

# New home products that range from practical to pleasurable

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As an alternative to snow shoveling, you might choose to tackle those indoor projects as you await warmer days. It also gives you a chance to try some new tools and products that will help to make those projects easier.

Why wait for spring to do some deep cleaning? According to Jim Lightle, lawn and garden merchandiser for Home Depot, there are several new products that might make cleaning seem fun.

The Quickie Company has introduced an updated mop called the Home Pro Ring-A-Mop. The new design allows you to wring out the mop, removing two times the water with no additional effort. The mop head is made of a blended nylon and is mildew resistant.

For garage cleaning and maintenance, there's the new 2-in-1 push broom, called the Job-site Indoor/Outdoor broom. Made for multi-surface use, this 24 inch broom by Quickie is topped off with a rubber squeegee. Aimed at sweeping up messes, this broom can then be turned over to clean up all of the melted snow from the garage floor.

Finally, this next product might be put on your list when spring actually arrives. Clorox has introduced a new liquid cleaner, Clorox Outdoor Bleach, that comes in a concentrated form. After diluting with water, this cleaner is made for cleaning large areas such as concrete driveways and patios, marine surfaces like docks and boats, and even those smaller outdoor lawn items such as resin tables and chairs.

Kate Scollin, marketing and human resource director for Preston Feather Building Centers, said a number of products are available to enhance indoor projects. In the lumber and hardware department, the carpenter will find the newest innovation in hammers. The Death Stick, a titanium hammer by Dead On Tools, is powerful but lightweight. Dead On Tools can be located at [www.deadontools.com](http://www.deadontools.com), where you will find the Death Stick and other tough tools.

If you are working on a big project and doing lots of clean-up, look for garbage bags that will hold all that of construction refuse. Made at three times the thickness and strength of regular garbage bags, Iron Hold garbage bags, made by North American Plastics Corporation, are available in two sizes.

The woodworker will find a number of uses for the Dremel tool. This small drill-like hand tool has dozens of uses from woodworking to crafts. The many attachments can sand, polish, carve, engrave and more. Carpenters may also want to check out the extensive line of power tools. A recently introduced product is the right angle drill, available in corded and cordless, that lets you get into narrow spaces.

For shoveling, the Snow Hog is a new lightweight but heavy duty shovel. Designed with a bigger and wider scoop, the Snow Hog helps you push the snow for easier removal. Based on your preference, there are other types of shovels to choose from such as the grain scoop. The farmer's shovel moves snow in large but manageable chunks. You can also look for shovels that are now being designed without metal edges, making snow removal from

decks and roofs less damaging and invasive.

If organizing a closet or garage is on your "to do list," Store Wall Accessories produces organizing systems. The Garage Storage System was introduced to assist in the seemingly endless task of cleaning and organizing the garage. With various modular parts and add-ons, such as horizontal laminate shelves, tool racks, wire bins and hooks, this system can be customized and expanded.

For kitchen remodeling projects, Scollin recommends checking out the built-in steamer by Gaggenau. This innovative appliance can be built right into your countertop, allowing for low-fat and healthy meal preparation by either slow cooking or steaming.

Or consider the number of times the meal is ready but the entire family isn't home and ready to sit down at the table. Both Thermador and Dacor make warming drawers which assist the cook in these types of predicaments. This appliance with keep the prepared meal warm, without drying it out, until everyone is ready to dine.

For those enjoy a good bottle of wine, which the SubZero company says is about 3/5 of the families in northwestern lower Michigan, the wine cooler is now being added to many kitchens. SubZero offers this appliance in a variety of styles and sizes, from under-the-counter to refrigerator-size units. Keeping the wine at the ideal temperature and humidity, the wine cooler can be customized to illuminate special bottles and trimmed to match cabinets.

Decorative knobs and pulls for cabinets are a simple way to beautify a room. Whatever the style, whatever the color, there are knobs and pulls that can

change the look of a cabinet door or drawer.

You'll find knobs that are handpainted or of a rustic style, knobs of natural stone, glass or metal and knobs in a variety of shapes from animals to sporting equipment. Decorative knobs and pulls are becoming a popular way to enhance cabinetry in more places than the kitchen. Try them in bathrooms, kids' rooms and the study.

For the "do-it-yourself" type, remember, you're not alone. Many stores and manufacturers have websites and on-line product assistance. Plus, there are magazines, books, and manuals offer ideas, advice and step-by-step instruction.



Left, the stovetop steamer can be built into the kitchen countertop and above, the wine cooler is becoming a common fixture in many kitchens and is available in different sizes and styles.



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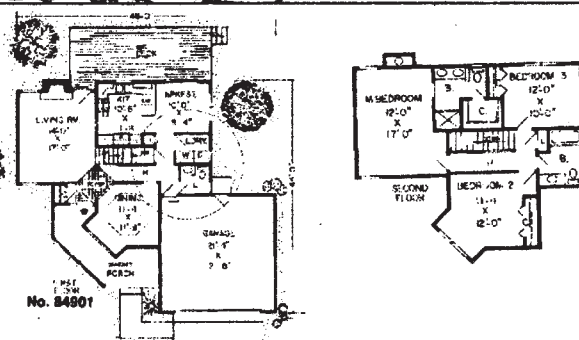


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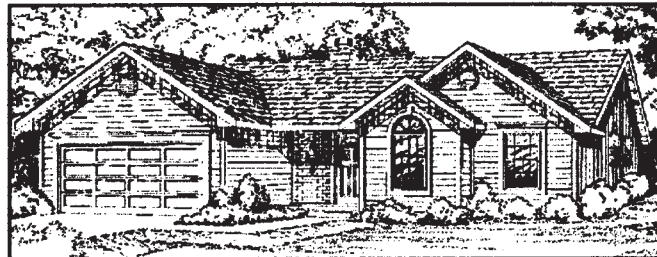


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