

This Old House

THE TOH TOP 100

**BEST
NEW HOME
PRODUCTS
2012**

Cozy, colorful makeovers

Just in
time for the
holidays!

5 DIY decorations

15 cheery paint ideas

12 built-ins for easy entertaining

Save more money now!

15 ways to slash
heating costs

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2012

THISOLDHOUSE.COM

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THE TOH TOP 100 BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS 2012

Every year, as we start thinking about the Top 100, the same thing happens: panic. How will we ever unearth so many worthy products? We have high standards, after all. But judging from the items that follow, we needn't have worried. There's the ice tray that won't spill (page 82), the drain plug that sheds clogs (page 84), and the wood decking that resists rot (page 93). Then there's carpet that stands up to an elephant and all that a six-ton pachyderm can dish out (page 95). In the end, our editors found many more than 100, so we took the 10 that almost made it and decided to share them online. Now we'd like you to chime in. After you're done reading these pages, go to thisoldhouse.com/pick101, where you'll be taken to Facebook to vote for your favorite. The winner will be TOH's 101st best home product of the year. Still pretty great when you think about the thousands we considered.



ICON KEY

-  money-saver
-  easy upgrade
-  perfect solution
-  eco-friendly
-  splurge
-  made in the USA



BATH



Snag-free stopper

POP-UP CLOGFREE DRAIN, BY PJ WATERWORKS



The culprit in the clog is often the connecting rod, the part that raises and lowers the sink's drain stopper and catches hair and other gunk. The rod for this slick stopper plugs the hole from the old rod but doesn't protrude into the drain. How's it work, then? Magnets! \$10; homedepot.com



What a dish

GOOD GRIPS PRESS-SURE CORNER CADDY, BY OXO



Suction cups and shower tiles don't mix. This soap shelf uses tension and friction, with steel linkages squishing thick gel pads into the two walls of any corner—grout lines and porous tile be damned. You'll be amazed. We were. \$30; oxo.com

No tools required

CLICK SEAL FAUCET CONNECTOR, BY FLUIDMASTER



Hook up faucets to the water supply by hand-tightening the connector's fittings. As with a gas cap, when you hear the click, you know you've got a leak-free seal. Fits most shutoff valves. \$5-\$8; fluidmaster.com



Pause-worthy

ONETOUCH SHOWERHEAD FH220, BY LEVAQUA



Your low-tech showering days are numbered, thanks to this digitally controlled sprayer. A pause button arrests the flow so that water doesn't wash off soap or shaving cream prematurely, or go wasted down the drain when you step out of the stream. \$65; levaqua.com



A real splash

COLORS FEATURING JONATHAN ADLER BATHROOM SINKS, BY KOHLER



Talk about a bright idea: The king of cast iron partnered with a pop designer to produce four vivid shades of bath sinks. Choose from Piccadilly Yellow, Greenwich Green, Palermo Blue, and Annapolis Navy to jazz up your reno. From \$295; kohler.com



Down with waste

CADENCE 1G TOILET, BY ICERA



By using targeted nozzles and gravity, this toilet focuses water around the bowl so that just 1 gallon is enough. Glaze on the porcelain promotes a tidy flush. \$465; icerausa.com



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Soft touch

ANTEAK TILES, BY WALKER ZANGER

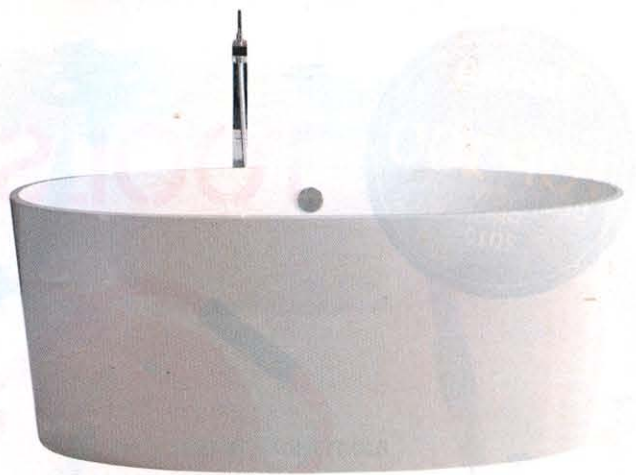
🔧 \$
Made from reclaimed Indonesian teak, a wood known as much for its rot resistance as its rich beauty, these tiles add patina and texture to a bathroom wall (just not in the shower stall). Trim the mesh-mounted pieces with a circular saw or a jigsaw, and be sure to use the recommended modified sanded grout. From \$18 per square foot; walkerzanger.com

Curvy Arts and Crafts

INDEPENDENCE ARTS & CRAFTS
SINGLE WALL BRACKET,
BY REJUVENATION



Reproduced from a 1907 Bauer Gas Fixture Works catalog, this lamp boasts just enough Art Nouveau—in the whip-shaped arm—to separate it from the angular Arts and Crafts masses. \$255 as shown; rejuvenation.com



Compact soaker

IOS TUB, BY VICTORIA + ALBERT



If a classic claw-foot would hog too much space, you'll love this double-ended freestanding soaker. Made from an easy-to-clean limestone-resin composite, it's just 31½ by 59 by 23½ inches, yet it holds 103 gallons. \$4,400; vandabaths.com

Done with demo

UNIVERSAL TUB AND
SHOWER SET, BY PFISTER



This versatile tub-shower replacement fixture fits eight of the most common mixer valves from Delta, Moen, and Pfister, so you don't have to demo the wall to replace the broken one. From \$79; homedepot.com



It cleans up nice

REVEAL CLEAN & DRY
PLUNGER, BY RUBBERMAID



Worse than clearing clogs is the business of cleaning the plunger afterward. Not so with this slickster. A special polymer coating sheds water instantly, so you don't end up with a murky puddle on the floor. \$13; rubbermaid.com



Fun with fauna

BUGS CLASSIC COLLECTION TILES, BY THE WINCHESTER TILE COMPANY

🔧 \$
Under different conditions, a stag beetle or crane fly on a bathroom wall might alarm, but these insects in fire-glazed relief charmed us. Set one or a few hand-painted ceramic pieces in a field of plain tiles for a creatively cost-effective redo with a touch of whimsy. From \$25 per tile; winchestertiles.com

APPS

NKBA Kitchen & Bathroom Planning Guidelines

ITUNES.COM

Before ripping out any fixtures, browse this trade group's designs for code references to make sure your reno is up to snuff. \$4.99; for iOS and Android

MagicPlan

SENSOPIA.COM

Snap photos of, say, a potential powder room's corners and this app generates a floor plan you can fill with fixtures and finishes. Free; for iOS



see what Delta can do

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