

▪ **SMART** IDEAS FOR THE HOME ▪

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Mom Knows Best

When you're not feeling quite right, you turn to mom.

When you want to redesign the traditional thermometer, you also turn to mom, or in this case three moms from Rhode Island. Using nothing



more than a roll of tin foil, those women came up with a breakthrough concept in

thermometer design. They developed an ergonomically curved thermometer that makes it easy for people, especially kids and seniors, to keep the temperature-taking tip under their tongues. This digital thermometer comes in an extra-small size for little kids, as well as talking and non-talking adult versions. It's from Timex, and it's called the **AccuCurve**, but I think they should have called it a therMOMeter. It costs under \$20. For more information, go to www.timexhealthcare.com or call 800-299-5704.

Take a Bath

Do you want to be the envy of everyone in your neighborhood? Your city? Your state? Have I got a shower for you. It's a computerized, fully programmable shower that features up to 30 shower frequencies and 18 shower-

heads in four zones. The showerheads are custom-designed and strategically placed. The shower is controlled by a touch-screen computer panel. With just a touch, you can choose between preprogrammed shower experiences ranging from an anti-stress drizzle to a waterfall that is perfectly positioned to land at the base of your neck and shoulders to relieve your tension. This shower turns an ordinary bathroom into the ultimate personal luxury spa. This extreme computerized shower is the brainchild of renowned resort and spa designer Tag Galyean. Galyean's spas are usually found at top resorts, such as The Broadmoor, The Greenbrier, Pebble Beach,



and Turnberry Isle. Galyean developed this home shower experience when a Hollywood mogul who stayed at the Broadmoor enjoyed it so much he had

Galyean develop a computer-controlled version and had it hooked up in his own home bathroom. Are you interested in having a water wonderland in your bathroom? Get ready to write a check for about \$100,000. Now you really need that shower to relax, huh? If you want more information on the **SilverTag Shower**, go to www.tagsignature.com or email sales@tagsignature.com.



So Long Spring

No one likes to change the toilet-paper roll. It's a little chore that has caused couples to argue since the invention of indoor plumbing. The fighting may stop now because of the **Stockton pivoting paper holder**. This clever accessory has taken one of life's little nuisances, and turned it into an uplifting experience. Moen's new pivoting paper holder features a spring-free design. No more struggling to retract that spring while you try to get the roll into the holder. The pivoting paper holder has an arm that swings up for easy paper loading. It is available in a chrome or brushed-nickel finish and costs under \$30. For more information on the Stockton pivoting paper holder, call 800-882-0116 or go to www.moen.com.

Sound Bad, Quiet Good

You should be able to find peace and quiet in your neighborhood library ... and in your own bathroom. I mean how can you relax in a hot bath if you can hear all of your household noises seeping into your private sanctuary? One sound solution is a Jeld-Wen ProCore, **The Quiet Door**. It helps eliminate annoying noises from the kids or the dog, giving you the quiet you truly need and deserve. The manufacturer claims that The Quiet Door effectively blocks 50 percent more household noise than a standard hollow-core door, and it's quieter than a solid-wood door. It has a Sound Transmission Control rating of 31 and comes in 11 interior designs. Pre-hung ProCore Quiet Doors start at about



\$120. To find a dealer in your area, go to www.jeld-wen.com.

Hot Idea

You step out of a shower and grab a towel that's all warm and toasty. You must be at some pricey, luxurious spa, right? Nope, it can happen in your own bathroom. **WarmATowel** is a rack that

gently warms your towels. It comes in pivoting, freestanding and wall-mount versions. The freestanding option plugs into an outlet; the other versions are designed to be hard-wired into your home.

There is also a hydronic system that ties into your home's water-heating system. The WarmiTowel uses all-brass construction and has a stainless-steel built-in heater for controlled, quiet heat. Because the WarmiTowel radiates heat, it is an additional source

of warmth for the bathroom. The cost varies depending on style and finish, but the range is between \$500 and \$1,850. For more information, go to www.mrsteam.com or call 800-767-8326.

Everything but the Bathroom Sink

Want to cut down the number of holes you put in your bathroom ceiling? Here's a whole new idea. The **Broan heater-fan-light** combination unit is an all-in-one fixture. It will warm up a chilly winter bathroom and also act as the bathroom light. During

a hot summer day, this same fixture will blow a light, refreshing breeze. The Broan heater-fan-light combination unit is a 1,300-watt heater, ventilator and 100-watt light. Each feature can be used alone or in any combination. It's easy to install, and the built-in duct connector fits a 4-inch-round duct. There are also separate motors for the heater and ventilator. I just don't know if I should call this a bright idea, a hot idea or a breath of fresh air. The unit costs under \$75. For more information call 800-445-6937 or go to www.broan.com.

Smart Windows

Forget miniblinds, verticals, curtains and shades. If you want privacy in your bathroom, you might want to consider getting **SPD-Smart Windows**. These windows have a small electric current passing through the glass. When the electricity is off, the window is dark; turn on the juice, and the window becomes clear. Several window manufacturers have licensed this technology, including SPD Systems, Razor's Edge Technologies, ThermoView, Cricursa and Traco.

Window products with SPD-Smart technology enable users to control or tune the shade of their windows, ranging from light to dark and all levels in between. SPD-Smart windows block 99 percent of UV light and up to 80 percent of solar heat

gain to help reduce air-conditioning costs. These windows can be used in new construction, or they can be retrofitted into older



homes. They are hard-wired into the home electrical system similar to hooking up a doorbell. According to the company, these windows use very little electricity. An entire house of smart windows uses less than a single light bulb. For homeowners who want to control their exposure, smart windows are the clear choice. If you want more information on SPD-Smart windows, check out www.smartglass.com.

Shower in Style, Not in Debt

You want a luxury shower experience, but you don't want to be taken to the cleaners? Here's a possible solution, it's the **La Doccia jet panel massage systems**. Made of titanium or glass, these jet panels can transform any shower or tub into a full-body spa. It comes in several styles and costs between \$1,000 and \$1,200. That's significantly less than other shower towers out there. Best of all, you don't have to destroy a shower wall to

install it. It's easy to install, and it doesn't require changing any of the existing piping. By turning one of the knobs, you decide which jets are activated. The water pressure is adjustable, and with a push of a button you can turn off the body massage jets and just use the overhead shower or handheld shower as an ordinary unit.

La Doccia is a leading European manufacturer and is now bringing its shower power to the United States. My only concern is trying to find the time for these relaxing extra-long showers. For more information, check out www.la-doccia.com or call 877-523-6224.



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