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Emergency Storage Made Permanent

When a tornado damaged his barn, John Krueger needed a place for tools and other equipment, and he needed it fast. An 8 by 8 by 40-ft. shipping container did the job. In short order, he added a second and then covered them both with a set of trusses and metal roofing. His short-term emergency storage became a workshop, storage unit, and a tractor shed.

“I set the two containers 12 ft. apart on railroad ties,” says Krueger. “Then I purchased Red Iron 30-ft. trusses and covered them with 26-ga. sheathing for roof and gable ends. The roof gets tractors and other equipment under cover while securing tools and supplies in the containers.”

Krueger set the shed next to 1940’s era shipping containers that he had stacked years ago and used as a silo for cattle feed. With the shed in place, he repurposed them.

“They were originally used for shipping radial engines,” he says. “Now I use them for fuel container storage. Stacking them was

easy. I just bolted the flanged ends together. Being all steel, it’s a safe place to store fuel and other flammable fluids.”

The more modern shipping containers came equipped with double swinging doors at one end. Container floors are treated plywood and teak tongue and groove. Krueger added a walk-through door to one of the shipping containers for more convenient access. He outfitted it for a welding shop with 220 current. He also added a bathroom and wash station.

“My main shop near the house is over capacity,” says Krueger. “My son is a welder by trade but disabled. I hope he’ll be able to use it.”

Krueger also put the space above the containers and between the trusses to use. “It provides extra storage,” he says. “You never have enough room.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Krueger, 1112 County St. 2984, Blanchard, Okla. 73010 (ph 405-392-4796).

In addition to commercial uses such as warehouses and car washes, Finnish doors are popular with rural customers for machine sheds, dairy and livestock barns, and warehouses for potatoes, for example.



Finnish Doors Fold Vertically, Seal Tight

No springs, cables, rails or drums. No maintenance besides occasionally oiling the hinges. Those features of the Findoor garage door are catching the attention of North American builders. The doors fold open vertically instead of horizontally like overhead doors. While the Finnish doors have been around for 30 years, they were recently introduced to Canada, where a factory to make them was built four years ago in Alberta.

Contractors who see them for the first time appreciate that the doors require less headroom (5 in. for doors up to 18 ft. and 16 in. maximum for the largest doors).

“It’s a very innovative design,” says Richelle Black, who works in sales for Findoor. The doors seal tightly with compression seals on all four sides and are well insulated.

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The doors can be opened manually, or remote-control electric operators can be added. The lifting steel hinges ensure that weather stripping doesn’t rub on the ground.

The larger doors are competitively priced with overhead doors, Black notes. The custom doors can be as tall as 35 ft. or as wide as 50 ft. And they can swing in (for snowy areas) or out (for buildings that need to be scraped out such as hog and dairy facilities.) A heavy-duty steel floor plate reinforces the door against wind and intruders.

The doors come in six standard colors and can have windows and access doors. Findoor is building a dealer network throughout North America, including U.S. dealers in the North, Midwest and the West Coast.

Check out the website for more information. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Findoor Industrial Inc., Site 8, Box 12, RR 1, Westerose, Alberta, Canada T0C 2V0 (ph 866-338-8308; info@findoor.ca; www.findoor.ca).

Small LED Floods Work Area With Light

Hang the rechargeable, collapsible MCFL800 floodlight (about \$100) from Matco from the hood or slip it under the car. It’s ideal for emergencies, like changing a tire, jumping a battery, or anytime you need more light. With its 8 by 5 1/2-in. footprint, you can use it anywhere.

The 360-degree ratcheting stand directs light where you want it. Two adjustable position, 20-lb. magnets can be used to attach the floodlight to metal surfaces. The floodlight folds up flat for storage.

The LED strips adjust for just the light needed where it is needed. The floodlight produces 800 lumens on high and 400 lumens on low from its two LED strips. That’s roughly equivalent to a 60-watt bulb, shining at close range. Need light over a broader area? The LED strips can be rotated into the desired position.

The lithium rechargeable battery provides up to 7 hrs. of use. The Micro USB can recharge in 6 hrs. The port lets the battery serve as a power bank for other electronic devices.

The floodlight is one of more than 60 work



Dual COB LEDs put out 400 or 800 lumens on this adjustable and rechargeable floodlight.

lights available online at Matco Tools and through Matco franchisees. The company has been selling automotive tools and products for more than 75 years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Matco Tools, (ph 866-289-8665; www.matcotools.com).

Simple Lock Protects Trailers

Arden and Salley Vernon of Turon, Kan., have an easy fix to keep your trailer safe.

“It’s called the EZE-LOC,” says Vernon. “It’s a trailer lock that goes on the hand-crank jack of gooseneck trailers or implement trailers. Once it’s locked in, it disables the hand-crank jack on your trailer.”

You’ll have to drill a hole through the pipe that turns the jack up and down. The EZE-LOC goes through the hole, and then you attach a padlock to keep it safe. The hand-crank jack will not move once it’s locked.

The lock itself is 12 in. long, made of solid steel, powder-coated, and difficult to cut off. While anything can eventually be cut off, Vernon points out that most thieves don’t want to work that hard and draw attention to themselves.

The diameter of the lock is 1/2 in., so he says the hole should be drilled at 17/32 in. dia.

“We sell the padlocks separately,” Vernon says. “They’re solid, round padlocks built to be very awkward for a bolt cutter to bite through. People who’ve lost their keys say the only way they could get the lock off was to use a cutting torch.”

The birth of the EZE-LOC began when Vernon spent some time talking to an Oklahoma detective whose primary job was investigating trailer thefts.

“Areas around Tulsa and Oklahoma City are probably the trailer-theft capitals of the world,” he says. “Trailers are easy targets because they have an equine event in both cities almost every week.”

Trailers with hand-cranked jacks are the easiest trailers to make off with when



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unguarded. It’s tough to steal trailers with electric jacks because the jacks are disabled when the towing vehicle shuts off.

“But the hand-crank jack is just sitting there and waiting to get turned by anyone,” he says. “All thieves need to do is hook it up to their trucks and take off with it.”

“It’s simple and convenient to use,” he says.

They retail for \$30 each, plus S&H. “If you have a trailer worth \$25,000, then \$30 isn’t much to protect that investment,” Vernon says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arden and Salley Vernon, EZE-LATCH for Trailers, P.O. Box 356, Turon, Kan. 67583 (ph 866-231-8589; www.eze-latch.com).

Rolling Shop Tables

“I took a couple of old office chairs and made handy rolling tables for use around the shop,” says Arlo Slack, St. Marie’s, Idaho.

He takes the seat off, leaving the bracket that holds it on at the top of the chair stem. Then he attaches a square piece of plywood to that bracket. No welding is needed.

One table is 18 in. square and the other 24 in.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arlo Slack, St. Marie’s, Idaho (ph 208-245-2448).

