



Sycamore introduces triple pack of care care wipes

Sycamore UK, makers of Big Wipes, has launched a new triple pack of car care wipes.

The 180mm x 230mm throwaway wipes are impregnated with cleaning solvents and emulsifiers, blended for specific use.

The pack contains wipes for the car interior, wipes for the exterior and wipes for glass. Ready to use they will remove dirt, oil, tar, grease, insects, bird lime, tree sap, paints, adhesives and many other marks and stains. The interior wipes are also dermatologically tested and can be used as safe, effective hand cleaners.

The three different wipes are differentiated using gold, silver and bronze livery. Each pack contains 120 wipes (40 per tub) at an initial promotional price of £9.99 (RRP £11.99). They are shipped in display trays of five and are also available in a display half pallet of 120 or full pallet of 225.

TEL: 01628 894374 www.bigwipes.com

Kent Chamois Company has wide product range

Kent Chamois Company offers a full range of car care accessories and products, not just, as suggested by the company name, a selection of chamois leathers.

The car care offering includes 12 different sponges, seven types of stockinette, car wash brushes and sprays, polishing products and hoses with eight different connectors. The company also offers gift packs and valet kits, ideal for motor enthusiasts.

Of course, the company also supplies a range of chamois leathers. Coming in six different grades, the first three – Super, Best and Campaign – are all available in bulk, polybags, corner tags or in gift packaging. The remaining three – Seamed, Patchwork and Tuff – range in size from one sq ft to seven sq ft. In total the company offers more



than 80 combinations.

TEL: 01892 837070
FAX: 01892 837030

Makita launches powerful washers

Makita has launched a power washer range, which is suitable for industrial, commercial and domestic use.

The HW130 and HW131 (pictured) electric power washers both deliver a maximum 130 bar pressure – a psi rating of 1820.

The washers are powered by a 2.1kw and 2.2kw industrial motor respectively. Features include an easy-grip lance with adjustable volume control using a 'squeeze trigger' and the twist spray nozzle for variable spray, a built-in power hose reel.

The HW130 has a maximum flow rate of 480 litres per hour, 7.5m hose, triplex, axial piston, wobble disc pump and weighs 17kg. It is delivered complete with foaming nozzle with a remote detergent tank, rotating brush and alternative nozzles, hose connections and an initial litre of detergent.

The HW131 has a ceramic-coated piston pump to deliver a maximum of 500 litres per hour, a 15m power hose and weighs 33kg.

TEL: 01908 211678
FAX: 01908 211400



Clarke starts cars

Clarke International offers a full range of jump-start equipment for all users.

The Jumpstart 4000 provides home, garage and roadside assistance and weighs 17kg. The power pack offers a 12v jump start for heavy-duty use and is suitable for engines up to four litres.

The pack also includes a cigarette-lighter plug for equipment such as mobile phones. A metre of cable, built-in work light and low battery warning alarm are also included. RRP is £59.95.

Other models include the Jumpstart 900 at an RRP of £29.95 and the Jumpstart 910 at £39.95.

TEL: 01992 565300 FAX: 01992 561562

Nilfisk-Alto offers pressure washers

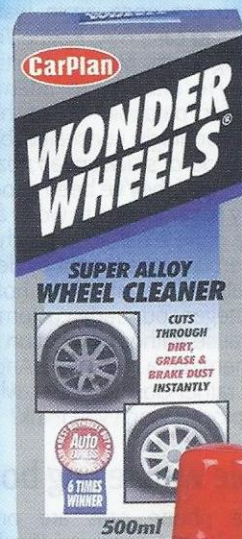
Nilfisk-Alto offers a range of pressure washers, ideal for car care under the Compact banner. There are three Compact machines in the range: the entry-level C 110.1-5Xtra, the C 120.2-6 and the C 120.1-10Xtra.

Each Compact domestic pressure washer comes with a two-year warranty and prices start at £49.99.

The company also offers higher-powered cold-water domestic machines in the Excellent and Pro ranges for heavier use and semi-professional applications.

TEL: 01768 868995 FAX: 01768 864713

CarPlan



Tetrosyl

Tel: 0161 762 6752
www.tetrosyl.com

Fast painting with the Earlex SprayStation

For homeowners looking for a fast method to paint walls, ceilings, doors, fences and furniture, Earlex has developed the high volume low pressure (HVLP) SprayStation range.

The Earlex SprayStation is suited for decorating items such as stencils, doors, furniture and fabrics and can be used on areas as fine as an inch.

The SprayStation has a three-position nozzle and an adjustable output control on the handle to allow users to spray large or detailed jobs. The lightweight system is powered by a turbine unit that is designed to deliver a constant and even coating.

Tel: 01483 454666 www.earlex.co.uk



Dual-sided fabric in Industrial+ Big Wipes

Dual-sided Industrial+ Big Wipes are a presenting an incremental sales opportunity for retailers with a range of anti-bacterial heavy-duty cleaning wipes for DIY-ers and tradesmen. The wipes remove a host of chemicals including oil and water-based paints, and general grime from hands, tools and surfaces.

The wipes are soft and absorbent on one side, and a gentle abrasive underside.

The range is available in 'clip strip' packet packs of 20, tubs of 80 and buckets of 250.

RRPs for the Industrial+ Big Wipes are priced at £2.12, £7.95 and £19.95 respectively.

Packs are also offered in trial size packet packs up to professional buckets.



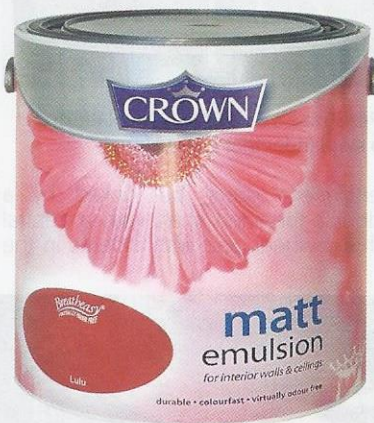
Tel: 01628 894374
www.bigwipes.com

Crown is bold and bright on features

Crown has added to its 2006 colour palette with Indulgence and Feature Wall paints. Feature Wall has three bold and bright shades available in a 1.25l (£9.99) for flat matt brights and metallics (£12.99).

Crown has added six shades to its Indulgence Luxury Flat Matt emulsion range. There are also three natural shades in the new Indulgence colour palette at £18.99 for 2.5l.

Tel: 01254 704951
Fax: 01254 870951



Fleetwood eyes UK decorative market

Following a successful debut at the DIY show in January, Irish paint maker, Fleetwood Paints is offering UK retailers a range of decorative paints and ancillary products. The range includes Fleetwood interior paints in matt, mid sheen, gloss, undercoat, stainwood and easyclean washable matt. Weatherclad Exterior Masonry paint offers up to 18 years durability and is available in 26 ready-mixed shades, and can be tinted in over



20,000 colours from the Fleetwood Paints Tinting System.

Tel: 003531 6710176

Berger broadens brand to appeal to women

In 2006, the Berger brand is expanding its interior paints range with the introduction of a fashionable and practical solution targeting colour conscious females: Multi-Surface Paint. There are also changes to the Weathercoat range, including new product offerings and vibrant new packaging.

Other developments includes the new interactive website, a brand new colour card and a new magazine exclusive to Berger – 'Talking Paint'.

Tel: 01254 704951
Fax: 01254 870165



Sigma Kalon keeps it Simple with rebrand

As part of the development of SigmaKalon's retail range of brands, the Colour Crazy brand has been reworked to bring the budget brands under the umbrella of the 'Simply' Simply Colour & Simply White.

Simply Colour now comes in a more modern pack style and has a colour palette reflecting the latest trends and colour choices.

Simply Colour is available in two ranges of finish, silk and matt. Simply Colour will have eight of the best moving Colour Crazy colours in silk and eight of the best moving colours in matt.



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DIY WEEK

Advent Tools founder dies



Advent Tools founder and managing director Mike Seal died in his sleep on Saturday February 18, following a suspected stroke or heart attack. He was 60.

Mr Seal had run Advent for five years, building the business up to become one of the UK's leading suppliers of tape measures for the own label market. He had worked for CK Tools moving to Aramo Tools in autumn 1997, before founding Advent in 2001.

"The family would like to thank all of his friends within the trade for their kind words at this difficult time," said Mr Seal's son Dave, who has taken over the management of Advent. "It really has meant a great deal."

Hunter gathers shares in bid for Wyevale portfolio

by Rodney Jack

Wyevale's months of wrangles over ownership are certain to drag on after it emerged Scottish multi-millionaire Sir Tom Hunter is looking through the company books before launching a £300 million bid.

The 'retail entrepreneur' bought a 15 per cent stake in the business from Laxey Partners for £46.5 million. Chairman Colin Kingsnorth declared himself 'very pleased' with the sale after walking away with £16 million. Under Takeover Panel rules Sir Tom has to wait until next week before buying the remainder of Laxey's 28.65 per cent stake.

Meanwhile shareholders have voiced their concerns over the price. Justin Scarborough, an analyst at Panmure Gordon has urged investors not to 'sell out cheaply' and insisted they hold out for a target of 600p. According to significant



Hunted: Wyevale at centre of takeover speculation – again

investors, the garden centre chain is seen as a 'cracking recovery story'.

Sir Tom Hunter founded a business that later became Sports Division in 1984, which he sold for £290 million in June 1998. In 2001 he founded the investment vehicle West Coast Capital (WCC). Sir Tom and business partner Chris Gorman were sued by traders Jon Wood and

Peter Wilkinson. All four were co-investors in high street chain Gadget Shop. The relationship soured when WCC bought the greetings card chain Birthdays, after which Mr Wood and Mr Wilkinson claimed they were cut out of the deal.

He was knighted for his charity work in the New Year's Honours list last January.

Sir Tom launched un-

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successful bids for House of Fraser and Selfridges – although in both cases he made profits on his shareholdings.

Wyevale has declined to comment on the current status of its sale of 31 centres.

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Environment Agency warns gardeners and growers in south-east of hosepipe bans

by Sarah McCarthy

Hosepipe bans are likely to be introduced through much of south-east England unless there is significant rain fall during the months ahead, according to the Environment Agency.

The Agency is urging water companies in the region to introduce the bans now to avoid more extreme measures later. It says that the period from October 2004 to January 2006 was the driest in some parts of the south-east since 1921.

Four out of the nine regional water companies already operate some type of hosepipe ban and the Environment Agency is asking the rest to take action too.

Southern Water is enforcing a hosepipe and sprinkler ban across all areas except Hampshire, while South East

Water is banning hosepipes in Sussex and west Kent. Mid Kent Water also has a hosepipe ban and Sutton and East Surrey Water has restrictions on sprinklers and unattended hosepipes.

Separately, Hozelock, the supplier of garden watering equipment and aquatic products, is launching a new 24-hour helpline to tell consumers and retailers if they are affected by a hosepipe ban.

According to research by the firm, many people were confused by the Environment Agency's appeal to south-east water companies for a ban on hosepipes on February 24. The new helpline will be effective from April 1 and will be backed by a website, which will offer advice on ways to look after gardens and a list of hose-

pipe uses that are exempt from any restriction.

While the firm says it supports the campaign for responsible use of water in the home and garden, it is urging the water supply industry to incentivise gardeners to switch to using more efficient watering methods all year round. These methods include drip irrigation systems, which can use up to 75% less water than a standard sprinkler, and tap timers, which can be used to switch off the water flow at a predetermined time.

Hozelock's commercial director Phil Daniell said: "The authorities should focus on how hosepipes are used and penalise profligate users who leave sprinklers running all day. They should also impose controls on water wastage inside the home."