PM
PLUMBING & MECHANICAL

▶ Explore **PM**'s Top Products of 2016

▶ How water quality makes — and breaks — hydronic systems

'HECK OF A YEAR' FOR PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS IN FLINT, MICH.

The Flint water crisis continues to provide opportunities for local tradespeople to make a difference.

PM'S TOP 20 PRODUCTS OF 2016

Each year, *Plumbing & Mechanical* editors receive thousands of product releases from industry manufacturers. The 20 products on the following pages have earned the distinction of being *PM*'s Top Products of 2016, based on page views at www.PMmag.com.

#1

BARRACUDA TOILET FLANGE

Barracuda Brackets' Watertight Toilet Flange and Toilet Flange Tile Guide are products that can prevent mold growth in the subfloor under the toilet. The Watertight Toilet Flange has a sealed bottom and directs all water down the drain. The Toilet Flange Tile Guide is a polygon-shaped tool that is adhered to the floor around the flange that seals the area from moisture and makes tiling easier. When installed together, the entire area under the toilet and subfloor is protected. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products1**

#2

RAYPAK HIGH-EFFICIENCY COMMERCIAL BOILER

Raypak's XPakFT has a stainless steel fire-tube heat exchanger design which allows for a broader range of flow rates, requiring reduced pump energy for maximum operating efficiencies. The heat exchanger is ASME-certified and National Board-registered. For commercial and residential applications, this boiler meets or exceeds Energy Star requirements because of its 95% AFUE rating, modulating/condensing design with up to 10:1 turndown, and low NOx emissions. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products2**

MANSFIELD HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILET

Independently tested, Mansfield Plumbing's DENALI Power Flush toilet moves 1,200 grams of waste with 1.6 gal. per flush. It maximizes energy by having water sit higher in the tank. It has been tested to 1.5 times the industry standard for carrying waste farther down the drain line — up to 60 feet. The ADA-compliant toilet comes in SmartHeight with an elongated front and an easy-to-clean vibrant PuraClean glaze. Available in white, it includes a two-bolt tank-to-bowl SmartFasten system that assures alignment and leak-proof connections. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products3**

#3

#10

NEWPORT BRASS THERMOSTATIC MIXING VALVES

Newport Brass' two Luxtherm 1/2" thermostatic mixing valves incorporate an integrated volume control and multiport diverter. Focusing its attention on state-of-the-art features and design flexibility, the thermostatic valves enable temperature accuracy and volume control through multiple devices including showerheads, hand-held showers, body sprays, tub spouts and a variety of other applications. Matching any design aesthetic, solid-brass shower trim sets are available in all collections and finishes including traditional, transitional and contemporary design styles. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products10**

#11

UPONOR PEX LARGER-SIZED EXPANSION FITTINGS

Uponor's PEX pipe and ProPEX ASTM F1960 expansion fittings are now available in 2-1/2" and 3" sizes, offering professionals the ability to design and install even more commercial piping systems with PEX. The pipe offering, which includes AquaPEX for potable-plumbing applications and Wirsbo hePEX oxygen-barrier pipe for hydronic heating and cooling applications, is available in various coil lengths and straight lengths to meet any application need. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products11**

#12

MRPEX COMPOSITE RADIANT MANIFOLD

MrPEX's Composite Radiant Manifold is designed to withstand high temperatures and pressures. It exceeds oxygen diffusion standard DIN 4726 and is completely corrosion-resistant. The manifold comes partially assembled as a kit. The return valve cap can be removed to accommodate valve actuators. The branches have Eurokonus (EK20) connections, and all EK20 compression fitting assemblies can be used to connect tubing up to 5/8 inch. Single, two-loop, three-loop, and four-loop add-on manifold sections and other accessories are sold separately. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products12**

#13

TACO BUILDING AUTOMATION PLATFORM

Taco expanded the capabilities of its iWorX control platform to provide an updated graphical user experience. A PC, tablet or smartphone now acts as a local control interface for monitoring, system diagnostics and the new graphics. Touch-screen control, Wi-Fi connections and ready automatic updates via an app provide additional ease of use. For building owners, this means custom integration, greater system intelligence, continuous monitoring and control of system performance, and energy management. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products13**

#14

VIEGA 45-DEGREE ELBOWS FOR PEX PRESS SYSTEMS

Viega's 45-degree elbows for PEX Press systems allow users to install larger tubing with press technology. The elbows are available in 1.5" and 2" sizes. The elbows feature patented Smart Connect, which allows water to flow past an unpressed fitting. Offerings also include PEX Press test plugs, PEX Press 90-degree flare elbows, PEX Press reducing tees, and PEX pipe supports. The system is molded from Radel-R. The fittings are factory-assembled with attached stainless-steel sleeves with three view holes that help installers insert tubing correctly, ensuring proper installation. Color-coded tool locator rings assure proper alignment of the press tool. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products14**

#15

QUICKDRAIN FLUSH SHOWER WALL DRAIN

QuickDrain's WallDrain was engineered to sit flush along the wall. It features a sloped-trough design and 316L stainless steel body with the company's patented Sure Flow System that leaves no standing water in the drain body. With three standard sizes (48", 72" and 96"), the company also offers trough extensions for an exact fit. The grate assembly can be adjusted to the thickness of the wall's ceramic tile or stone covering. It is ADA-approved and easy-to-install. **bit.ly/PMTop20Products15**

PULL-DOWN KITCHEN FAUCET

Delta's Esque single-handle, pull-down kitchen faucet with Touch$_2$O technology features curves and cosmopolitan contours to give it a clean, poised look that accentuates the modernism of a contemporary kitchen or complements a transitional space. The name comes from the suffix meaning "in the style of" as well as a clipped ballet pose, which hint at elegance, grace and movement. The collection is available in chrome, arctic stainless, Venetian bronze, and matte black finishes. It also offers optional ShieldSpray Technology to cut through stubborn messes. **Delta. www.deltafaucet.com**

HOT WATER TEMPERATURE LIMITER

American Standard's NextGen Selectronic faucet line features SmarTherm technology that incorporates an ASSE 1070-certified thermostatic hot water temperature limiter in the faucet. The models are available without mixing, with above-deck mixing, and with ADM plus SmarTherm. The integrated design incorporates the electronics in the spout, eliminating the need for a control box below the deck. This shortens the installation time because only the water connections are made under the sink. Power options include: CR-P2 lithium battery, PWRX 10-year battery, plug-in and hard-wired AC, or multi-AC power plus a battery backup. **American Standard. www.americanstandard.com**

ENERGY-HARVESTING FAUCET

Sloan's EFX380 BASYS automatic sink faucet with turbine energy-harvesting technology has the versatility to meet any application with varying sensor types with flow rates ranging from 0.35 gpm to 1.5 gpm. The faucets provide interchangeability of components with a single tool, and their turbine technology generates hydroelectric power that reduces demand on batteries, potentially extending battery life up to 10 years and lowering costs. The faucet features single-hole installation, an integral water supply shutoff, and flexible high-pressure supply hoses with 3/8" compression connections. Finish options include polished brass, satin chrome and brushed nickel. **Sloan. www.sloan.com**

TOUCH-FREE INTELLIGENCE

Cinaton's B3004 vessel faucet features a simple silhouette that gives little indication of the technology hidden from view. It operates via five infrared sensors that provide complete control over 13 functions, from temperature to water flow. It includes a pause function and battery backup as well as three user-defined presets and a maximum temperature setting. It features solid brass construction and is available in two finishes — brushed nickel and polished nickel with a PVD coating. It is ADA-compliant and WaterSense-certified. **Cinaton. www.cinaton.com**