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Editors' Choice: Hot Products 2009 International Builders' Show

Each year, manufacturers pull out the stops as they unveil innovative products and services at the International Builders Show. This year's event, held Jan. 19-23 in Las Vegas was no exception.

By Staff Report

Despite a decrease in floor traffic—attendance was down significantly from prior years—there was plenty to see and learn. As we do every year, our team scoured the aisles, in search of the hottest new products. This year, several common themes emerged. First, a big focus on green (energy efficient, recycled and recycleable, sustainable) and second, an emphasis on value (lower cost, higher performance). Space prevents us from printing an exhaustive list; instead, consider this a snapshot of products that may help you generate sales and grab market share. —The Editors



Universal Stair Bracket System from GoPro

The conventional way to build a set of stairs is to start with two 2x12s, then hope you don't make a mistake cutting the notches. With the new Universal Stair System from GoPro, builders start with 2x6s, and screw in the brackets using the imprinted scale markings as a guide. If the installer makes a mistake, he simply unscrews and repositions the bracket. No waste and according to GoPro, it's stronger. Each bracket has imprinted scale markings indicating the staircase rise and run.

Installers simply match the meeting of the brackets at the indicated markings, which GoPro says can accommodate all pitches, rises and runs.

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