

## Tommy Walsh to promote Catnic's Brikmat



TV presenter Tommy Walsh has joined forces with Catnic to promote the company's brick-spacing system Brikmat.

The system uses a plastic spacer mat, which is laid along the top of each course of bricks to allow for a consistent course height.

The mat also helps keep the horizontal and vertical level and gauge at every course, minimises mortar inconsistencies and makes working in awkward spaces simpler.

The system, and Tommy Walsh, will be on show at this year's Home-building & Renovating Show at the NEC in Birmingham in March.

TEL: 029 2033 7900  
www.catnic.com

## Addis offers recycling tips with its Smart bin



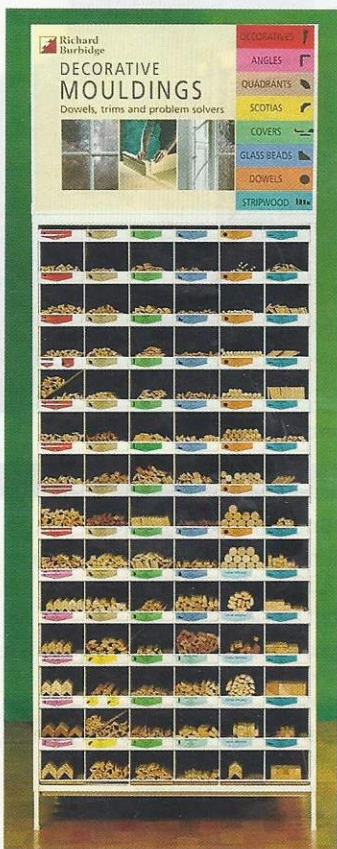
The Addis Smart bin has a rotating opening lid to offer stylish practicality. The lid rotates to one side and is large enough to take a six-pint carton.

The plastic bin has been designed to conceal the bin liner for a neater appearance and comes in two sizes. The 30-litre multipurpose bin has an RRP of £14.99 and the 50-litre family size bin, which features a footplate opening, RRP £19.99.

Each bin comes with a 'Watch Your Waste' leaflet, produced by Addis in conjunction with Wastewatch. Recycle Now to give consumers practical tips about how to recycle.

TEL: 0800 511 111  
www.addis.co.uk

## Richard Burbidge's new merchandisers



Richard Burbidge is introducing a new range of user-friendly merchandisers, designed to maximise sales and improve stockholding for its range of decorative mouldings.

The 1m, 1.5m and 2m boxes arrange the mouldings in vertical columns according to product group and size to aid product selection and prevent the stock from warping.

Colour-coded header cards feature new photography and rack labelling has been improved.

The new racks also include a local specials area to enable stockists to concentrate on profiles that are popular within specific stores or locations.

TEL: 01691 678300  
www.richardburbidge.co.uk

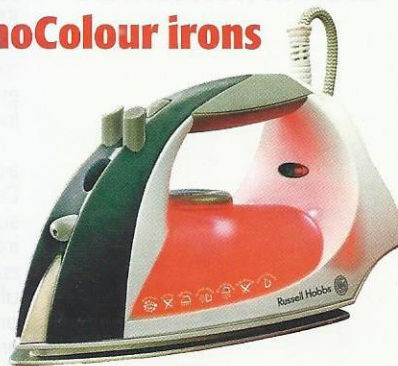
## Colourful option with Russell Hobbs ThermoColour irons

The new ThermoColour irons from Russell Hobbs change colour automatically according to the temperature of the soleplate so the iron's temperature can be checked at a glance.

LED lights in the water tank are controlled by a sensor on the element. The colours are blue, green, lilac and red; blue representing the coldest and red the hottest.

Other features include variable steam and temperature settings, 35g/min steam output and 100g shot of steam. A self-clean function includes an anti-scale agent to prevent build up and the auto shut off function will switch the iron off after 30 seconds if the soleplate is down and 15 minutes when upright. RRP is £49.99.

TEL: 0845 658 9700 FAX: 0161 682 1708



## Hand-held concrete mixing with a Creter

Easy-to-use, compact and durable, according to the company the Creter concrete mixer allows one or two people to mix up to 36kg of cement in about a minute.

The product is a rectangular, tub-shaped bag with a handle at each of its four corners. Users simply put the cement mix and water in the Creter, lift it using the handles, fold the contents a few times and the job's done. No electrical or battery power is needed so it can be prepared anywhere.

It can also be used to move lawn clippings, leaves and prunings or virtually any other garden debris, as a portable feed trough for livestock or



even, filled with ice, as a drinks chiller. A merchandiser containing 10 units is available.

TEL: 01709 331234  
www.creter.co.uk

## Big Wipes launches tough industrial option



Big Wipes has launched Big Industrial Wipes and Industrial+ Big Wipes.

Both remove oil- and water-based paints, oil, tar and permanent marker, among other things, from hands, tools and surfaces, says the company.

The wipes come in a wallet pack of 20, tubs of 50 or 80 pull out sheets and a 250-wipe bucket. RRP's are £1.44, £2.54, £5.95 and £14.95 respectively. Industrial+ Big Wipes have an abrasive underside to assist in cleaning and come in tubs of 80 or 250 with RRP's of £7.95 and 19.95.

TEL: 01628 894374  
www.bigwipes.com

## Re-design for Frank Shaw nail packaging

Frank Shaw has re-launched its blister-packed range of Challenge tacks and panel pins.

The new folding clamp packs have been designed to accommodate a full range of small nail fixings and include product in higher volume value prices.

The packs feature a four-point opening system to prevent leakage but can be easily opened by consumer.

The range complements the company's traditional range of packs and has RRP's of between £1 and £1.75.



TEL: 01527 61111  
Fax: 01527 58111



# DIY WEEK

## Cleland resigns B&Q post for Somerfield job

A week after calling on suppliers to 'sit down and negotiate', B&Q's commercial director, John Cleland left the business on Wednesday February 8 to become operations director at Somerfield. His responsibilities have been handed over to Regis Schultz.

Schultz has been with B&Q as finance and systems director for over a year, and was previously at Castorama assisting with commercial changes at the French business.

Schultz will handle negotiations with suppliers. B&Q's speech to the BHHMA is still scheduled for March 30, however a replacement speaker has not been finalised.

Andy Vaughan, DIY director at the BHHMA said: "We are disappointed John Cleland is leaving after attempting to develop supplier relationships. Equally, we are disappointed a speaker has not been put forward by B&Q's management team at this time. We hope to announce someone in due course."

## Spear & Jackson calls time on Wednesbury factory

by Sarah McCarthy

Spear & Jackson is to close its garden tools manufacturing operation in Wednesbury and transfer production to its Sheffield site. A date for the closure has not yet been set.

Spear & Jackson's managing director Paul Moore told *DIY Week* that the firm is "in negotiations with various parties" to sell the West Midlands site. Part of the site had already been sold to a property developer over 12 months ago.

Staff have been informed of the decision early so that they can plan ahead.

Moore said that alternative employment for around 90 staff will be available in Sheffield if they are willing to relocate.

The move will allow the firm to reinvest capital to develop its manufacturing unit/warehouse and distribution facility in Sheffield.

In a statement, the com-



End of the line: garden tool production at Wednesbury will cease

pany said: 'Over the last 18 months we have embarked on a series of key initiatives designed to improve many aspects of the company's overall performance levels. The strategies behind these plans are to regenerate and modernise key areas of the business in order to meet ever-growing business and

customer demands.'

Spear & Jackson first became involved with the Wednesbury site in 1967 when Spearwell Tools was formed. Spearwell then changed its name to Spear & Jackson Tools in 1970. The factory was also used to make some military equipment during World War Two.

17 February 2000

### Dobbies dips

Sales flat but plans to roll out food halls on course

### NWF expands

Company goes on the acquisition trail

### Asda Living

Supermarket chain announces roll out of non-food format

### Multiple monopoly

New report presses Government to preserve retail diversity on UK's high streets

### City view

GUS makes gains and poor performance hits Kingfisher

### Profile

*DIY Week* takes a look at Kingfisher's 'market disruptor' trade format

### Garden tools

We look at trends in the market and at some of the latest product launches

### Pricewatch

## B&Q pulls marketing drive following fire

by Will Parsons

B&Q is to cancel its spring marketing campaign for kitchens after a warehouse fire last week, which wiped out kitchen stock worth £7 million.

The fire destroyed one of four warehouses at the company's Branston facility in Staffordshire. Measuring about 24,000sq m, the area affected by the blaze equates to more than a quarter of warehousing space at the site.

The building was chiefly concerned with the delivery of kitchens and contained stock including kitchen worktops, fittings and appliances and according to the company held about one per cent of the company's total stock.

B&Q has announced that the fire will mean that 'there will be some impact on customer deliveries of these products. B&Q will be con-



B&Q blaze: more than £7 million of stock was destroyed in the

tacting directly all those customers affected.'

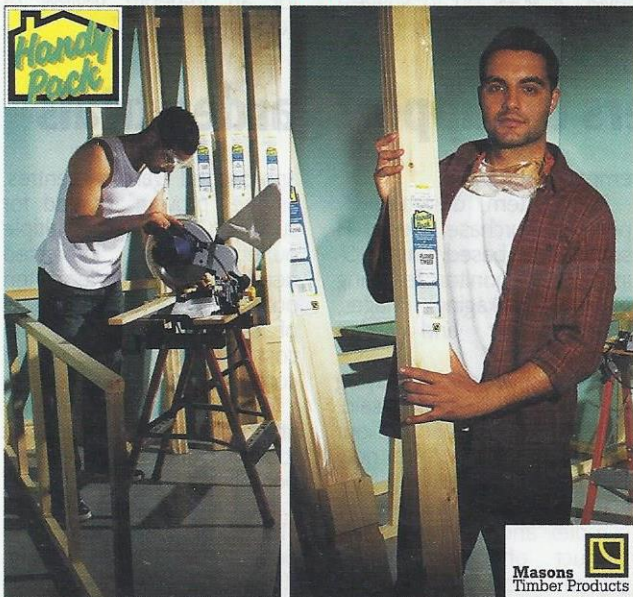
The site is leased and operated on the retailer's behalf by TNT and the company has said it is insured for both the damaged stock and losses caused by the associated interruption in business.

The fire, which broke out in the early hours of Tuesday 7 and was attended by 60 members of the Fire and

Rescue Service, is the setback for the company. *DIY Week* went to Kingfisher was due to publish its fourth quarter results, which city analysts expected to be disappointing. Earlier this month B&Q's Credit Suisse cut the group's profit forecasts for next year by 12 per cent to £1.1 billion and by 11 per cent for the following year to £1.0 billion.

## Masons Handy Pack

A popular range of 22 PSE's and 19 Architectural Mouldings. Easy to handle shrinkwrapped packs. Available from stock



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