

Innovations make home improvement, remodeling and moving easier

By Jill Sell

Have you ever been in the middle of a home improvement project and said to yourself, "Why doesn't someone invent...?" There's a good chance someone has, but we don't always know about it. If you are tackling some of those projects yourself in anticipation of putting your home on the market soon, these innovations may be just what you need.

Artscape window film can quickly solve a number of problems. The thin, flexible window film sticks to window glass and shower doors without adhesives. Just wash the window with soapy water, place the film and squeegee out any excess water.

The film can be used on any large window, as well as sidelights or transoms for added privacy or to cover flaws. If you are selling a house and the view from one of your windows is less than perfect, Artscape film can help camouflage the concern. Also, if you have just moved into a home and you don't have window treatments, the relatively inexpensive film is a quick fix. The film is available in several designs, including Bamboo, Palm and Peach

Iris. For more information, visit www.artscape-inc.com.

The most beautiful ceramic, terracotta, porcelain, or split slate floor will look unprofessionally installed and won't keep its alignment if the tiles are spaced incorrectly. The Tilejax is a neat little tile spacer that makes tile alignment easier. Only one reusable and easy to remove Tilejax is required per tile. The Tilejax is available in several sizes and even works in challenging corner situations. Don't put in a floor without it. For more information, visit www.tilejax.com.

Okay, so maybe 10 years ago when you covered your dining room walls with green parrot wallpaper you thought it was a good idea. Now that you're facing an open house, you suddenly realize your choice was for the birds. Black & Decker's Wallpaper Steamer eliminates the need for harsh chemicals or the need to rent a commercial steamer. The steamer is portable, features an 11-foot hose, and has a stay-cool grip. There are no nasty gels or chemicals to clean up because it works with just water. The cost is about \$60; visit www.homeright.com.

Those of us who are word people and not math fans will appreciate the WordLock, a padlock that uses a combination you create. "WATER" may be easier to remember than a complicated number combination on a lock used on the swimming pool fence to safeguard your young children. WordLocks can be used for sheds, cabinets, barbecues, compost bins, tool boxes, file cabinets, important document boxes, and more. Go to www.wordlock.com.

One third of American homeowners say they would love to own a utility trailer but have nowhere to store it. Urban dwellers might not have a garage or they may share a communal space where only vehicles are allowed. Other owners of single-family homes may have a garage or shed, but it's filled with the family's vehicles, bikes, toys, and tools. The heavy-duty Fold-Up Utility Trailer by Lifetime products comes in three sizes and holds up to 1,500 pounds. After homeowners have brought back new trees or landscape rock from the garden center or wood for the fireplace, they can use the easy-to-operate crank to fold the trailer to 29-inches in width



Homeowners remodeling bathrooms may opt for the Foot Flush. | Photo courtesy of Foot Flush

in less than 90 seconds. It's almost like magic. The trailers range from \$899 to \$1,399. Visit www.Lifetime.com

Add an interesting new twist to your bathroom. For about \$20, the Foot Flush can be easily installed on any standard toilet without using tools. The hands-free, foot pedal device also helps those with limited mobility or back pain. The product lasts for almost one million flushes, accommodating a family of five for 10 years. Visit www.footflush.com

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Cover Image: Bamboo image window film by Artscape | Photo courtesy of Artscape