



*Great Ideas  
Come in  
Small Packages*

## **Exciting New Products For Your Home**

The 2007 Pacific Coast Builders' Conference filled three exhibit halls at Moscone Center in early June with over 500 companies presenting their latest products for homebuilding. These working displays of appliances, plumbing fixtures, windows and doors give industry insiders a chance to evaluate the most recent innovations with the manufacturers. Sustainable or green products (those incorporating over 50% recycled materials) and energy conserving power systems are rapidly becoming mainstream. Pacific Gas and Electric representatives promoted their cash rebate programs for homeowners who install energy efficient insulation, windows, lighting, heating, air conditioning, and appliances. Several companies demonstrated their advances in solar panel arrays. Here are some of the highlighted products that will be available for the retail market later this year.

A spa-like atmosphere can be created for the bathroom with glass vessel sinks and with sinks that appear to float by being mounted directly on the wall. Several bath companies introduced under the sink vanities with pull-out drawers that wrap around the sink drainpipe. Now there is a storage option for those small bathrooms that only have enough floor space to accommodate a pedestal sink. Exotic reclaimed woods appeared in baths as vanities as well as flooring.

As water usage is a concern for all California homeowners, the WaterSaver Technology Company showcased their Aqus™ system which uses recycled water from the sink to flush the toilet; thereby saving a household of two people about 5,000 gallons of water a year.

There were new bath accessories to serve both ends of the age spectrum. Moen® has a Securemount™ anchoring system that allows grab bars to be installed directly through the tile without removing it. The brackets expand behind the drywall to support six hundred pounds. Since these anchors are threaded through a 1.25 inch hole and no stud attachment is required, a homeowner can save money by doing this retrofit himself. As acknowledgement of the aging Baby Boomer population Kohler® has incorporated acrylic bench seats in some of their shower surrounds. For families with toddlers who are being toilet-trained Kohler® has created the Transitions™ toilet seat which has an attached smaller seat. The child's seat lifts up to reveal a normal seat. The entire toilet seat and lid gently and quietly closes itself once you start the process. The whole unit snaps off for easy cleaning.



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The most exciting development was in cooking. After fifty years in the kitchen appliance market, Thermador© has finally refined induction cooking for the U. S. market. This technology uses magnets mounted beneath a glass cook top to heat the food. The flat surface of the cook top stays cool, making this a good unit to use in homes with children or seniors. Foods cook quickly on this cook top; boiling water only takes nine seconds! Clean up is easy since food does not burn onto the surface of the cook top. Induction units can also work as part of a cook top that includes traditional electric burners and/or a grill.

**Update your home to increase its' value.  
Get practical ideas and a decorating plan**

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to transform your home.**