

Building Materials Now Improved

This already is "the year of the home owner."

Building material manufacturers are pouring out a flood of new products to fit every possible decorating scheme, eliminate or minimize future upkeep, make installation easy, and meet almost any budget.

A just-completed survey of building material dealers in major U.S. cities by Georgia-Pacific Corp., a national manufacturer of wood and gypsum products, indicates "there are more than 1,000 choices among exterior walls, cabinetwork and materials just for interior and totally new or vastly improved built-ins.

"Most of these products already are available at local dealers," the company says, "and the remainder should be generally available shortly."

Emphasis this year is on factory finished materials that cut on-site time, muss and expense.

For interiors choices range all the way from exotic new hardwood walls, actually in-laid with complementary wood species, to a new vinyl-clad gypsumboard drywall with over 120 choices of permanent colors and patterns. One hardwood plywood wall

looks like 16-planks and can change color in minutes with contact tape that fits grooves between the "planks."

For the exterior are sidings that range from a completely new overlaid plywood lap type, 16 feet long with no face joints and with an automatic alignment feature, to a new fir plywood grooved panel that looks like more expensive and hard-to-find

cedar. The latter has a polyurethane factory stain job that is said to resist weathering for years.

For closets and utility walls there are grainprinted hardboards that look like real wood, are low in cost and can be purchased with the top two-thirds perforated to hold movable shelf brackets and hangers. The idea proved a success last year. Now

there is a choice of several new woodgrain finishes.

The report also reveals that a "trade secret" of the fine furniture and cabinetwork industry, a dimensionally stable and easily worked flakeboard with a vinyl factory-laminated face, will soon become available to do-it-yourselfers for built-ins and similar jobs. The same vinyl in textured woodgrains and pat-

terns is being factory laminated to hardboard for wall paneling, sliding cabinet doors and related uses where the thicker (usually 3/4-inch) flakeboard is not required.

For example, the report says, "factory finished hardwood plywood wall panelings such as readily available Philippine mahogany can be purchased for as little as 16 cents a square foot.

Concrete Costs Less This Way

Building your patio this month?

Herwood Building Supplies, 24500 S. Normandie, has begun a new operation designed to save the do-it-yourselfer some money: haul your own ready-mixed concrete.

A dump trailer which carries one cubic yard of ready-mixed concrete can be attached easily to the family car. All you do is drive home and start pouring the concrete.

Herwood Building Supplies is introducing the new service in southern California. Reports are that similar services in northern California have proven very successful. The local firm is the only location in southern California currently providing the haul your own concrete facilities.

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