology is most appealing to restaurants, hotels or other businesses that need lighting most or all hours of the day. With that rate of usage, the technology pays off for itself in about one year, while the bulbs will last for five years or more," he says.

Until costs come down as the technology matures, with the exception of smaller, less expensive task lights, "most first-time buyers are turned off by high-quality LEDs' high price tag," says Naimer. He considers "dream house buyers" the main market for domestic LED products, since they expect to live in the house long enough to reap the energy savings that eventually pay off the higher initial cost. ■

*CRI ratings, from zero to 100, indicate how faithfully a light source reproduces colours, compared to an ideal source, either sunlight or incandescent/halogen bulbs, which have a CRI of 100.

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COLD CASE

Dry Ice Blasting takes industrial cleaning into the 21st century

BY JUDY PENZ SHELUK

It wasn't all that long ago that industrial cleaning meant using the somewhat limited functionality of high-pressure water washing, the environmentally unfriendly use of toxic solvents and chemicals, or abrasive techniques such as sand or soda blasting. While the latter methods sound harmless, traditional blasting materials become contaminated when used to clean hazardous



Dry ice blasting completely removes mould spores from wood, and reaches tight angles of trusses, around nails, wiring and all plumbing without damage.

COLD JET, LLC

substances and objects, resulting in a classification of toxic waste and the added requirement of appropriate safe disposal. Fortunately, times have changed; today, many industry professionals are using an environmentally friendly cleaning process called dry ice blasting (also known as cryogenic blast cleaning).

So what exactly is dry ice blasting and how does it work? "Dry ice blasting is similar to sand blasting, plastic bead blasting, or soda blasting, where a medium is accelerated in a pressurized air stream to impact a surface to be cleaned or prepared," explains **DUANE FROESE**, owner of **Hot Cat Industrial Cleaning** in Landmark, Manitoba. "However, instead of using hard abrasive media to grind and potentially damage a surface, dry ice blasting uses non-toxic, non-hazardous, high-density

CO₂ pellets, accelerated at supersonic speeds, to safely blast away unwanted surface materials. It works because of three primary factors: pellet kinetic energy, thermal shock effect, and thermal kinetic effect." [Technical aficionados can read up on all the scientific details at www.iceblasters.ca/id39.html or www.coldjet.com/en/information/how-does-it-work.php.]

Industries that typically use dry ice cleaning include aerospace, automotive, electrical, food and beverage, foundry, printing, packaging, paving, plastics, roofing, rubber, and wood. It's also an effective, cost-efficient, and labour-reduced choice for builders, renovators, historical restoration, and graffiti removal. For example, in new construction, dry ice blasting removes mortar smear with far less time and effort than the traditional method of acid

wash. On older/historic buildings, it safely removes years of residue (or paint) on brick and concrete.

Dry ice blasting is also a safe, reliable solution for mould remediation and fire restoration. "On one condo project in the community of Linden Woods (near Winnipeg), a construction heater caught fire, causing charring, smoke, and oil damage to a couple of balconies in a new condominium project," said Froese. "We were able to restore the balconies within a couple of hours. We have also successfully removed tar that had been baked onto brick, the result of a fire from a roofing trailer."

It isn't just about cleaning exteriors. On another condo project in Linden Woods, an underground garage was being expanded. Froese was able to remove a very tough moisture barrier from an exterior wall. Previous to dry ice blasting, no other method had been successful.

Since dry ice blasting is non-conductive, non-flammable, and non-abrasive, is gentle to surfaces, wires and moving parts, and can be done in place (eliminating the need to disassemble and move equipment), it is also recommended for cleaning of electrical motors and gear systems. Furthermore, dry ice can be easily stored at job sites in an insulated container; depending on the climate and thickness of the container, typical dry ice sublimation is approximately two to 10 per cent per day.

For more information visit Cold Jet, LLC, at www.coldjet.com or Hot Cat Industrial Cleaning at www.iceblasters.ca.

Frosty Facts

Dry ice pellets are made by taking liquid carbon dioxide (CO₂) from a pressurized storage tank and expanding it at the ambient pressure to produce snow. The snow is then compressed through a die to make hard pellets.

At a temperature of -109 degrees Fahrenheit (-78.3 Celsius), dry ice is a natural bacterial and fungal growth inhibitor, killing bacteria and fungi upon contact.

The grade of carbon dioxide used in dry ice blasting is a non-poisonous, liquefied gas, the same as that used in the food and beverage industry and has been approved by the FDA, the EPA and the USDA.

Dry ice is non-toxic: It does not produce or add CO₂, does not release harmful gases, and does not generate secondary waste. It contains no secondary contaminants such as solvents or grit media and, once the pellets impact the surface, they dissipate.



The Re-Invented Web

BY JOE DYSART

What Canadian home builders can expect

Technologists busily re-inventing the Web say builders can look forward to an Internet where it's much easier to collaborate, to innovate and to manipulate data and software on a wide variety of Net-friendly devices.

Driving this change — a trend loosely referred to as Web 2.0 — will be the rapid and widespread adoption of social networks by businesses, which employees will seize to collaborate internally, and customers and clients will use to play an active part in forging company direction on goods and services. Entry level social networks, in the form of company blogs that invite and publish comment from visitors, are already a significant force on the Web. Scores of Canadian blogs have cropped up where builders can talk real estate online, including DailyStats.ca, Fred Carver Real Estate Marketing, and A Sure Bet (see *Web links below*). As well, some Canadian builders, such as **Sitka Log Homes** in 100 Mile House, British Columbia, have created their own blogs.

More full-blown social networks — miniature corporate replicas of MySpace and Facebook — are expected to become increasingly common. Indeed, technology market research firm **Forrester** predicts that business investment in social networks designed for customer and client input alone will reach nearly a billion dollars annually by 2013, as corporations capitalize on a trend first recognized by companies such as MySpace and Facebook.

Initially, builders will be able to source software for building these social networks from small and nimble boutique providers such as **Neighborhood America** and **Leverage**



DailyStats.ca is among scores of blogs where Canadian builders can talk real estate.

Software, which offer tool suites that bundle together the most popular facets of social networking, such as profile creation, blogs, discussion forums and content uploading and sharing, according to Forrester.

However, expect the biggest guns in the software industry, including **SAP**, **IBM** and **Microsoft**, to have fully incorporated Web 2.0 tools into their product lines by 2013, says **G. OLIVER YOUNG**, author of the April 2008 Forrester report, *Global Enterprise Web 2.0 Market Forecast: 2007 to 2013*.

Meanwhile, equally influential in the re-invented Web will be a new approach to computing where most — if not all — of a builder's software applications will reside on the universally accessible Web, rather than locked away on mainframes or on individual PCs, a concept known as "cloud computing".

Emblematic of this trend is Microsoft's new Live Mesh software, which is designed to link together all of a company's Internet devices, including desktops, laptops, Mac computers, cameras, mobile phones, media centers and digital picture frames, for instant collaboration. Essentially, the software will enable a builder to synchronize all data and applications across all devices as much as possible, enabling all of those devices to "become aware of each other" as long as each is linked to the Internet via a

wire or WiFi, according to **AMIT MITAL**, Microsoft's general manager for Live Mesh.

Of course, in its ideal form, cloud computing will not be driven by just one major company such as Microsoft, or favour the linking of devices that run on one type of software, according to **TIM O'REILLY**, chief executive officer of **O'Reilly Media**, a computer book publishing firm that also hosts conferences on Web 2.0. Instead, the purest implementation of cloud computing will enable any computerized device a builder uses to simultaneously interconnect with every other computerized device in a company's technology arsenal, O'Reilly says.

Finally, another cornerstone of the re-invented Web will be the increasing proliferation of computerized sensors programmed to continually update the Web with time-sensitive data, according to O'Reilly. Essentially, these sensors will eliminate the drudgery of inputting such data by hand. O'Reilly points to vehicle traffic analysis systems like Dash Navigation and Microsoft's still-in-development ClearFlow as pioneers of this trend. Both software solutions rely on GPS devices embedded in a large number of vehicles to automatically relay data to Web-based software, which is used to analyze traffic patterns and suggest alternative routes for drivers.

Fortunately, those who believe that everything that is new is not necessarily better can take solace in the prediction that the revolutionary tool that made the Web possible — the Web browser — will most likely be around for a long time to come, despite the fact that competitors like the iPhone are beginning to crop up. Though the Web browser is considered "so nineties" by some, the tool is such a ubiquitously entrenched part of the Web experience for users across the globe that it makes no sense to re-invent the wheel. "There's really no incentive," says **MARK ANDREESSEN**, founder of Netscape, the browser that played a pivotal role in the emergence of the Web. ■

Joe Dysart is an Internet speaker and business consultant based in Manhattan. He can be reached by phone at 646-233-4089, by e-mail at joe@joedysart.com, or at www.joedysart.com.

Web links:

- DailyStats.ca** - www.bobtruman.com/blogs/bob_truman/default.aspx
- Fred Carver Real Estate Marketing** - victoriahomesandproperties.com/blog.asp
- A Sure Bet** - www.helengambling.blogspot.com
- Sitka Log Homes Blog** - sitkaloghomes.com/blog
- Neighborhood America** - www.neighborhoodamerica.com
- Leverage Software** - www.leveragesoftware.com
- Global Enterprise Web 2.0 Market Forecast: 2007 to 2013** - www.forrester.com/Research/Document/Excerpt/0,7211,43850,00.html
- Live Mesh software** - www.mesh.com
- Web 2.0 conference (O'Reilly Media)** - www.web2expo.com



John Hrynkow
President, CHBA

A well-functioning housing market, where affordability and choice are robust, will play a key role in the future prosperity of a community.

Spring Report Highlights

Some important new information was released at the CHBA's Ottawa spring meetings, held in early June. Three reports, prepared for the Association by the noted economic consulting firm Altus Clayton, were presented. Here are some of the highlights:

Urban Infrastructure Challenge

The Urban Infrastructure Challenge in Canada: Perceptions and Realities report examines how basic urban infrastructure is paid for and maintained in Canada. It clearly shows that this burden is falling primarily on those struggling to enter the housing market — particularly first-time buyers.

The report also notes the importance of focusing investment on "core infrastructure", including roads and bridges, public transit, water and sewage services and treatment. The picture presented in the report highlights the dramatic nature of the financial burden being placed on development and on home buyers:

- The private sector pays the largest single portion of infrastructure costs: some 36 per cent or \$5.1 billion per year. Yet all those who live in a community benefit from these investments.
- Contrary to current perceptions, municipalities pay only about 21 per cent of core infrastructure costs.

Ideally, the cost of infrastructure should be shared by all those who benefit, both now and in the future. Development charges do not reflect this principle — they burden only current home buyers, requiring them to pay for infrastructure that will benefit the broader community over a period of many years.

The report goes on to note that municipalities have a number of additional ways to finance infrastructure, including property taxes, grants from the provincial and federal governments, user fees, and debt financing supported by property taxes.

Specifically, municipalities should consider greater use of debt financing to fund capital investment programs, as this is more equitable, as well as more transparent and accountable.

Housing Affordability and Community Prosperity

The second Altus Clayton report examines the link between housing affordability and choice, and a community's long-term prosperity. In Canada's increasingly knowledge-based economy, the overall quality-of-life offered by a community will be very directly linked to its success in competing for both new employers and a skilled workforce. Housing affordability and choice will play a key role in this competition.

Simply put, today's most highly skilled workers place a premium on living in a community that delivers the quality of life they want — including housing that suits their needs and is affordable. Thus, a well-functioning

housing market, where affordability and choice are robust, will play a key role in the future prosperity of a community.

Viewed in this context, growth does not represent a cost to a community, but a long-term investment in prosperity. Communities that are able to attract knowledge workers by offering a full range of housing options, at prices that make sense, will prosper.

To achieve this, municipal planning processes need a longer-term focus, so that the infrastructure needed to support effective community development and prosperity will be there when it's needed. A 10-year planning horizon should be the minimum. As well, the financing of infrastructure needs to be fair and balanced, recognizing the long-term benefits involved, and relying on an appropriate mix of revenue sources, including debt financing.

As this report makes clear, municipal policies that undermine housing affordability and choice also undermine the community's long-term prosperity, to the great detriment of all residents.

Keeping Track of Development Charges

The third Altus Clayton report examines how municipalities manage development charges. It shows that there is considerable room for improvement in this area.

Currently, a wide array of accounting practices are used by municipalities, making the job of tracking development charges very challenging. Lack of transparency is a major problem, leaving unanswered important questions about how resources are allocated, and whether money raised through development charges is actually used as intended. This should not be the case.

The report notes that Ontario municipalities currently do the best job of tracking how development charges are raised and used, due to a reporting framework set out by provincial government. This approach should be adopted right across Canada so that all municipalities provide regular and public reporting that clearly set out development-related revenues, expenditures, credits and balances.

Raising the Alarm Over "Beyond Code" Municipal Requirements

An increasing number of municipalities are attempting to change how homes are built by imposing requirements that go beyond their provincial Building Codes. This type of back-door regulation is creating new risks for builders and municipalities — risks that CHBA members need to be aware of.

Depending on which province is involved, "beyond Code" measures may also go beyond what municipal governments are legally allowed to do. And in all cases, these requirements are not subject to the discipline, transparency and accountability that builders, and the public, expect from the Code process.

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The CHBA recently sent all members a background paper on this issue. This document points out the various ways in which “beyond-Code” requirements can come about, and the particular liabilities and risks that can arise. If you are building in a community where “beyond Code” requirements are an issue, be sure to give this important report a careful review.



EnerGuide Ratings Changes Impact on Codes

Changes to Natural Resources Canada’s EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) will have cost and liability impacts on new home builders and their customers. If implemented by provincial governments, the changes could alter building code requirements in many cases, thus allowing the federal government to change provincial building codes. Moreover, there was no communication or consultation with the residential construction industry about the changes which is unacceptable to the CHBA.

The CHBA’s Board of Directors was told about the changes being made by NRCan to the ERS when it held its June meeting in Ottawa. In essence, the software that determines ERS ratings is changing to reflect more current weather data and to alter efficiency benchmarks for fuel-fired heating equipment. When implemented on August 1, ERS ratings on energy efficient homes will tend to drop by up to two points, unless a house is electrically heated.

In provinces that reference ERS in their building code, such as Ontario, code requirements may need to change. There is a potential for real problems for new home builders who have sales agreements tied to ERS ratings, as the costs to achieve ratings may well increase.

CHBA President John Hrynkow has noted that the ERS was never designed, nor intended, to be used as a regulatory instrument. “I would ask all provincial HBAs to take this issue up with their provincial governments, on a priority basis.”



The Mackenzie EnviroHome by Effect Home Builders in Edmonton

More Effort Needed on Labour Problem

Federal efforts are beginning to solve problems that skilled foreign workers have in temporarily entering Canada, but much more needs to be done according to the CHBA.

CHBA President John Hrynkow has written to Human Resources Minister Monte Solberg, requesting a meeting to discuss further changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Hrynkow acknowledges that recent changes made by the federal government are welcome, but they do not go far enough. The letter says that the federal government should consult with the CHBA on four main issues:

- Recognition of residential construction trades, both with and without National Occupation Classification designations, in the application process for a Labour Market Opinion;
- Identification of occupations included in the regional lists of occupations under pressure to ensure the lists correspond more closely to the industry’s actual needs;
- Ensuring that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program application requirements are consistent and clear, and that employers have a clear point of contact within the federal government for questions about applications; and
- The federal government, at both the national and regional level, must know what the industry’s needs are, and that support is available at both levels to help meet those needs.

Hrynkow reiterated that the CHBA supports the direction of the federal government at the regional level and that it has asked that the Expedited Labour Market Opinion Pilot Project (in place now in British Columbia and Alberta) be extended beyond September 2008 and that the innovations from the Pilot Project be extended to all provinces.

It’s Time For EnviroHome

Two EnviroHomes opened in June: The Mackenzie EnviroHome by Effect Home Builders in Edmonton and The Eastbourne Estates EnviroHomes by Fifthshire Homes in Georgina, Ontario, north of Toronto. As described up by Les Wold of Effect Home Builders, The Mackenzie is an ultra efficient home blending the class and style of the 1920s Arts and Crafts era with some of the most advanced technology available today.

The EnviroHome Initiative allows CHBA R-2000 builder members to showcase their unique home building expertise. Applying building science technology and features that go beyond the R-2000 requirements, the selected showhomes are highly energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

The EnviroHome Initiative is sponsored by the CHBA and TD Canada Trust — with support from CMHC and Natural Resources Canada. For more information or to apply, contact Sandy Kascmarek at 613-230-3060.

Strike It Rich

**TOOL
TALK**

Eight great new tools and gadgets worth investing in

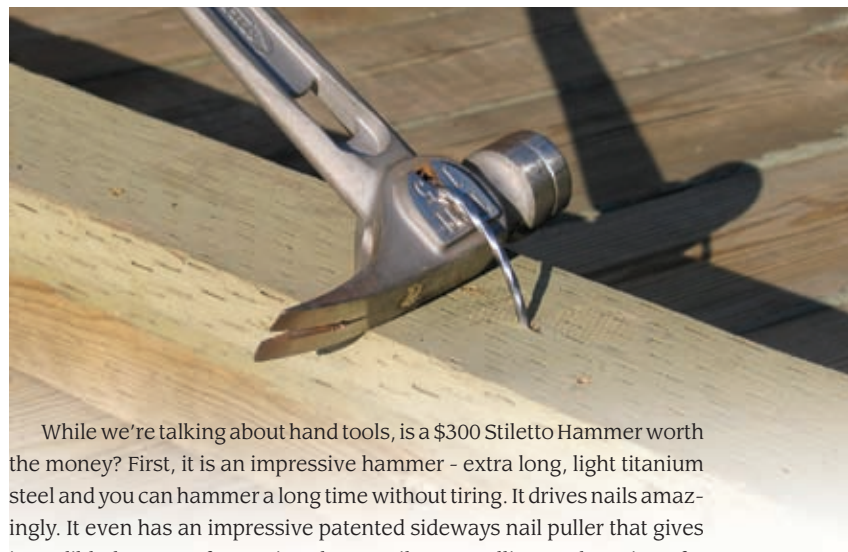


RETRACTED



In answer to the frustrations of trying to get a collated screw gun into tight spots or corners, Tyrex Tools has brought out what they call the first screw gun that has a retractable nose allowing you in closer to the work. The rest of this tool is what you would expect of an auto-feed screwdriver with the added feature of an on-board storage clip for a second driver bit.

DCF5000 - www.TyrexTools.com



While we're talking about hand tools, is a \$300 Stiletto Hammer worth the money? First, it is an impressive hammer - extra long, light titanium steel and you can hammer a long time without tiring. It drives nails amazingly. It even has an impressive patented sideways nail puller that gives incredible leverage for getting those nails out. Selling at the price of a pneumatic framing nailer is a bit scary, but if I was still using a hammer as much as I did when I started in this business, I would consider it an investment in the health of my arm.

www.StilettoTools.com

Bosch is also providing innovation on the front end of a tool, with their Dust Collector add-on to a hammer drill. They claim it's the lightest and most compact unit in its category. A transparent ring around the end of the drill bit draws away almost all the concrete dust while drilling and the micro filter system keeps it trapped, allowing for clean drilling where clean-up is a problem. It pops off of the drill to allow for unencumbered drilling where dust is no longer a problem.

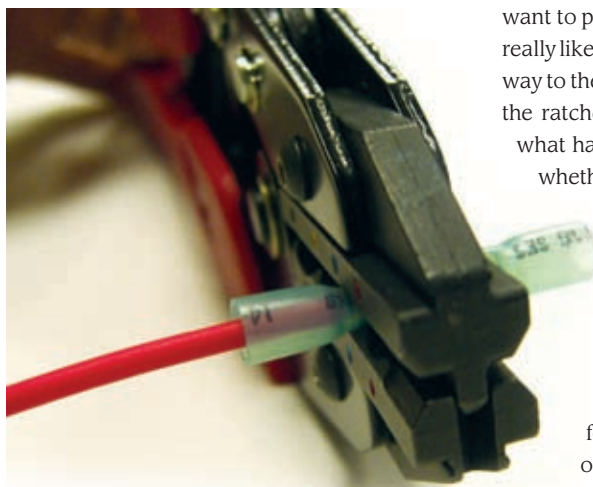
11250VSRD Dust Collection Hammer -
www.BoschTools.com





I have had several requests for information about the best blade to use on composite decking boards. The material is tough and tends to cut rough or burn. TimberTech is one company making this kind of decking material and they took the problem straight on by asking Bosch to develop a blade specifically for this task - and they are marketing it together. It is a 40-tooth, 7-1/4-inch blade with a thin kerf, Alternate Top Bevel with a 20-degree hook angle... in case you really wanted to know.
CB740AB - www.BoschTools.com

Here is a gadget that has earned its reputation on industrial sites although it is little known in residential construction: the Wobble Light. This practically indestructible buoy-like lamp can not only take a beating, but it always gets back up, wobbling back into a vertical position no matter what you hit it with. It costs about \$200, depending on the size, but it will outlast any other construction site lamps.
www.WobbleLight.com



How many vehicle batteries do we have in our trucks and construction equipment that lose charging capacity and need to be replaced? Discharge/recharge cycles cause sulfation build-up on the lead that forces us to change out the battery before it is really dead. PowerPulse is a little gadget that is attached permanently to a vehicle battery and works 24 hours a day to keep the lead clean by forcing the sulfates back into the acid, making batteries perform fully three to five times longer. At well under \$100, it pays for itself quickly. In fact, there are a variety of very interesting charging devices worth looking at in the PulseTech line.
www.PulseTech.net



In the hand tool category, I was really impressed when this electrical connector crimper made by Phillips was dumped on my desk. Start with an extremely solid design (not common for crimpers), then strong comfortable handles. Add a ratchet mechanism that won't let you back off until you have finished properly crimping the connector (unless you

want to push the override and get out). What I really liked was that you have to squeeze all the way to the proper pressure and then it releases the ratchet to open up — you know you did what had to be done rather than wondering whether you have squeezed enough. It is even hefty enough to include line-up jaws to keep it from sliding sidewise with all that pressure.
Ratcheting Crimper 4-230 -
www.PhillipsInd.com

That shop vac can be cumbersome for small jobs so Milwaukee has come out with both 18-volt and 28-volt cordless wet/dry vacuums that work with standard Milwaukee tool batteries. With high power suction (32" water lift) and a run time of up to 16 minutes, this stackable "tool box" style vac can be reversed and used as



a blower as well. It doesn't look like it in the photo, but it has a two-gallon capacity. This one's \$99 without batteries.
#0880-20 18- and 28-volt -
www.MilwaukeeTool.com

TOOL TALK



Montreal-based TV broadcaster, author, home renovation and tool expert Jon Eakes provides a tool feature in each edition of Home BUILDER.
www.JonEakes.com

Platinum Anniversary for Home Hardware Founder



CNW GROUP/HOME HARDWARE STORES LTD.

Walter Hachborn (l) reminisces with Paul Straus, vice-president and CEO of Home Hardware.

ST. JACOBS, Ont. — In June 1938, **WALTER HACHBORN** took a job as a stock-boy at a local hardware store and launched what would become a remarkable 70-year career. Over the past seven decades the president and founder of **Home Hardware Stores Limited** turned an \$8.00 a week job into the nation's largest network of independent hardware dealers.

Home Hardware was founded on January 1, 1964 and grew from first year sales of \$4,103,140, to a network of more than 1,000 stores and annual retail sales of \$4.8 billion in 2007. "Walter Hachborn is a true Canadian business icon," said **DIANE J. BRISEBOIS**, president and CEO of the Retail Council of Canada. "He has instilled a spirit of humanity and charity in the Home Hardware culture that can be felt in cities and towns all across this country."

Celebrations for Hachborn's milestone will take place across the country with staff barbecues at each of Home Hardware's Distribution Centres and will continue at the 2008 Fall Market where the more than 10,000 Home Hardware dealers and vendors who visit the market will have a chance to join in the celebration.

Fire SAFE Supports New Fire Sprinkler Legislation

TORONTO — Fire SAFE (Sprinkler Alliance for Everyone) congratulated Ontario officials for delivering on a commitment to bring Ontario in line with all other provinces in having residential fire sprinklers in all residences that are four stories and higher. "This is an important milestone in saving lives," said **AL SPEED**, former Fire Chief of the City of Toronto and official spokesperson for Fire SAFE. "The government has recognized what many of us in the fire safety business have for a long time, sprinklers save lives and reduce risks for firefighters."

Fire SAFE has advocated residential fire sprinklers for all residences including single and multi-family, apartments, and condominiums since 2003. "With our homes having more synthetics that burn hotter and faster, sprinklers can buy the extra time to allow seniors, children and the disabled to flee a burning building," said Speed. "We call on the government to make Bill 72 government legislation and extend fire safety to all Ontarians and not just those living in high rises."

More than 220 North American jurisdictions currently have legislation in place making residential fire sprinkler systems mandatory. In Vancouver, where such systems have been mandated for 10 years, there has not been a single accidental fire fatality in a home where there is a properly installed and maintained residential fire sprinkler system.

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- Architect (10)
- Manufacturer/Supplier (2)
- Professional Services (28)
- Land Development (25)
- Financial (24)
- Other: _____

Type of Construction

- Residential, Single-family
- Residential, Multi-family
- Nonresidential
- Renovation
- Other: _____

Residential Units Completed Last Year

- 1 - 5 units
- 6 - 10 units
- 11 - 30 units
- 31 - 100 units
- Over 100 units

*GST included. GST Registration # R105741383
*Quebec residents add 7.5% QST. QST #1001092631

Subscribe to Home BUILDER Magazine and get the information that will keep you up to date with the Canadian residential construction industry's latest trends, developments, home improvement technique and building products that Canada's top homebuilders, contractors and renovators are using.

Globe Named 2008 ENERGY STAR Manufacturer of Year

Globe Electric Company Inc., a Montreal-based designer, manufacturer and marketer of lighting and electrical products, has been named the 2008 ENERGY STAR® Manufacturer of the Year. This is the second consecutive year that Globe has been recognized for its contribution to the ENERGY STAR program, having won Recruit of the Year in 2007.

Globe's line of ENERGY STAR qualified products has expanded from one to nine categories and from 40 to more than 350 products. "Being selected as the Energy Star Manufacturer of the Year honours our high level of commitment to promoting energy-smart products that slow global warming and help in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions," says **EDWARD WEINSTEIN**, president and CEO of Globe.



Largest Low-Rise Green Development Breaks Ground

Monarch Corporation, one of Canada's oldest and most successful home builders, and the Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) broke ground on June 11 on a \$100+ million development called Evergreen, a new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Homes (LEED-H) community in Toronto — the largest project of its kind in Canada.

Evergreen will be designed and built to embrace healthy living, promote energy savings and green building techniques to protect the environment.

Calgary Builder Returns Favour to the Earth



CNW GROUP/STEPPER CUSTOM HOMES INC.

CALGARY — On July 23, **Stepper Custom Homes Inc.** will partner with Outland Reforestation to plant about 4,000 Lodgepole Pine trees in an effort to give back to the earth the most valuable resource in the home building industry.

"At Stepper, we value our customers and our ability to build them homes of the highest quality and craftsmanship," says **DAVE HOOGE**, General Manager of Stepper. "At the same time, we as individuals and as a company value our environment and realize the large impact our industry has on it and that it is our responsibility to replace these resources. Approximately 15 trees go into every home

we build; by planting 4,000 Lodgepole Pines, we are replacing every tree we will use to build homes in 2008."

The Lodgepole Pine trees will be planted on a site that was once a wooded area just west of Sundre, Alberta. Through exploration this site was found to contain natural gas. The trees on this site were harvested and used for wood products such as 2x4s. Today, the well site has been shut down and reclaimed to simulate its original state prior to extracting gas.

"We are very proud to be part of an industry that is changing the way we do things to become friendlier to the environment," adds **GRANT LAMARSH**, Special Projects Manager of Stepper. "Our industry is making strides towards becoming more 'green' through programs like Built Green but, for us, taking part in such programs is the least we can do. We are taking it one step further. Planting these trees is just the beginning for us, as we are currently researching new and innovative eco-friendly products and systems to incorporate into our building process."

CALENDAR

August 20-22
3rd Canadian Solar Buildings Conference
Delta Fredericton
Fredericton, NB
www.solarbuildings.ca

September 16 - 18
2008 Aluminum Extruders Council Management Conference
Hilton Chicago - O'Hare Airport
Chicago, IL
www.aec.org

September 21-25
World Sustainable Building Conference 2008
Melbourne, Australia
www.sb08melbourne.com

September 24 - 27
World Plumbing Conference 2008
Calgary, AB
Phone: 403-250-7237
www.worldplumbing.org

September 30 - October 4
CERSAIE (International Exhibition of Ceramic Tile and Bathroom Furnishings)
Bologna, Italy
www.cersaie.it

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Baxi Luna 3 Comfort Modulating Wallhung Boiler

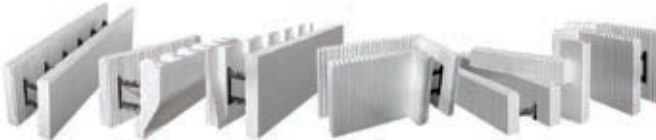
A green, environmentally-friendly product, the new Baxi Luna 3 Comfort is solar water heating system compatible, and can cut fuel consumption by up to 59%. Energy Star, ASME H-Stamp and CGA approved, this heating-only or combination heating and domestic hot water boiler is preferred by Green Builders.

The fully modulating Baxi Luna 3 Comfort (85.5% AFUE) is ideal for new multi-unit housing, as well as retrofitting, among other hydronic heating applications. Ideal for in-floor radiant heating systems, it is also compatible with any type of hydronic air handler, wall or baseboard radiators, and



custom radiant applications, such as snow melt. For more information, contact: **Marathon International** www.wallhungboilers.com

LOGIX Enhances Insulation Values



LOGIX Insulated Concrete Forms introduces BASF Neopor as a value-added option. Neopor is an expandable polystyrene material (EPS) with tiny graphite particles that reflect heat radiation and give the material its silver-grey shine. These infrared absorbers and reflectors lower thermal conductivity, making Neopor far superior to other materials when it comes to insulating capacity.

Normally, additional layers of insulation have to be added to provide higher insulation values,

but Neopor allows current thicknesses to be maintained while increasing insulation capacity by 15 per cent.

Based on the simple concept of interlocking blocks, the LOGIX wall system is more energy efficient, stronger, more sound resistant, and more environmentally sustainable than virtually any other construction method.

For more information, contact: **LOGIX ICF**
Phone: 888-415-6449
www.logixicf.com

Tapes for Construction Market

Venture Tape Corp offers the most complete line of tapes for the construction market. In addition to CCMC approved sheathing tape, we offer aluminum foil, double sided tapes and metal building patch tapes.

Most of our products are manufactured with our patented "CW" acrylic adhesive that offers superior performance in all types of temperature conditions. For a complete catalogue, contact:

Venture Tape Corp.
Phone: 1-800-343-1076 ext. 2231
www.venturetape.com



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This outstanding collection of homes and cottages will inspire you with innovative new designs and popular classics. Our plans are sold as part of our Beaver Home & Cottage guaranteed material packages and include design modifications. Whether you're a first time builder or a seasoned pro, take the stress out of your building project and free up your valuable time.



For more information, contact: **Home Building Centre** or **Home Hardware Building Centre Design Consultant**
www.homehardware.ca
Some conditions apply

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DELTA®-MS, Foundation Waterproofing Membrane.™
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Protecting new homes from water intrusion is important, especially below grade, where dampness and moisture lives year round. Cosella Dörken develops, markets and manufactures intelligent water management systems for foundations in the residential home building industry.

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For more information, go to: deltams.com, deltadrain.com or call 1-888-4DELTA4 (433-5824)

Professional Builder Benchmark and AVID Leadership Conference

In 2008, AVID Ratings and Professional Builder join forces to create the most comprehensive management conference for the home building industry - the Professional Builder Benchmark and AVID Leadership Conference.

This year's event will take place on October 5 - 7 at the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix. Keynote presentations include Terry Jones, CEO & Founder of Travelocity.com and Neil Howe, historian, economist and demographer. Roundtable discussion leaders include



industry speakers with high-level experience from such companies as Pulte Homes (PHM), Centex Homes (CTX), Mattamy Homes, Albi Homes and many more from across the U.S. and Canada. For more information, go to: www.probuilder.com/benchmark

Multiple Applications with One Window

The new evolution Series window from All Weather Windows is ideal for both new construction and renovation projects. The complete range of operating styles and multiple snap-on brickmould options makes it an easy and versatile choice for numerous applications.

Choose from two frames with brickmould for new construction, or a single renovation frame with accessory grooves that can insert into an existing frame.

Outstanding performance enhancing features, a variety of brickmould colours, and grilles options set the evolution



Series apart.

The 9500 Series features a classic profiled sash that adds sophisticated architectural detail to a window.

For more information, contact: **All Weather Windows** www.allweatherwindows.com

DuPont™ Tyvek® Weatherization Systems



DuPont has developed a family of weatherization products engineered to address all your design and building needs. Now the DuPont™

Tyvek® Weatherization Systems include DuPont Tyvek® HomeWrap®, CommercialWrap™ and StuccoWrap™ plus DuPont Fasteners and the DuPont™ Flashing System.

These products help reduce air and water infiltration allowing walls to breathe and also feature excellent vapour permeability. They are also versatile and easy to use.



For more information contact your **Tyvek Specialist**:
Phone: 1-800-44-TYVEK
(448-9835)
www.tyvek.com

Arriscraft introduces General Shale Elite Brick

For over 60 years, Arriscraft has helped homeowners realize their design vision by offering a wide selection of styles and colours of building stone. We are now pleased to enhance our extensive product offering with the General Shale Elite Brick line.

Created specifically for Arriscraft, the General Shale Elite Brick line comes in a variety of colours and textures to help you create a home of lasting beauty and value. Since 1928, the General Shale Brick Company has been one of America's leading manufacturers



of exterior building materials. For more information, contact: **Arriscraft International** Phone: 800-265-8123 www.arriscraft.com

Simplify Renovations with Fridges Under 66"

MABE Canada, manufacturer and distributor of GE Appliances in Canada, introduces the HandiHite™ bottom-freezer refrigerator – a 20-cubic-foot sleek refrigerator under 66" that delivers an additional two cubic feet of capacity while occupying the same amount of space as an 18-cubic-foot fridge, making it perfect for renovators working with reduced vertical space.

The new HandiHite™ is the shortest 20-cubic-foot bottom-freezer fridge available. Beveled doors and sculptured handles. A large, eye-level fresh food storage compartment puts fruits and vegetables within easy reach.

The HandiHite™ refrigerator series is available in GE and



GE Profile brand models, ranging in price from \$1,099 to \$1,799. For more information, contact: **MABE Canada - GE Appliances** www.geappliances.ca

Website Specifically Designed for Consumers

Every homebuyer is different. Different incomes, different goals, different personalities. That is why Genworth Financial Canada created homeownership.ca, a website specifically designed for consumers providing them with information on mortgage lending and the home buying process. Once a consumer enters the site they are encouraged to take a short survey that determines which information will be of most use to them.

This site is a one-stop resource to help homebuyers through every step of the journey with common-sense advice and information. Whether they're looking for budgeting tips, expert advice – even if they're new to



Canada – Genworth Financial Canada's homeownership microsite site breaks the homebuying process down in easy-to-understand terms. For more information, visit: www.homeownership.ca **Genworth Financial Canada** Phone: 1-800-511-8888

Puzzled About How to Build Green? Use Icynene®

Icynene® helps buildings achieve the stringent green building standards established by major certification programs including the Canadian Green Building Council's LEED-H.

Icynene®'s 100% water blown formulation contains no PBDEs, formaldehyde nor any synthetic blowing agent. The open celled structure provides a stable long term R-value. Icynene® meets the code requirement as an air barrier material and not only locks out outdoor pollutants and allergens, but also reduces a home's energy consumption by up to 50%. Give homeowners the energy



efficient and environmentally sound insulation option that will last for the life of the building.

For complete details visit: **Icynene.com/buildgreen.aspx**

Fantech Introduces the Intelligent Dryer Booster Fan

The newest dryer booster fan from Fantech is the most advanced in the industry. The unit can be used to effectively boost dryer exhaust in duct runs up to 130 feet. Automatic pressure sensing technology activates the fan when the dryer is on. The warm, moist air is quickly exhausted out of the home. Choose from several models including the new "Intelligent" Dryer Booster Fan (shown) which features wall-mount indicator panel with LED light that lets the homeowner know it's working properly.



For more information contact:
Fantech Ltd.
 Phone: 800-565-3548
 www.fantech.ca
 Email: info@fantech.ca

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Rub-R-Wall is a state-of-the-art, liquid applied, single-component, asphalt free, 100% rubber waterproofing membrane that is applied to foundations below grade to form an impermeable, non-deteriorating, seamless Rubber membrane. Rub-R-Wall prevents any ingress of water from hydrostatic, dynamic or static pressure and its uses include foundation walls, parking garage decks and ramps, plazas, elevator shafts, tunnels and bridge decks.



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Southwire maintains its goal of revolutionizing the wire industry by providing its consumers with a product that is not only SIMpull but also requires NoLube®.

SIMPull T90® is a solution that reduces installation time, is cost efficient and pulls faster without the hassle of applying lube. This means that you can reduce the equipment needed in a typical cable pull as well

as the number of electricians needed for each pull. With SIMpull T90®, you can also eliminate bunching for reduced risk of nylon tears and damage during installation. If your cable doesn't say NoLube®, it's not SIMpull T90®.

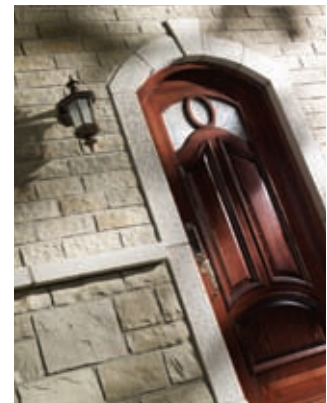
For more information contact:
Southwire Company
 Phone: 770-832-4504
 www.southwire.com
 Lauren_Carlson@Southwire.com

Permacon Innovates Yet Again

Permacon Group, Canada's leading manufacturer of prefabricated concrete products for the landscaping and masonry industry, is innovating yet again with new products in the Natural category.

The most innovative products for the residential market – masonry:

Cinco brick, new for 2008: Cinco bricks are a hybrid product that are somewhere between stone and brick. The stone's random effect is due to varied lengths of bricks, but uniform height means that installing them is a breeze. Cinco brick have the look of real stone while delivering all of concrete's recognized advantages.



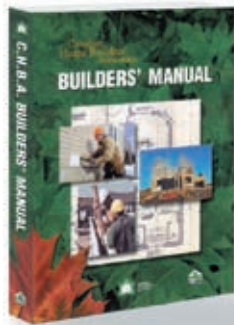
For more information, contact:
Permacon Group
 Phone: 888-737-6226
 www.permaconpro.ca

Want to Build a Better House?

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The CHBA Builders' Manual is the leading book on quality construction and energy efficiency. Based on the tough Canadian climatic conditions, the building techniques pioneered in the R-2000 Program form the basis for the latest edition of the most authoritative guidelines anywhere in North America for building superior, energy efficient housing.

This edition offers 400 pages of concise information and easy to follow illustrations. Use it as a guidebook or adapt the innovative techniques to your own methods. For more information, contact:



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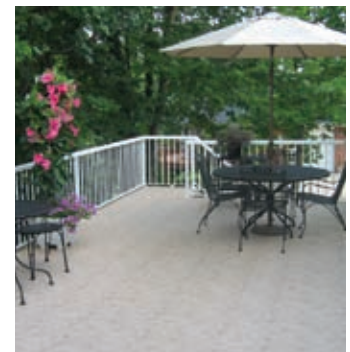


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 E-mail: duradek@duradek.com
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QuietRock® The Lowest Cost Soundproofing Panel On The Market



QuietRock® is an embedded polymer layer drywall panel that reduces sound transmission and vibration unlike any other construction material on the market today. It turns acoustic energy into heat, which can not be heard. Installation is clean and simple. The panels hang and finish like standard drywall. QuietRock® is designed for numerous installation situations and solutions, including

rehabilitation, renovation, remediation and remodeling. This product makes it easy and economical for builders, contractors, architects and designers to provide the highest quality soundproofing to their customers. Distributed exclusively in Canada by: **CertainTeed Gypsum** Phone: 800-233-8990 www.QuietRock.com

Introducing the Concierge Keyless Deadbolt

Taymor Professional Series Locks has introduced a Keyless Deadbolt to their line of quality Locks. The Concierge is designed to provide easy access to homes through a PIN number set by the home owners. Available in a variety of finishes, the Concierge is finished on both interior and exterior in a matching finish. Featuring a high security strike, the Concierge is designed for maximum security. The lock installs easily into an existing deadbolt Bore. No additional drilling is required. Keypad is waterproof and had 10 digits and allows up to 6 auxiliary pin codes.



For more information, contact: **Taymor** E-mail: builders@taymor.com www.taymor.com

Sleek Fixtures that Exude Contemporary Style

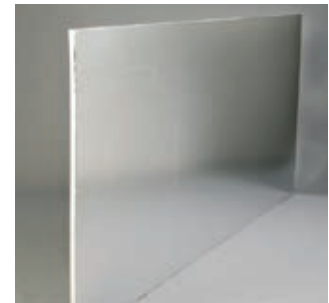


"Home owners are increasingly looking for coordinated and functional accents to blend the décor in their living spaces with the décor in their bathrooms," says Jacqueline Glass, Toronto-based interior decorator. "Catering to this need, the Arzo Bath Collection offers sleek

fixtures and accessories that exude contemporary style." The new Arzo™ Bath Collection by Delta® echoes designs typified by the modernist movement and makes a seamless entry into modern spaces. The collection includes centerset and widespread faucets; tub/shower; and a Roman tub with optional hand shower. Coordinating accessories include towel bars and robe hooks. Arzo is available in Chrome and Brilliance® Stainless Steel. For more information, contact: **Delta Faucet** Phone: 1-800-345-DELTA www.deltafaucet.com

SilveRboard High Performance Rigid Insulation

SilveRboard high performance rigid insulation is made from BASF® Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) which is coated with a layer of reflective lamination on both sides. This highly effective combination of materials offers a considerably higher R-value per inch compared to traditional rigid insulation.



SilveRboard provides a continuous insulation layer that eliminates thermal bridging, reduces air infiltration and isolates the structure from outdoor temperatures. This helps to dramatically improve a structure's energy efficiency. The built-in water and air barrier reduces installation time and costs. It uses recyclable

material and contains no CFCs or HCFCs and has no off gassing. SilveRboard is lightweight, easy to handle and quick to install. For more information, contact: **Amvic Building System** Phone: 877-470-9991 www.amvicsystem.com

ATTIC-EEZE® - Frames & Insulates Attic Entry



ATTIC-EEZE is a brand new patented pending attic access product for the new home industry. Traditionally all attic access frames and finished lids have had to be constructed on site by a finishing carpenter. This method made from wood materials is tedious and labour intensive requiring at least two hours labour to construct and requiring a painter to complete the job. Well step aside...

ATTIC-EEZE comes completely finished, a white PVC frame is weather-stripped and simply needs to be fastened into the drywall opening in the ceiling with 4 -2" Screws. Drop the R-20 white prefinished foam lid into the frame and job is 100% complete. No painting required. ATTIC-EEZE can be installed by anyone in minutes, save time and money. For more information, contact: **OnTrac Sales & Marketing Inc.** Phone: 306-955-8052 Fax: 306-683-4606

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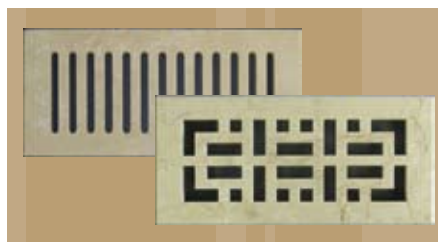
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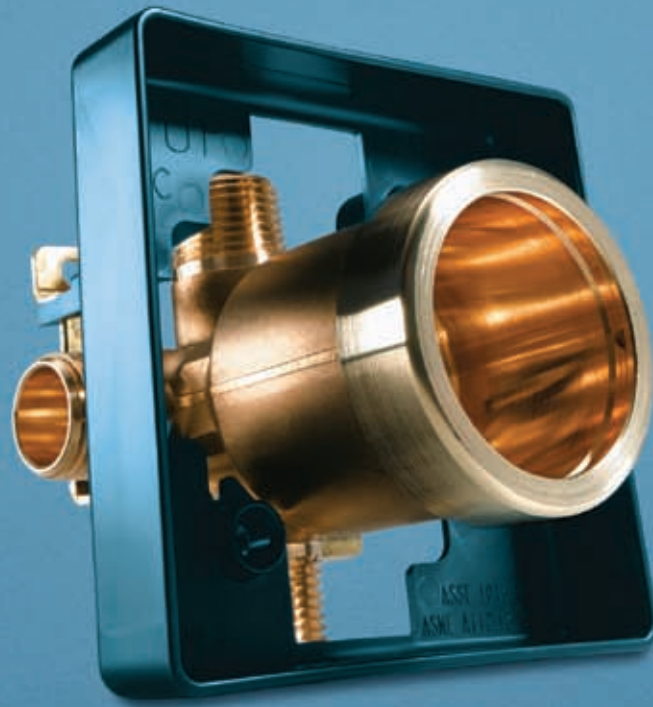
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