

HOME MADE

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR DOMESTIC-MADE BUILDING PRODUCTS, YOUR OPTIONS ARE WIDE OPEN

BY NIGEL F. MAYNARD

IT'S A REFRAIN YOU'VE LIKELY HEARD MANY TIMES: American manufacturing is dead!

Sure, American manufacturing is not as robust as it was during and after World War II when it provided more than a third of civilian jobs, but it's far from being moribund.

"The decline in manufacturing jobs certainly makes it seem as if America has been deindustrialized, but it's not so," says business publication MarketWatch. "America still makes lots of stuff, but the number of jobs has shrunk because it doesn't take nearly as many workers as it used to."

Many of our factories are automated, working faster and more efficiently than they would under human power. As a result, manufacturing is the largest and most dynamic sector of the U.S. economy, totaling \$6.2 trillion in 2015 or 36 percent of U.S. gross domestic product, according to MarketWatch. A good portion of this manufacturing total is from building products that are made on our shores.

American manufacturers have always produced great windows and doors, engineered lumber, bricks, drywall, garage doors, etc., but there are other categories that also have good representation. These include plumbing fixtures and fittings, tiles, kitchen cabinets, appliances, and door hardware.

This month we bring you a small snapshot of the elegant and inventive American-made products that are available to residential construction pros. Our collection is extensive, including rough products, fine finishes, and tools, but it's by no means comprehensive. Regrettably, many window and door companies, construction products, and plumbing brands simply could not be listed here due to space limitations.

And like it or not, the building products industry is a global business, so cutting off innovative products and materials that are made from manufacturers in other countries—or even from U.S. companies that make wares overseas—is probably not realistic. But there are enough awesome options that will allow you to increase your usage of great products and materials that are manufactured with American pride and ingenuity. **P**

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According to the manufacturer, Q-Max is the first and only concrete mix that offers one-hour working time, three-hour walk-on time, and 6,500-psi compressive strength with crack, freeze-thaw, and corrosion resistance. As a result, pros can complete projects quickly while still meeting structural building requirements.

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