

CONSTRU-GUÍA al día™

Summer 2010 (Verano 2010)

English translation of content

Cover:

Constru-Guía al Día

We're building professionals

Tough trucks for tough jobs

Heavy lifting done right

Best choices for windows and doors

Also in this issue:

Licensing, bonding and insuring your business

Tips for replacing silicone caulk

MiConstruGuia.com

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Today's Tough Trucks

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BITS, p. 7

“Dia de la Familia”

“Dia de la Familia” is a series of festivals being held at The Home Depot stores the first Saturday of every month. The festivals, include activities Kids Workshops, games and contests, and prizes and giveaways. The festivals showcase products and services available through The Home Depot. To find out when a Dia de la Familia will be held in your area, visit MiConstruGuia.com.

A unique approach to waste removal.

When a dumpster is too big for the job, Waste Management’s new Bagster, Dumpster in a Bag, provides a cost-effective solution for professional contractors. Bagster is a highly durable, woven bag that won’t tear if punctured and can hold 3 cubic yards of debris or as much as 3,300 pounds, including full sheets of plywood, doors and even a bathtub.

Contractors can use the bag for as long as they needed and then schedule collection by calling (877) 789-2247 or online at www.thebagster.com. Waste Management will collect the bag within three business days. Depending on the area, the cost of collection is 50 percent to 70 percent less than a dumpster rental.

“We saw a major void in the marketplace for managing waste for smaller projects,” says Scott Rhodes, director at Waste Management. “We think contractors are going to love the flexibility of the Bagster.”

Which vacuums can be used to clean up lead?

To comply with the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Renovation, Repair, and Painting regulation when cleaning in buildings containing lead, contractors use tape, polyethylene sheeting, mops, and other cleaning supplies. What is not clear in the regulation is what type of vacuum EPA has approved to remove the material.

The regulation mandates use of a HEPA vacuum for this type of work, which the agency defines as one that “has been designed with a high efficiency particulate (HEPA) filter as the last filtration stage.” However, the regulation does not define how EPA inspectors will decide which vacuums qualify. According to a new EPA document, approved vacuum cleaners must be designed “so that all the air drawn into the machine is expelled through the HEPA filter with none of the air leaking past it.” To download a copy of the EPA document, visit epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-TOX/2008/April/Day-22t8141.pdf.

You could be the “Voice of Constru-Guia”

Constru-Guia is looking for the “Voice of Constru-Guia” to represent the magazine and MiConstruGuia.com on our new radio show and at events nationwide. To be considered, candidates must have:

- Have 10+ years of construction or building maintenance experience
- Be able to teach others about the construction industry
- Be bilingual
- Be computer and Internet savvy
- Know how to conduct interviews and write scripts

Previous radio experience is preferred, but not required.

If you think you’re the “Voice of Constru-Guia,” email your qualifications in English to info@CGaldia.com. Please send on-air samples if available.

WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX? p. 9

Mario Martínez, Electrician, Marsh Electric

A home's *electrical wiring is like* the nerves in the human body. It brings a home to life, providing lighting, access to time-saving electrical appliances, and equipment for work and play.

"Being an electrician is an interesting and rewarding job," says Mario Martínez, an electrician at Marsh Electric in Oceanside, Calif., specializing in both commercial and residential work. "As you become more experienced, you find ways to do things faster and more efficiently, but there is always something new to learn."

Martínez finds the biggest challenge day to day is doing things right the first time. "One mistake can undo everything you've done so far," he says. "Time is money, so both customers and contractors want quick job turnarounds with high-quality workmanship."

Tools play an important part in an electrician's speed and efficiency. "There are many tools out there, but not all are professional grade," says Martínez. "A low-quality tool may help you finish a single job, but then it will stop working. Get tools that are as good as your work."

-By Adriana Sibaja

Ideal Vol-Con XI 61-086 Voltage/Continuity Tester. "Ideal is one of the brands I come back to the most. This particular tester is very reliable and not as complicated to use as other brands. We use it to check for current in commercial and residential environments."

Greenlee 350 MCM Model 718 heavy-duty cable cutter. "When I do commercial work, I use a battery-powered cable cutter provided by the company, but this manual tool is my go-to cutter for regular residential jobs. It is lightweight and the perfect length."

Bosch 11304K Brute breaker hammer. "We use this powerful tool to break structures for installations. The great thing about it is that it doesn't require a generator to work, making it a very versatile and portable tool."

Southwire Romex SIMpull NM-B Wire. "This nonmetallic sheathed cable is great for residential wiring. It has two to four conductors available and is color-coded."

Klein Tools J203-8N 8-inch Journeymen heavy-duty long-nose pliers for side-cutting and stripping. "A lot of my pliers and cable cutters are from Klein. These particular Journeyman series pliers are very versatile and can be used for clean wire stripping and cutting. They are very comfortable and provide a firm grip."

Makita 18V LXT406 Lithium-Ion cordless 4-piece combo kit. "This is by far the best one I have ever had. Aside from being a great value, the tools are lighter than others I have used. In my job, I am constantly climbing up and down 10- to 12-foot ladders, all while carrying my tools, and I can certainly feel the difference in the weight. These tools also have a super-long battery life. I particularly like the electric hammer drill. It is great for drilling holes and pass pipes through the wall."

Klein Electrician's Tubing Cutter 53730. "I have always used Klein Tools. They last for years and years. I have tried other brands but this is the one I feel most comfortable with because it doesn't damage the wire and it is very easy to use. You simply tighten, cut and snap."

CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSING SERVICES, p. 11

Helping Contractors Become Licensed

Helping Hispanic contractors with bilingual classes and instructional materials in Spanish.

In California, it is illegal for a contractor to take on a job worth \$500 or more without a contract or license. A conviction could mean heavy fines or jail, and without a license, a contractor has no recourse with a non-paying customer.

Since 1985, Contractors State Licensing Services (CSLS) has helped more than 110,000 contractors obtain their licenses, making it the largest school of its type in California. Classes are designed to help attendees pass state exams for more than 43 types of licenses, including those for general building contractors, landscaping contractors and many specialty trades.

"We're like a one-stop shop for contractors," says Ernie Barberi, regional manager for CSLS. "We help people get their California licenses, and we also conduct business seminars because we want them to be successful." CSLS boasts a 98 percent first-time pass rate on licensing tests. "We have something that works," says Barberi. "As long as you do what we ask, you are going to pass."

The school helps Hispanic contractors overcome language hurdles with bilingual classes, instructional materials in Spanish, and bilingual teachers and staff. Bilingual courses are offered at nearly half of the school's 33 locations. In addition, CSLS has launched a new Spanish-language website at www.contractorslicensingchools.com.

What sets CSLS apart from other schools is expert guidance. "We have licensed consultants that go through the process and assess what learning methods will work best," says Barberi. "We often recommend bilingual classes, so students learn in their native language, but also in English, so they learn the terminology."

Training is held in traditional classroom settings, in online classes with instructors, via self-study programs and through crash courses. "One of the benefits of the classroom setting is that students can network with others that are here," says Barberi. "We hold students' hands through the whole application process," says Barberi. In the case of a language barrier, paperwork is filed to allow for a translator, as well as extra time to complete the exam. This helps avoid returned applications and delayed exams.

In addition, CSLS courses, such as the "Business Bootcamp Seminar" and "Estimating for Construction," provide practical tools for the contractor. When new requirements develop, such as the EPA Certified Renovators Certification, CSLS is there to provide training. CSLS can be reached at (800) 303-4691.

-By J. Costin

Most popular licensing classes

- 1 (B) General Building Contractor
- 2 C10 - Electrical Contractor
- 3 C33 - Painting and Decorating Contractor
- 4 C36 - Plumbing Contractor
- 5 C27 - Landscaping Contractor
- 6 (A) General Engineering Contractor
- 7 C20 - Warm Air Heating, Ventilating and Air- Contractor
- 8 C54 - Ceramic and Mosaic Tile Contractor
- 9 C7 - Low Voltage Systems Contractor
- 10 C15 - Flooring and Floor Covering Contractor

For a list of all the classes offered by Contractors State Licensing Services, visit www.makemeacontractor.com or www.contractorslicensingchools.com.

FOR YOUR BUSINESS, p. 12

Licensing, Bonding and Insurance

Licensing, bonding and insurance are required by law or required to get the job.

It is vital that contractors understand the licensing, bonding and insurance requirements for their businesses. This overview is a good guideline, but check with the various authorities in your area, as requirements vary by state and municipality.

Licensing

Licensing your business may be required by your state depending on the trade you perform. In most states, a license is required for the more technical trades, such as electricians, plumbers, HVAC contractors, and fire protection contractors. Other trades, including general contractors, may not need a state license to perform work. Typically an annual fee is required for a license, and an employee of your firm must take a written test to qualify for a state license. If that employee leaves your firm, the license is no longer valid and someone working for your company must take the exam again.

At the local level, licensing requirements vary widely. Each town, regardless of size, may require certain contractors to obtain a local license to work in that municipality. These licenses are usually valid for one year and are not very expensive.

Your local building department will know what state and local licenses you need. Before bidding any job, contact the building department to make sure you know what you will need and what it will cost. The building permit application lists all of the contractors on the project, along with their state and/or local license numbers. Until every firm on the list is properly licensed, they won't issue the permit and the work can not proceed.

Bonding

The most common types of bonds are performance and payment bonds, bid bonds and permit bonds.

- **Performance and payment bonds** – When a general contractor is awarded a job, it is up to him to decide which subcontractors have to provide a performance and payment bond. The subcontractor's bonds give the general contractor a layer of protection, just as his bond helps to protect the owner.

Performance and payment bonds are actually two different types of bonds but are usually referred to collectively. A performance bond is basically a guarantee for the owner of the project from a bonding company that you will complete the project. If during the course of a job, you go out of business, fail to comply with the requirements of the contract documents or get terminated by the owner, the bonding company must step in and finish the project. The payment bond is similar, but it guarantees you will pay the subcontractors and suppliers that provide labor and materials in the performance of your contract.

Work with a knowledgeable bonding agent to establish a relationship with a bonding company. If you don't know a bonding agent, contact the National Association of Surety Bond Producers at (202) 686-3700 or visit www.nasbp.org to get names of agents in your area. Bonding companies will require you to provide your current and prior three years of financial statements and your current uncompleted work on hand schedule to review your company's qualifications.

Unlike an insurance company, which does not have any recourse against you after they pay a claim on your behalf, the bonding company will seek reimbursement for any costs they incur to complete your contract or pay your subcontractors. Therefore you must have liquid assets either within your company or personally or you won't be able to obtain a bond. The cost of these bonds is typically 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent of the contract value.

- **Bid bonds** – The bid bond is usually provided at no cost, but you can't get a bid bond, if you don't already have the ability to obtain a performance and payment bond, as described above. A bid bond gives the project owner some protection in the event the low bidder refuses to honor his bid within the allotted time. If this occurs, the bonding company will pay the owner the difference between your bid and the next bidder up to the amount of your bid bond (typically 5 percent or 10 percent of the total bid). The owner in turn can use this payment to offset the cost/time impact of having to re-award the project to another firm.

Your bonding company will need to know the value and description of the project during the bid process, in order to provide the bid bond for delivery with your bid. If the bonding company must pay the owner for a bid bond on which you defaulted, they will seek reimbursement from you.

- **Permit bonds** – The permit bond is a requirement of the municipality in which your project is located. If you fail to comply with the municipality's construction rules and regulations, they will make a claim against your license and/or permit bond. These bonds are easier to obtain, and don't require the same financial information as the performance and payment bonds. As the contractor, you are agreeing to comply with all of the rules and regulations of that municipality when you apply for a permit or a license.

Insurance

Insurance for your business can be very complex. There are many types of coverage – some required by law, some optional. The basic forms of insurance required of most contractors are:

- ▶ Worker's Compensation Insurance provides compensation for medical care for employees injured in the course of employment in exchange for mandatory relinquishment of the employee's right to sue his or her employer for negligence. Coverage A for Worker's Compensation is typically statutory depending on the state where the policy is written. Coverage B (Employers Liability Insurance limit) is based on requirements in the contract.
- ▶ General liability insurance protects your company against bodily injury and property damages suits from third parties for negligence.
- ▶ Automobile liability insurance provides liability coverage for any auto owned or leased by the company. This policy also protects the company against auto liability claims made against the company caused by company employees driving their personal automobiles while on company business.
- ▶ Excess or umbrella liability insurance is liability coverage over and above the primary liability coverage provided by the underlying general liability, workers compensation and automobile liability policies.

While the types of coverage listed here are the minimum required for most contractors, some projects will require specific coverage limits, as well as other related language and endorsements that your insurance carrier must provide. Send the requirements to your agent before you bid a project to ensure you can comply.

Additionally there are many other types of coverage that a business owner should be aware of such as insurance for Equipment, Employee Dishonesty and Crime, Property Insurance for your building and its contents, Design Professional Liability, Builder's Risk and Employment Practices Liability Insurance to name a few.

You should consult with an insurance agent to determine what coverage and limits will suit your needs best. Coverage is provided on an annual basis, so you will need to renew coverage each year. It's a good idea to get at least three separate quotes and compare.

For more information, contact the American Subcontractors Association at (703) 684-3450 or at www.asaonline.com.

-By Bruce Webb, Avalon Construction

TIP: Most projects require insurance coverage for other entities be included in your certificate of insurance. Whoever is named as the insured party or certificate holder is automatically covered, usually the project owner or general contractor, if you are working as a subcontractor. However related parties, i.e. the architect, engineer or other lenders or consultants also want to be covered. They are referred to as "additional insureds." A common misconception is that as long as they are listed on your certificate of insurance as additional insureds they are covered. This is not the case. In order for those parties to have proper coverage, they must be included in writing in the contract agreement provided by whoever is hiring you to do the work. If they are not included in a written agreement they are not covered. Be sure to verify this with your insurance agent, before starting any work.

The only way to be sure you make a profit is by knowing your markup percentage. Read "Calculating your markup" at MiconstruGuia.com.

The 2010 Work Trucks

Combining customer needs with more comfort and convenience.

For 2010, all the full-sized pickups feature more interior appointments, tougher frames and better fuel economy. Many also have higher towing capacity and new engines, including new diesels. The downside with the new diesels, however, is that 2010 emissions regulations have added complexity and cost to the sticker price. Those price increases have propelled many of the full-sized trucks into almost luxury-car status.

Fortunately, the manufacturers acknowledge that many buyers are looking for work vehicles, so there are many bundled "work-truck" packages that build a comprehensive basic specification, providing practical interiors, work-station consoles with Bluetooth phone connectivity, and a variety of cab configurations and truck bed.

Chevrolet has stretched its bigger cabs with a genuine crew cab replacing the extended cab. Big news at Chevrolet is the new rugged frame for the HD model. The new, more powerful Duramax on the HD produces 765 pounds-feet of torque demanding the big-truck Allison transmission to handle it. Like the other trucks in the full-size lineup, Chevrolet offers a box-delete chassis for addition of compartment utility bodies.

Dodge has introduced a full crew-cab, 10 inches longer than the Quad it replaces, for genuine six-adult seating in comfort. The heavy-duty Dodge Ram takes its styling cues from the recently overhauled 1500 but with subtle changes that accentuate the ruggedness of the heavier duty trucks. New features for the Ram were developed by a team that went all over the country to learn how people use their trucks.

In engine news, Ford has introduced the all-new 6.7-liter diesel, although it is not available on the F150. A smaller version that was in the works is on hold for the moment. Chevrolet has added variable valve timing on its 4.6-liter V8 for a 20-mpg highway rating. Dodge has revised fuel control for its 4.7 and 5.7 gasoline engines for similar economy. Ford has optional three-valve heads for the Triton 4.6 V8 that give the full-size F150 a 21-mpg highway rating. In the Tundra, a new 4.6 replaces the 4.7 for better performance with a 20-mpg potential. Nissan Titan's 5.6 V8 is now available with a flexible fuel option that accepts ethanol blends to E85.

According to the manufacturers, all the 2010s are a result of listening to customers. But it is true: as these work trucks evolve they are more and more in line with customer needs while providing ever more comfort and convenience. *—By Steve Sturgess*

Chevrolet Silverado

Models: 1500, 1500 XFE

Cab: Regular Cab, Extended Cab, Crew Cab

Trim: WT, LS, LTZ

Engine: 4.8-liter V8 (195 hp, 260 lb-ft), 5.3-liter V8 (315 hp, 335 lb-ft); 6.2-liter V8 (403 hp, 417 lb-ft)

GVWR: 7,000 lb max.

Towing capacity (hitch): 10,600 lb max.

Chevy Silverado 1500 models range from jobsite-ready Work Truck models to the luxuriously appointed LTZ Crew Cab. For 2010, the Silverado 1500's range of 4.8L, 5.3L and 6.2L V-8 engines offer E85 capability, while the 4.8L and 5.3L engines now feature variable valve timing.

A six-speed automatic transmission is added to regular and extended cab models with the 5.3L V-8 (previously it was offered only on crew cab models); and all 5.3L-equipped models feature a standard 3.08 axle ratio. These changes for 2010 contribute to improved fuel economy. Additional changes for 2010 include safety improvements in side curtain airbags and seat-mounted side airbags made standard on all models. A USB port is included on all but base radios for playing digital recordings, a rear-view camera system is available and two new exterior colors have been added.

Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty

Models: 2500HD, 3500HD

Cab: Regular, Crew Cab

Trim: WT, LT, LTZ

Engine: Vortec 6.0 (360 hp, 380 lb-ft), 6.6-liter Duramax diesel (397 hp, 765 lb-ft)

*GVWR: 10,000 lb max.
Towing capacity (hitch): 17,000 lb max.*

New this summer, Chevrolet's 2011 Silverado 3500HD trucks are stronger, sturdier and more secure. They handle a wider range of applications with a more powerful 6.6L Duramax diesel option. Also new this summer, are the commercial 2500HD and 3500HD-based box-delete models.

New frames on chassis cab and box-delete models support greater capabilities and increased weight ratings. Larger fuel tanks are available – 36 gallon, single tank on box-delete and up to 63.5-gallon combined dual-tank capacity on chassis cab models with the 6.6L Duramax – and fuel economy improvements enable greater driving range between fuel stops.

An all-new exhaust brake feature provides greater control on grades and reduced brake pad wear. Standard "dually" wheel size is 17 inches; 3500HD single rear wheel size increases to 18 inches. The 2010 emissions diesel exhaust fluid system is designed not to interfere with body installations. Communications technology options include mobile WiFi, USB connectivity, Bluetooth connectivity, XM Satellite Radio, OnStar 9.0 and navigation.

Dodge Ram Heavy Duty

Models: 2500, 3500

Cab: Regular, Crew Cab, Mega Cab

Trim: ST, SLT, TRX, Laramie, Power Wagon

Engine: 5.7-liter Hemi (383 hp, 400 lb-ft); Cummins 6.7-liter Turbo Diesel (350 hp, 650 lb-ft)

GVWR: 9,600 lb max.

Towing capacity (hitch): 17,600 lb max.

Bolder styling for the HD comes from earlier Rams, including a lean forward grill and blocky fenders, and includes updated interiors. New on the HD are the one-piece steel body sides for the dually, eliminating the fiberglass fender extensions. The stretch of the cab to a true crew cab means a genuine four-door, six-person cab. New engine controls for the 5.7-gasoline engines mean additional economy in deceleration mode. Standard power is the gasoline Hemi that's up to 383 hp – a number many Dodge fans will remember from the muscle cars. Transmission is a 5-speed automatic.

Cummins is still the diesel power for the big pickups, though in the HD it comes with selective catalytic reduction technology for exhaust emissions instead of the NOx adsorber of the lighter diesel trucks.

Towing and GVWR are up from 2009 and an integrated brake controller and long-arm power mirrors for towing are available. Convenience options include tire pressure monitoring and an iPod link to the stereo.

Ford F-150

Cab: Regular Cab, SuperCab, SuperCrew

Trim: XL, STX, XLT, FX4, Lariat, King Ranch, Platinum, Harley-Davidson

Engine: 4.6-liter, 2V V8 (248 hp, 294 lb-ft); 4.6-liter, 3V V8 (292 hp, 320 lb-ft) 5.4-liter, 3V Triton V8 (310 hp, 365 lb-ft)

GVWR: 8,200 lb max.

Towing capacity (hitch): 11,300 lb max.

F150 moves into its second year of a 2009 makeover. The base engine is the 4.6 V8 with two-valve heads, now with a three-valve model option for more performance and better fuel economy – up to 21 highway – for two-wheel drive. The Triton 5.4 is optional. While bigger F-Series get the new 6.7 diesel, a smaller diesel for the F-150 diesel is on hold. For 2010 there's Advance Track stability control and trailer anti-sway are standard; integrated trailer brake controller and rear view camera are optional.

Seven trim packages go from the basic XL to Platinum with a top-of-the-line Harley Davidson. King Ranch and Platinum models now feature second-row heated seats, power-sliding windows with defroster and Sony 6-disc in-dash CD changer.

Exclusive to Ford are an in-dash computer with high-speed Internet; wireless accessories include a mouse and printer. Tool Link is an RFID asset-tracking system that maintains a real-time inventory of tools and equipment stored in the vehicle and the Cable Lock security system secures large equipment in the cargo area

Nissan Titan

Cab: King Cab, Crew Cab, Crew Cab SE

Trim: XE, SE, Pro-4X, LE

Engine: 5.6-liter DOHC Endurance (317 hp, 385 lb-ft)

Towing capacity: 9,500 lb max.

The Nissan Titan full-size pickup, now in its seventh year, features new standard safety equipment and an SE Value Package option. The SE Value Truck Package offers cloth captain's chairs, tow hitch, Bluetooth hands-free phone system, 8-way power-adjustable driver's seat, fog lights and more – at a substantial savings over purchasing the features separately. Other enhancements for the 2010 model year include side and curtain air bags, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) and Active Brake Limited Slip (ABLS) as standard equipment on all models.

The 2010 Nissan Titan is offered in King Cab and Crew Cab body styles with a choice of 4x4 and 4x2 drive configurations, along with a Crew Cab SE Long Wheelbase model for even greater flexibility. Titan is also available as a Flexible Fuel Vehicle (FFV) designed to run on E85 Ethanol.

Toyota Tundra

Models: Tundra, Limited

Cab: Regular Cab, Double Cab, CrewMax

Trim: Tundra, Limited, Work Truck

Engine: 4.0-liter V6 (236 hp, 266 lb-ft) 4.6-liter i-Force V8 (310 hp, 327 lb-ft); 5.7-liter i-Force (381 hp, 401 lb-ft)

GVWR: 7,200 lb max.

Towing capacity: 10,800 lb max.

All 2010 Tundra models feature standard and optional exterior, mechanical, safety and convenience features, including an all-new 4.6-liter i-FORCE V8 engine. Two new packages for 2010 include the Platinum Package and the Work Truck.

All 2010 Tundra models have a redesigned front grille and tail lamps. The Tundra truck has a new two-bar grille design and the Limited truck has a unique billet-style grille. Additional standard equipment includes driver and front passenger knee airbags, height-adjustable headlamps, and a redesigned seven-pin towing hitch connector that sits above the hitch to help avoid damage during high departure angle driving.

The new 2010 Tundra Work Truck is aimed at commercial truck buyers or anyone who requires a tough no-frills truck with exceptional cargo and towing capacity. Vinyl seating and rubber flooring are available in Regular and Double Cab.

Protect the life of your engine – guaranteed!

Valvoline will guarantee your engine for up to 300,000 miles if you use their products for routine maintenance.

That's how confident they are in the quality of their motor oil.

To qualify, your vehicle must have less than 125,000 miles on it when you begin the program, be a 1991 model year or younger, be gasoline-powered and have an odometer.

Then, all you have to do is change your oil every 3,000 to 4,000 miles. Use Valvoline SynPower Full Synthetic or MaxLife Full Synthetic and your engine is guaranteed for 300,000 miles. If you use Valvoline MaxLife or DuraBlend, your engine is guaranteed for 225,000 miles. Or use Valvoline Premium Conventional and your engine is guaranteed to 150,000 miles.

Log your oil changes online and keep your receipts. That's it. (If you are a Valvoline Instant Oil Change customer, they keep the receipts for you.) To make a claim, you must have been active in the program for 18 months. Read the full terms and conditions at www.valvoline.com/espanol.

SAFETY, p. 20

Safety: Heavy Lifting Done Right

With proper training and technique, back injuries can be reduced significantly.

Back injuries are one of the leading causes of disability, affecting approximately 1 million people each year, many as a result of lifting incorrectly. The following tips will help you anticipate potential lifting hazards and train your employees to lift and carry heavy objects safely.

Start safely

Stretching before a long work day is always a good idea. Many large contracting companies now require all tradesmen on their projects to perform a few minutes of simple stretching exercises each day before work begins on the site. The few minutes of unproductive time is a small price to pay, compared to the lost time and cost resulting from personal injuries on the work site.

Before lifting, check for tags on the object that will tell you what it weighs.

If you wear gloves, make sure they fit properly, and do not reduce your grip.

Position your feet at least shoulder width apart, and face the direction of the lift. Keeping your feet too close together gives you poor balance and poor leverage as you lift.

Be sure to wear proper footwear that prevents slipping and make sure you have a clear solid pathway. A sudden slip or trip can exert tremendous pressure on your lower back and increase the likelihood of an injury. Have a partner assist you if the load you are carrying obstructs your view of the path.

The lift

To prevent undue strain on your lower back, it is vital that you bend at the knees, while keeping your upper body as vertical as possible, then lift with your legs, not your back or upper body. The most common cause of back injury is bending at the waist and keeping legs straight, which increases the force exerted on the lower back dramatically.

Lift only as much as you can safely handle and keep the lift in your "power zone" (above the knees, below the shoulders and as close to your body as possible.) A load of 80 pounds or more should never be lifted more than 12 inches vertically. Always try to stage your load in a way that prevents you from having to lift it from a level below your knees or higher than your shoulders.

Never twist or rotate your upper body while lifting or carrying. Instead, pivot your feet to change direction. Avoid clinching your neck and upper back during the lift. This can force your vertebrae together and cause pain and injury

Use extra caution if the object you are lifting is unstable. A sudden shift of weight distribution puts additional stress on your back. It may be necessary to repackage the item to reduce the possibility of a shift of weight during the lift or to reduce the overall weight of the object. Get a good grip, use both hands whenever possible and avoid jerking motions. Lift the load slowly and evenly.

If any of these precautions are impossible, get help to make the lift. Waiting a few minutes for assistance is a much wiser use of resources than being injured needlessly.

More ways to prevent injury

Back injuries can be the result of a single traumatic event, or they can develop gradually as a result of "micro-trauma." Micro-trauma are small injuries that occur during repetitive activity but aren't severe enough to cause pain immediately. Ultimately they result in a more severe back injury. In other words, you could be injuring your back and not know it.

Minimize the chance of injuries by using lift-assist devices or material-handling equipment.

Use two or more people to make the lift, where appropriate. If two people are carrying the same object, they should try to face the same direction in which the object is being carried. If more than two people are involved in a lift or moving an object, one of them should give signals and directions to the others.

Allow short breaks between lifting activities or every hour, and vary worker's tasks through the day, so they aren't using and fatiguing the same muscles for an extended period of time.

Provide continuous training and education on safe work practices, hazards and controls. See OSHA's (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Technical Manual for Back Disorders and Injuries for additional information, including required record keeping and procedures. Visit www.osha.gov or call (877) 702-7473.
-By Bruce Webb, Avalon Construction Services

TIP: Back belts are not recognized by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) as effective engineering controls to prevent back injury. The effectiveness of back belts in the prevention of low back injuries has not been proven in the work environment.

Falls are the leading cause of death in construction work. The right response can save lives. Learn what to do in the event of a fall. Read "Accidents Happen" at MiConstruGuia.com.

Keep the load close to your body and lift by pushing up with your legs.

HOW TO, p. 23

How to Install Vinyl Siding

Vinyl siding installation allows for movement during temperature changes.

Vinyl siding, a popular exterior wall finish, expands and contracts significantly with changing temperatures. To allow for this movement, it must be installed correctly.

The only specialized tools you will need to install vinyl siding are (1) a nail hole punch, for punching holes in cut panels; (2) a snap-lock punch, for dimpling panels where they are pressed into utility trim; and (3) an unlocking tool. Vinyl siding can be cut with tin-snips, with a circular saw fitted with a plywood blade, or by scoring the panel with a knife and snapping it in two.

The basic components in a typical vinyl siding installation are:

- **Siding panels**, usually in 12-foot-6-inch lengths, with a nailing flange along the top edge. Just below the nailing flange is a lip or “locking” channel, and along the bottom edge is a “J” shape that interlocks to the locking channel on the panel below.
- **J-channel** is used to trim the cut end of the siding panels – typically, where the siding meets windows and doors.
- **Inside corners** cover the cut ends of panels where they meet at an inside corner of the wall.
- **Outside corners** cover the cut ends of panels where they meet at an outside corner of the wall.
- **Under-sill or utility trim** has a tight loop rather than an open “J”. These are used anywhere the nailing flange has been cut off the siding panel, usually below windows or eaves. The cut edge of the siding panel can be dimpled with the snap-lock punch to allow it to snap into the utility trim.
- The **Starter Strip** determines the height and level of your initial siding panel. The strip has a nailing flange and locking channel that will interlock with the “J” channel along the bottom of the siding panel.
- **Fascia panels** cover the vertical face of the fascia.
- **Soffit panels** usually come in 12-foot rolls and must be cut to width. They cover the underside of flat or pitched soffit eaves.

Before you begin

Before you start the installation, tie any loose branches or shrubs away from the house so you have ample room to work. Then remove anything that will interfere with the installation, such as gutters and downspouts, light fixtures and shutters. Scrape out any caulk between old siding and windows and doors so the new vinyl trim pieces will fit better.

If the walls are uneven, shim out low spots with wood furring. If you are covering old lap siding, nail the furring over the siding at 16 inches off center from the foundation to the eaves. Also nail furring around all windows and doors.

Keep it level

Using a dry line or laser, determine which corner of the house is lowest. Measure up from that corner the distance specified by the siding manufacturer. At that point; snap a level chalk line around the perimeter of the house. Using that line as your guide, nail on the starter strip, and leave ¼-inch between pieces that butt together.

Install all inside and outside corner trim pieces. Use a small piece to locate the edges, and snap a vertical chalk line to keep the pieces straight. The corner pieces should begin ¼ inch from the eaves and extend ¼ inch below the bottom of the siding.

Install J-channel at the top of the wall where the siding will end; on the sides and across the tops of all doors and windows, where the soffit meets the wall face; and behind the fascia board of all soffits and eaves. Where soffits/eaves turn a corner, you can install back-to-back J-channels at a 45-degree angle from the outside corner of the eave to the corner of the wall and fit angle-cut soffit panels to make the transition.

Cut the soffit panel to the correct span and install it between the J-channels. Remember to cut the panels ¼ inch short of the span. Remove any gutters and nail the fascia cover panels at about 4-foot off center. Then replace the gutters.

Install trim below windows.

Beginning at the starter strip, install siding panels with 1-inch overlap where the panels meet. Use galvanized nails, and keep all nails 1/16 inch "proud" of the vinyl surface to allow for movement. Never nail through the vinyl. Always use the slot provided, or create a slot with the nail hole punch on cut pieces. Position nails in the center of the slot so side-to-side movement can occur.

Start the first panel of each course at the end opposite the most common view so subsequent overlaps face away and are less noticeable. Once you interlock a siding panel to the one below, let it hang before nailing. Do not pull the panel up tight.

Stagger joints about 4 feet apart, and remember to leave ¼ inch wherever a panel butts into a corner or J channel. Keep things straight – snap level lines at 4- or 8-inch increments horizontally. Align panels with the tops of windows and doors when possible, and adjust the starter strip accordingly.

When a panel must be notched to fit below a window, mark the cut out section and then cut vertically with snips. Score the panel horizontally and snap it apart. Use the snap-lock punch to dimple the cut edge at 16 inch off center with the lugs on the outside of the panel, then insert into the under-sill trim. Where panels overlap, cut away the nailing hem so there is ¼ inch between them. This will prevent the panels from buckling when they expand.

–By Bruce Webb, Avalon Construction Services

Tip: Trimming around light fixtures, outlets, meter sockets and vents is easier if you use preformed J-boxes. These boxes make trimming faster, are more weather resistant and create a more professional looking installation. Don't attach them until the siding is in place. That way you can align the box with the top of the wall panel.

Soffit panels are installed into a J channel along the face of the wall and nailed to the underside of the existing wood fascia. For this application, aluminum soffit was used because it is easier to shape it to match the fascia.

An aluminum fascia wrap is installed to cover the wood fascia board, and a bend at the bottom of the pane covers the rough end of the soffit panels.

Once the building wrap and vertical J channel have been installed, the starter strip is nailed over the wrap and fit into the J channel. The first piece of siding panel snaps over the starter strip and extends into the J channel.

A siding panel has been measured and cut, and the notch has been removed so it can be installed under the window.

A bent piece of aluminum has been installed over the wrap to act as sill flashing. Over that, a typical outside corner piece has been installed to receive the siding panels.

THE HOME DEPOT, p. 27

THE HOME DEPOT: Giving Back to the Community

Helping build stronger Hispanic communities through sports and volunteerism.

Hundreds of associates from The Home Depot have brought the passion of the soccer field to Hispanic communities across the nation by partnering with the Mexican National Soccer Team and Hands On Network. The group completed refurbishment projects in six cities where the Mexican National Team played friendly matches leading up to the World Cup: Oakland, Los Angeles, Charlotte, New York, Chicago and Houston.

"The Home Depot always seeks to team up with individuals and organizations that are as dedicated to giving back to the community through volunteerism as we are," says Jennifer Oliveras, sports marketing manager for The Home Depot. The projects, done in collaboration with soccer legend Luis Hernandez "El Matador" and other Mexican National Team players, will have a positive, lasting impact on the lives of children in these communities.

"I admire The Home Depot and its associates for their hands-on service and commitment to giving back to Hispanic communities," says Hernandez, who led the Mexican National Team in 1998 to one of their best World Cup showings. "I look forward to working alongside them at each project site and to being a part of a program that's making a difference in the lives of Hispanic families."

The Home Depot is aware that many schools and organizations are experiencing budget cuts, and is proud to be able to help improve their facilities with this type of beautification project. In Oakland, The Home Depot partnered with Learning Without Limits, a college preparatory elementary school, and painted game boards on the ground, repainted interior spaces of the school and installed bulletin boards to show student accomplishments.

In Charlotte, volunteers worked at Collinswood Language Academy, one of the first schools in the state to offer a dual-language Spanish Immersion Program. Together with representatives from the Mexican National Team and Hands On Network, The Home Depot volunteers revamped the front entrance to the academy, spruced up the soccer field, built benches for students and faculty, and created raised beds for gardening.

"Our work made a world of difference for these kids and made them feel really special," says Mark Ortiz, district manager with The Home Depot. "As a Latino, I feel very attached to these projects. They show the community how much we care about the communities we serve, and it was a lot of fun to have the kids watch us put it all together."

It is no secret that soccer has always been a big part of the Hispanic community, and bringing sports and volunteerism together is a great way to have a positive impact on communities in which The Home Depot operates. At Collinswood Language Academy, Hernandez and Mexican National Team goalie Memo Ochoa did more than trade their cleats for tools. "Both soccer stars signed autographs for the children, and "El Matador" spent time working with the kids doing soccer practices and scrimmage," says Ortiz. "It was fun for them to do all that on top of working to beautify the school."

"In each city we visit, the community is always excited when they see Hernandez and current Mexican National Team players," says Oliveras. "They are well-received wherever they go, and it is a testament to the popularity of the Mexican National Team in this country."

A positive, lasting impact

In the last two years, community projects like these have benefited more than 10,000 Hispanic families with 1,200 The Home Depot associates donating more than 9,600 hours of service. More than a dozen former and current Mexican National Soccer Team players have participated in the program. As a proud supporter of the Mexican National Team since 2003, The Home Depot is honored to work with these players to make a positive, lasting impact in Hispanic neighborhoods.

"As a contractor, it is important to me that the retailer I get my materials from is not only committed to providing the best products, prices and services, but is also committed to helping my community," says Carlos Perez, general manager of Wilson Interiors in San Bernardino, Calif. "My Home Depot Pro Sales contact even brings Spanish-speaking associates to show my team tips on doing drywall and other important subjects. They make me feel like I am more than just a customer."

"We hope through these community initiatives, the Hispanic community understands The Home Depot is committed to making a difference in the lives of Hispanics through its volunteer efforts," says Oliveras.

For more on how The Home Depot gives back to communities, visit <http://corporate.homedepot.com> and chose 'How We're Helping' from the menu (English only.)

-By Adriana Sibaja

Héctor Moreno, Tony Quintanilla, Luis Hernández and Javier Hernández roll up their sleeves. The Home Depot is honored to work with these players to make a positive, lasting impact in Hispanic neighborhoods.

A group of The Home Depot associates paint attractive murals at a school. In the last two years, community projects like this one have benefited more than 10,000 Hispanic families.

PROBLEM/SOLUTION: SILICONE CAULK, p. 31

Removing and Replacing Silicone Caulk

If you need to recaulk a tub or shower for a bathroom remodel, these tips could help.

Problem: You need to remove the old silicone caulk completely so the new caulk will stick.

Solution: To remove old silicone caulk, start by removing as much as you can with a paint scraper, razor or a caulk removal tool. Be careful not to damage the surface.

After you scrape off as much of the old caulk as you can, apply a caulk removal product, following the manufacturer's directions. It won't dissolve the silicone, but it will make the caulk softer so you can scrape more away. You can get the same result by soaking paper towels with mineral spirits and covering the caulk with the towels. Then cover the paper towels with plastic wrap for an hour or more.

Scrape the caulk again and you should be able to remove more. Next, apply a thin coat of the caulk removal product all along the caulk seam. Leave it the recommended time and then scrub the area with a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser to remove the remaining caulk. It will also help remove scuff marks left by the razor or scraper. Dampen the Magic Eraser with water and rub.

Problem: It appears the old silicone caulk is gone, but how can you be sure?

Solution: Rinse off the caulk removal product completely and dry with a cloth or paper towel. If you used mineral spirits, wash off the paint thinner using a product such as Simple Green and then rinse the area with clean water and dry. Brush a small amount of a fine powder, drywall joint compound or flour work well, on the seam.

Rub the powder with your finger and it will embed itself in any areas that still have softened caulk on them. Mark the spots (a piece of masking tape works) and apply the caulk removal product just to those areas. Scrape with a plastic scraper. Repeat to be sure all caulk has been removed and allow the area to dry completely before applying the new caulk.

Problem: If caulking is not your specialty, try this method. It takes a little more time, but the result will be worth it.

Solution: Mask the area with ¾-inch painter's tape approximately ¼ inch above and below the seam you want to caulk. Apply the tape as straight as possible, and press down the edge so no caulk can bleed below it. Caulk the joint and run a dry finger along the seam so the bead of caulk is uniform in size. Remove the masking tape and the overflow of caulk will come with it.

Allow the new caulk to rest a few minutes, then "finish" the caulk bead by dipping a finger in a 50/50 solution of liquid dishwashing detergent and water and running it along the joint. The soap will prevent the caulk from sticking to your finger, while creating the shape you want. Continue to dip your finger in the solution and run it along the caulk, until the entire area is uniform. If you remove too much caulk from an area, reapply caulk and shape it. It will stick to the new caulk that has the soap solution on it. Allow the caulk to cure overnight.

–By Pam Gruebnau

TIP: Before resorting to removing mildewed caulk, try this. Mix baking soda with straight bleach to make a paste you can spread along the mildewed caulk with a putty knife or spoon. Cover the paste with strips of plastic wrap to keep it from drying out and leave it overnight. When you remove the plastic wrap and wash away the paste, the stain should be gone. If it isn't, repeat.

BEST PRACTICES: DOORS and WINDOWS, p. 32

More Choices for More Satisfied Customers

The wide variety of styles, materials and options offered for window and door replacements makes it more important than ever that you know what's available. These manufacturers offer high-quality products in styles your customer's will love.

American Craftsman – Series 8500 double-hung premium vinyl replacement windows allow fast, easy window replacement. Heavy-duty weather stripping provides energy efficiency and a brick mold exterior frame adds curb appeal. Custom sizes available. (Available in the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast)

Andersen – Replace windows the fast, easy, beautiful way with 400 Series Woodwright double-hung replacement windows. Featuring four interior wood options and low maintenance vinyl-clad wood exteriors, Woodwright windows are available in custom sizes for an energy-efficient, weather-tight fit.

Andersen – NEW! Andersen 100 Series windows and patio doors use a patented composite material 2X stronger than vinyl in five exterior colors, including dark colors that won't fade, flake, blister or peel. Energy efficient and low maintenance, 100 Series offers a variety of styles, shapes and sizes, including custom sizes. (Available in select stores and markets in the West, Midwest, South and Southeast)

Atrium – HR Series 300 Windows from Atrium are designed for both new construction and replacement. Atrium windows are manufactured to reflect regional preferences and include a full line of impact-resistant products.

Feather River – Decorative interior doors from Feather River are available in a vast array of styles and designs to please your discriminating customers. Styles are available to match the most popular cabinet, molding, floor and furniture styles available today.

Masonite – Palazzo Series Interior Doors feature a thicker raised panel design with an exceptionally smooth surface. Constructed to replicate the weight and richness of stile and rail wood doors and to resist warping, shrinking and cracking. Special order only.

Feather River – Mahogany woodgrain fiberglass exterior doors will not rust, dent, or rot and feature Ball bearing hinges for smooth operation, sill key system to resist jamb rot, energy-efficient polyurethane foam core and a limited lifetime warranty.

Masonite – Oakville 3/4 oval platinum HD steel entry doors with energy-saving polyurethane core replicate the appearance of a high-end wood door. Finished with a baked-on primer for added durability, the doors feature a rot-resistant bottom rail of a high-performance composite material.

Clopay – Clopay offers a range of steel garage doors that can be customized with a variety of panel styles, insulation options, decorative windows and six factory-finished paint colors. Nine categories of wind load certified doors are available to meet Miami-Dade and International Building Code requirements.

Andersen – 400 Series Frenchwood gliding patio doors feature an innovative locking system provides weather tightness and enhanced security, and heavy-duty rollers and stainless steel track provide smooth operation. Available as a kit for easy transport to the jobsite or fully assembled and ready to install. Custom sizes available.

Feather River – Decorative patio doors from Feather River Provide provide decorative glass pattern, while maintaining good visibility to the exterior of the home.

Masonite – The 15 Lite external grille French glass lite swing patio door is factory-primed steel with a wood frame that is ready to paint. The door is pre-drilled to accept almost any handle set and features safety-tempered glass and an energy saving insulated inner core.

Masonite – The 1 Lite mini-blind French swing patio door is factory-primed steel with a wood frame that is ready to paint. The mini-blind raises, lowers and tilts for control of light and privacy. Pre-drilled to accept most handle sets, the door features safety-tempered glass and an energy saving insulated inner core.

PRODUCT GUIDE, P. 43

Delivers the best cut possible

RIDGID's new R4090 10-inch variable-speed commercial tile saw.

The new R4090 commercial tile saw combines a variable-speed motor that delivers the best cut for everything from porcelain to glass. This productive tile saw also features a unique cutting head, unlimited bevel range, custom material speed selector and Never-Dry automatic water fill system. Roll the saw to and from the job on 8-inch wheels that can even negotiate stairs. **RIDGID**

Surface conditioner, primer & sealer in one

For masonry, stucco, CMUs, and poured and pre-cast concrete.

Behr's new Surface Conditioner, Primer & Sealer is designed to use on a variety of surfaces, including interior and exterior above-grade masonry, stucco, cut masonry units, and poured and pre-cast concrete. It's also an ideal primer before repainting. The clear formulation means fewer topcoats when no color change is desired. **Behr**

More power, more convenience, more tools

New 18V LXT combo kit includes free cordless saw.

With Makita's LXT407X1 18V LXT Lithium-ion cordless combo kit, you'll get a versatile ½-inch two-speed hammer driver drill, a powerful ¼-inch hex impact driver weighing just 3.3 pounds, a reciprocating saw with high-torque motor, a convenient four-position flashlight – and a free cordless 6-1/2 inch circular saw with 16T blade. Available exclusively at The Home Depot. **Makita**

Powers through nails

Do the job the way it was meant to be done.

Nails are no match for the Irwin Speedbor with WeldTec auger bit. The hard, welded cutting edge drills through nail-embedded wood with ease and delivers twice the nail cutting life of any other ship auger bit – even in the toughest materials. **Irwin**

Ryobi Tek4 Stud Sensor does it all

Impact, dust and water resistant.

Powered by a 4V Lithium-ion battery, Ryobi's Tek4 Stud Sensor delivers accurate wall scans, detects both wood and metal studs, provides live-wire detection, and features multiple-depth detection modes for increased accuracy. **Ryobi**

Comfortable protection on the job

Breathable fabric will keep you cool.

Unlike other coveralls, the KleenGuard Chemical Splash Coveralls are made of a tough, breathable fabric that allows moisture to escape, keeping you cool while providing superior protection. The fabric provides a dry particle barrier and withstands many common job site chemicals. **KleenGuard**

Powerful performance, stylish design

For your next bathroom remodel or construction.

The Sterling Stinson All-in-One Toilet includes everything you'll need to install the toilet – tank, bowl, seat, wax ring, bolts and caps – saving time and money. The toilet's footprint will cover discolored flooring and old caulk left behind by standard two-piece toilets, and the 1.28 gallon per flush toilet is EPA WaterSense qualified. **Kohler**

Cuts five times faster

Clean, fast cuts in wood, plastic and composites.

Carbon Hole Saws from Vermont American use an exclusive six-tooth design to cut five times faster than traditional hole saws. Extra large gullets clear chips and prevent heat buildup for longer life. The one-piece design combines the mandrel and pilot bit for easier operation. **Vermont American**

Cut in-place, overhead and in tight spaces

Up to 45 percent lighter than deep cut saws.

Weighing as much as 45 percent less than deep cut saws, Milwaukee's new Compact Band Saw makes it easier to cut in-place, overhead or in tight spaces. The saws have a 3-1/4 inch x 3-1/4 inch cut capacity and a tool-free adjustable material guide (patent-pending) so you can cut flush to installed materials. **Milwaukee**

For jobs that require more speed and control.

QUIKRETE Fast-Setting Concrete.

Use QUIKRETE Fast-Setting Concrete to set posts, sleeves and anchors and for pouring slabs 2-inches or thicker, and for other jobs where you need a fast-setting general purpose concrete. The uniformly blended mixture of stone or gravel, sand and special cements is available in 50-pound bags. **QUIKRETE**

Save up to 30 percent.

Crestfield Venetian Bronze three-piece kit.

Crestfield Venetian Bronze three-piece kit from Liberty includes a 24-inch towel bar, toilet paper holder and towel ring. The kit saves as much as 30 percent compared to buying the pieces individually. Coordinating decorative cabinet hardware is also available. **Liberty Hardware**

Chelsea European-inspired vanity combo

Combines style of hand-painted furniture with premium white porcelain sink.

The Chelsea two-piece vanity combo combines the style of hand-painted furniture with a premium white porcelain sink. The vanity, with six-way adjustable European-style concealed hinges, is 26 x 17 x 35. The vanity top is pre-drilled for 4-inch center-mount faucet. A matching wall mirror is sold separately. **Woodcrafters**

Increase productivity with SDS-Plus Rotary Hammers

Reduces vibration up to 50 percent.

DeWalt's Model D25223K and D25323K 1-inch SDS-Plus rotary hammers feature the company's Shocks-Active Vibration Control system, which cuts vibration as much as 50 percent. Model D25324K also features a quick-change chuck system with tool holder and three-jawed keyless ½-inch chuck for added convenience. **DeWalt**

Roll those tools to the job

Large main compartment for easy tool access.

The Husky 18-inch Rolling Tool Tote has seven internal pockets and 11 external pockets to keep your tools organized and accessible. A heavy-duty telescoping handle and larger wheels, make rolling the tote easy, while the heavy-duty, water-resistant material protects your tools when they aren't in use. For added convenience, the tote has carrying handles, a dual-zipper top with pull strings and two external tape measure loops. **Husky**

Mix and apply concrete with ease

The strongest all-purpose concrete mix available.

Expect 67 percent more coverage than conventional mixes with Sakrete Maximizer. This lightweight, high-yield concrete mix includes a higher volume of cement for a more uniform mix, and easier mixing and application. Maximizer is also 40 percent stronger than typical mixes. **Sakrete**