



The Green Architect

BuildingGreen's Top 10 Green Products for 2012

By Blair Seibert, AIA, LEED AP, CSBA

BuildingGreen has done it again. As the “consumer reports” guide to green products they have the opportunity to fully analyze and vet green products throughout the year. While some of the products in the Top 10 list may have been introduced earlier this year, they think each of these products is special and should be publicized to the construction industry.

1

Interface FLOR carpet tiles with non-PRC carpet fibers

Fluoropolymers (perfluorinated compounds) are commonly used to treat carpet to give it its stain resistance but the long-term health and environmental impacts are unknown. Already known for pre- and post-consumer recycled content, now Interface FLOR carpet tiles can add **minimal pollutants released** to its features.



2

Lifeline PVC-free resilient flooring from Upofloor OY imported by Altro Floors

This product offers great durability without PVC, plasticizers, phthalates, halogens or heavy metals. It's made with alternatives to hazardous components yet still great for heavy-traffic commercial spaces.



3

Knight Wall CI-Girt Rainscreen System from Knight Wall Systems

This commercial rainscreen framing system can be screwed directly through the insulation into the building's steel frame instead attaching using metal clips. This cuts down on installation time and meets ASHRAE's definition of “continuous insulation.”

4

EonCoat waterborne ceramic coating from EonCoat LLC

This two-part, waterborne ceramic coating forms a protective barrier on aluminum, steel, interior/exterior masonry, wood, wallboard and lots of other substrates. No primer needed, this mix of phosphoric acid and magnesium hydroxide, contains no VOCs, no hazardous air pollutants and no flame retardants. It's durable enough for commercial and industrial use and offers a colorful variety of architectural finishes.



5

Aqua2use Graywater System from Water Wise Group, Inc.

Water from the shower, laundry, lavatory sinks and bath are collected and filtered through four-stage system into a high-density polyethylene tank. Viola! You have 21 gallons of water suitable for outdoor irrigation.



6

Cypress Envirosystems Analog-to-Digital Wireless Thermostat and Other Controls

The systems allow older controls to be managed remotely to achieve significant energy savings and is great for retrofit applications.



8

Mitsubishi Electric's Ductless Heat Pumps and Variable Refrigerant Flow Systems with Tenant Submetering

This air source heat pump significantly outperforms older air source heat pumps and works at lower temperatures. It can provide efficient heating and cooling for residential and commercial projects.

7

Ritter XL solar thermal system from Regasol

Got a high hot water demand in a commercial, multi-family, or industrial application? This system combines existing technologies such as evacuated tubes and reflectors to their system to achieve a higher efficiency.



9

AllSun Trackers from AllEarth Renewables

This tracking system makes your renewable energy even more efficient by using GPS to follow the sun across the sky and maximize the amount of light hitting your panels. The tracking module also "folds" up in high winds to prevent damage and has a daily snow-dump feature for modules installed in northern locations.



10

Philips EnduraLEDs from Philips Lighting

This is the first LED to be Energy Star qualified and is a replacement for 60-watt incandescent light bulbs. It meets performance metrics for light quality, color and output, is fully dimmable and has an average rated lifespan of 25,000 hours.



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