

Eight Retrofit Problem-Solvers

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New products, time-tested techniques, and shortcuts make the hard work of retrofitting a little easier.

By Steve Bliss

1: New Fillings for Cavities

The perfect insulation for retrofitting cavity walls would be non-toxic, non-shrinking, fire-resistant, high in R-value, non-corrosive, and moisture-resistant. It would also have the ability to flow into the irregular spaces behind the walls, and be dense enough to stop air leaks. And it's got to be cheap. A two-year-old product, Air Krete, appears to fill this tall order well.

Air Krete is a cement-based product that weighs about the same as extruded polystyrene—2 pounds per square foot—and has

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1: This new insulation made from ultra-lightweight cement combines high R-value, excellent fire resistance, and the ability to flow into nooks and crannies.