

Home Zone: Easing the load of ladder tasks

by Maggie_Reed

The windows need cleaning. The trim needs painting. The gutters need cleaning.

You need a ladder and you need tools. And, you don't want to be going up and down every time you need something. Let's face it, projects involving a ladder can be challenging.

The HANDY Ladder Pail by Bercom International helps make these tasks easier.

"You know the drill," said Mark Bergman, president of Bercom International. "You're working on a ladder project, climbing up and down to get the supplies you need, or trying to balance tools precariously on the ladder with homemade contraptions.

LADDER PAIL - Don't worry about having to make trips up and down the ladder while doing projects when you have the HANDY Ladder Pail aboard. CNS Photo courtesy of Ted Wentink/Wentink Photography.

PAINT PAIL - Hand tired? The HANDY Paint Pail has an adjustable strap that allows for custom fit and comfort. A magnet is mounted on the inside to hold the brush and the built-in scraper lip removes excess paint. CNS Photo courtesy of Ted Wentink/Wentink Photography.

PLAY FOR YOUR ICE CREAM - With the MEGA Play & Freeze, just add a few ingredients, toss it around for a while, and you have ice cream. CNS Photo courtesy of Industrial Revolution.

"The HANDY Ladder Pail was designed to help homeowners and professionals tackle a variety of ladder projects - such as painting, window washing, cleaning gutters, replacing light bulbs or hanging holiday lights - with ease and organization. It's like a tool belt for your ladder."

The unique fixed bracket on the pail easily secures to most step and extension ladders. The pail holds more than 1 gallon of any paint, stain, liquid or solvent. It also includes an embedded magnet to hold brushes or tools in place so they are not swimming about in a pool of liquid.

A built-in paint grid is designed for use with rollers up to 9 inches for large painting projects. The pail also contains a secure tool and rag holder to prevent them from dropping off the ladder.

The Ladder Pail is the latest addition to the Bercom collection, which began with a coffee can and the invention of the HANDY Paint Pail.

It seems that Bergman was painting around his house with the standard "coffee can" paint container and his

hand got tired. So he designed a handle out of duct tape and the original Paint Pail was born.

The pail can hold a quart of paint and has an adjustable strap that allows for custom fit and comfort. A magnet is mounted on the inside to hold the brush and the built-in scraper lip removes excess paint.

For bigger jobs, there is the Pro-Series pail that is larger and can hold up to a half gallon of paint. It also has a second easy grip handle to add comfort when the pail is full and the adjustable strap is less practical. It also can accommodate a larger brush and mini-rollers with a built-in grid to wipe off excess paint from the rollers and transferring it easily back into the pail.

"Imagine the handiness and efficiency when you team up with a partner - one person cutting in or painting trim with the original - the other following with a roller and the HANDy Paint Pail Pro-Series," Bergman said.

Disposable liners are available for both models, eliminating clean up and allowing for quick color changes. In addition, covers are available that stretch over the pail's mouth to create a seal to keep the paint fresh and ready for your next job.

The HANDy Ladder Pail retails for about \$20, the Paint Pail \$10 and the Pro-Series \$25. They are available at select Home Depot and Sherwin-Williams stores, ACE Hardware, True Value and many other paint and hardware stores.

For more information, visit www.handypaintpail.com.

THROW ME THE ICE CREAM, PLEASE

There's not much better after a game of hot potato than a cold bowl of ice cream. So, why not combine the two?

If this sounds good to you, check out the new MEGA Play & Freeze from Industrial Revolution. Basically, it is a ball you add ingredients to, keep it in constant motion, and voila!

All you have to do is add ice and rock salt to one end and typical ice cream ingredients (cream, sugar and

vanilla) to the other, keep it moving for about 30 minutes and you have ice cream.

"We had originally developed the Play & Freeze for those who enjoy camping, but its popularity has taken it beyond that to both indoor and outdoor settings such as parties, barbecues, family get-togethers and other social activities," said Steve Llorente, marketing director for Industrial Revolution Inc.

The original Play & Freeze makes 1 pint of ice cream (\$30) while the Mega version, only 30 percent larger, makes a quart (\$40).

Made of durable polycarbonate, they are lightweight, portable, easy to clean and available in a variety of bright, fun colors.

For those imaginative ice cream aficionados who want to go beyond your basic vanilla, Industrial Revolution offers LorAnn's Flavor Fountain. The flavors are concentrated, unsweetened and each 1.7 oz. bottle contains enough flavoring for over 3 quarts of ice cream.

Flavors available are: banana-coconut, black raspberry, bubble gum, butter-pecan, chocolate-fudge, caramel delight, cinnamon spice, mango, mint-chocolate, mocha, orange cream, and strawberry. Retail price is \$3 a bottle.

For more information, visit www.icecreamrevolution.com and www.industrialrev.com.

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