

PLUS UPDATING OLD OUTLETS • EASY-CARE EVERGREENS • WAINSCOTING KIT

Today's Homeowner

Expert Advice On Improving Your Home

We Pick the
Best New
Products for
2000

Lead-Sealing Paint

Outlawed in 1978, lead paint remains a health hazard in millions of older houses because of toxic paint dust and chips that are easily ingested, especially by young children. **ChildGUARD** (list: \$34.95 per gallon), a new coating from FIBERLOCK Technologies, offers a safe, economical way to isolate lead paint beneath a topcoat. The paint, which is far more flexible and abrasion-resistant than conventional paint, meets stringent ASTM requirements as an encapsulant, and even contains an additive to make it bad-tasting. It can be applied just like regular paint over wood, masonry, plaster and drywall. The paint is formulated in a tintable white base.

FIBERLOCK Technologies, Inc., www.fiberlock.com; 800/342-3755



February 2000
\$2.95 (Canada \$3.50)
TIMES MIRROR MAGAZINES



www.todayshomeowner.com

Best New PRODUCTS 2000



FOR MOST OF US WHO OWN A HOME, THE PURE EXCITEMENT OF A PROJECT BEGINS when we start kicking the tires on the new appliances, plumbing fixtures, materials and tools these projects require. Thanks to the ingenuity of today's manufacturers, that new faucet—or range, circular saw or ceiling tile—is likely to be sleeker and more capable than the one we're replacing. But the choices can be overwhelming, so we've done what editors do best: a little presorting.

On the following pages, you'll find our picks for this year's best new products, selected from the thousands that will hit the market this year. We chose them based on quality, innovation, value, style, ease of installation and use, and long-term reliability. Although we didn't test them all extensively, we did talk to product engineers, tradespeople and retailers before we arrived at the 39 winners. Enjoy the results. *(continued)*



Each listing includes phone numbers and Web addresses. For complete contact information, turn to page 82.

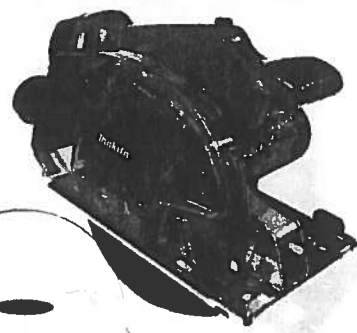
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19 Best New Products 2000
Our choices for the products that will make your life easier in the coming year



Lead-Sealing Paint

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ON THE COVER

Throughout the year we look at thousands of new products to select the ones we think can have the greatest impact on you and your home. This year, 39 made the cut as Best New Products 2000, ranging from innovative power tools to products that help make your home safer. The story begins on page 19.



"test dauber," which is available in two-packs, four-packs and 10-packs. The product's retail price is under \$4 per test, Horton said.

As for lead encapsulation coatings, Fiberlock's product, called ChildGuard™, just became available to the public last December. It is a derivative of Lead Barrier Compound, an encapsulant that Fiberlock has sold to the industrial market since 1993.

Stanton said ChildGuard, which is tintable and carries a 20-year warranty, retails for about \$30 per gallon. That price compares favorably with the cost of removing lead paint from a wall, which Stanton said can run from \$8 to \$15 per square foot. Two coats of ChildGuard applied over lead paint on a wall will render the lead permanently harmless, Stanton noted.

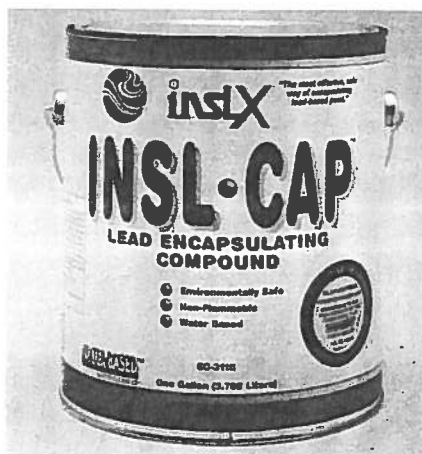
ChildGuard is being sold exclusively at independent paint stores. "The reason for our emphasis on independent paint dealers is that we have a greater level of confidence in their employees' skill level," Stanton stated. He added that the independent dealer's employees, because they tend to be more knowledgeable than employees of other types of stores, are better able to point out the virtues of a product such as ChildGuard.

Another company involved in lead abatement is Insl-x Products Corp. According to Jim Boyce, technical services manager for Insl-x, the company's primary focus in the past has

been with lead abatement in the industrial arena, such as with fuel storage tanks and bridges. However, the company since the early 1990s has manufactured Insl-Cap™, an encapsulant aimed at the architectural arena. Insl-Cap can be brushed on, rolled on or spray-applied, Boyce stated.

Back to Nature makes three types of products for the lead in paint arena: Protect-A-Coat™, a lead encapsulant

coating; Lead-Clean™, a lead dust cleaner; and Ready-Strip™, Multi-Strip™, Lift-n-Strip™ and Aero-Strip™, all of which are environmentally safe lead paint removers. All of these products can be grouped together in Back to Nature's Lead Paint Abatement Center, which includes shelf talkers, headers and literature. "It's a one-stop solution for lead hazards," Cohen said. ■



Insl-Cap™ from Insl-x Corp.

LEAD PAINT ABATEMENT CENTER



COVER-IT

Protect-A-Coat™ Lead Encapsulant

Protects the surface from lead paint hazards



REMOVE-IT

**Ready-Strip, Multi-Strip
Lift-n-Strip & Aero-Strip**
Environmentally safe paint removers

CONTROL-IT

Lead-Clean™

*Lead dust cleaner
Helps prevent lead poisoning*



The Total Solution for Lead Paint Hazards

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