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Home Desk; C

Home Improvement; REUSABLE WEATHER STRIPS AND OTHER NEW PRODUCTS

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ANEW type of synthetic rubber tubular weatherstripping, ideal for temporary use around windows and doors that normally are not opened in winter, has just been put on the market by the 3M Company, Household and Hardware Products Division, 3M Center, St. Paul, Minn. 55144.

Unlike most conventional weatherstripping, the new product is not permanently installed with tacks, staples or adhesive; it is just pressed into place with the fingers and can be removed in the spring without leaving any adhesive residue and without having damaged the surfaces around openings where it was used.

Called 3M Reusable Tubular Weather Strip, it consists of a flexible tube that has a reinforced, semirigid, rubberized plastic flange attached to one side along its entire length. To install, the material is simply cut to length with a pair of scissors, then the flange is pressed into the gap around the edge of the movable sash or door. This compresses the tubular material enough to create a tight seal that will keep out cold drafts and keep heat inside.

The stripping can be pulled out in the spring and saved for reuse the following season. It is ideal for glass patio doors and for loose-fitting windows in homes and apartments, and it comes in a 10-foot long roll that has a suggested selling price of \$2.20. For Baseboard Radiators

Another energy-saving product that will help conserve heat in homes or apartments that have baseboard radiators is a reflective material that consists of strips of foam-backed aluminum foil.

Made by Stanley Hardware, Box 1800, New Britain, Conn. 06050, it is called Baseboard Weatherstrip and comes in rolls that are 7 1/4 inches wide and 10 feet long. The foam backing is about 1/8-inch thick, and the suggested selling price is \$9.99 a roll.

Installation involves merely cutting a strip to the length of the radiator, then sliding it up behind the radiator from below. An adhesive strip along the top edge is then pressed against the wall to hold it in place.

The foam backing is pressed against the floor-to-wall joint to seal off any gaps, and the aluminum facing reflects heat back into the room, instead of allowing it to be absorbed by the cold wall behind the radiator. Flexible Light

Anyone who has ever tried to shine a light into a tiny crevice or hole, or into an opening that was too small for a regular flashlight or trouble light, will welcome a compact new flexible inspection light that will fit through openings as small as 1/4-inch in diameter.

Called Bend-A-Light and available from the manufacturer, L & W Enterprises Inc., 200 South Washington, Royal Oak, Mich. 48067, this versatile light has a tiny high-intensity, prefocused bulb mounted at the end of a 10-inch-long flexible shaft, which is only 1/8-inch in diameter. It is made of a special alloy that permits bending and flexing repeatedly so you can poke the light into all kinds of tight or awkward corners.

The pen-like handle holds two AA batteries that power the light, and it has a switch mounted on the end. A hollow plastic extension handle snaps on over this to extend the light's reach to about 27 inches.

The basic unit is priced at \$24.95, or it can be purchased in a kit, priced at \$31.95, that includes a clip-on magnet to hold it against metal, plus a small magnet that slips on over the end of the light (for picking up metal parts). A deluxe kit, priced at \$36.95, also includes a matching penlight with high intensity bulb, as well as slip-on mirror extension for seeing in tight corners, and a vinyl pouch to keep everything in. Improved Square

The trisquare has always been a basic tool for carpenters, hobbyists and home craftsmen - it is used for measuring and marking off square (90-degree) angles, as well as 45-degree miter cuts.

Although it has probably remained unchanged for centuries, a new model recently put on the market by the Fairgate Rule Company, 22 Adams Avenue, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516, has made a couple of very worthwhile improvements.

Called the Retracto Squeeze Pin Tri-Square, it has a springactuated retractable metal pin that stick out parallel to the blade from the base of the handle. This pin supports the handle of the square when it rests on the surface of a board or sheet of material being measured or marked so that the square's blade always remains flat on the surface.

When the square is to be used on flat outside edges, the pin retracts or pushes in so the handle can be pressed against the edge. The blade is made of tempered aluminum and has baked on numbers (inch marks) on both sides -one side reading from the handle to the tip, and the other side reading in the opposite direction.

The blue plastic handle, made of unbreakable Lexan, has another useful innovation: there are inch markings on the inside face. The Retracto Tri-Square is made in lengths of 6, 8, 10 and 12 inches, and prices range from \$4.10 to \$6.95, depending on size. For Neater Pouring

Most do-it-yourselfers use paint rollers or painting pads to paint walls, ceilings and most other large interior surfaces, as well as many outdoor surfaces where a roller or pad will be faster and easier than a brush - and this means that after you have brought the paint home and mixed it, you first have to pour the paint from the gallon can into a tray or pan.

This is almost always a sloppy chore that ends up with lots of drips and runs. To eliminate much of this mess, Armo Associates Inc., 550 West Street Road, Warminster, Pa. 18974, has recently introduced a special plastic can cover that includes a built-in conical pouring spout with a nondrip lip on the end.

Called Snap'N'Pour, and priced at \$2.98, it is designed to snap onto the top of any standard one-gallon paint can in place of the original lid. It forms an airtight seal and has a special cap that snaps on over the end of the spout to seal out air when you have poured off as much paint as you want. It keeps paint out of the groove and insures an airtight seal that retards skimming of leftover contents. Filter Warning

In homes heated by forced hot air it is important that the filter be changed as soon as it gets dirty enough to obstruct the flow of air through it.

A blocked filter adds greatly to load on the furnace, and thus can waste considerable amounts of fuel. That is why homeowners are cautioned to inspect filters regularly and change them as soon as they cannot see through them easily.

However, the frequency required for this periodic inspection can vary, depending on the amount of dust in the air and on how much windows are opened. As a result, many homeowners simply forget about these filters for months at a time.

To warn occupants automatically when it is time to change filters, Bede Industries, 8327 Clinton Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44144, is marketing a small plastic device called the Filter Alert. Costing under \$1 and sold by many of the stores that sell filters, this gadget has a small built-in whistle that will make a loud noise when a filter is 50 percent clogged. It is the same thickness as a standard filter. When the filter is changed, you take the gadget out, wash it, then reinstall it in the new filter.

Illustrations: photo of synthetic rubber weatherstripping being applied photo of can cover with pouring spout photo of flexible shaft with light at end

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