

Conquering Crown Molding and Trim | Custom Closet Shelves

# Extreme How-To

For Contractors, Handymen, Home & Auto

## Countertop Countdown

Explore what's new in the world  
of solid surface countertops.

April 2006

[www.extremehowto.com](http://www.extremehowto.com)

Issue 03 Volume 05

\$4.99 US \$6.50 CAN



049

71466-03600

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Builders' Show Highlights  
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## Tax Incentive for Tankless Water Heaters

The Water Heating Division of Rheem announces that its entire line of gas-fired tankless water heaters qualifies for a federal income tax credit under the new Energy Tax Incentives Act of 2005. A provision of the bill, which went into effect on January 1, 2006, provides a personal income tax credit of \$300 to homeowners who install a gas, propane or oil-fired water heater with an energy factor (EF) of at least 0.80. All six models in the Rheem tankless water heater line meet this criteria by carrying energy factors of 0.81 or 0.82. The Rheem line includes models fueled by either natural gas or propane, while offering gas inputs of up to 199,000 BTU per hour and flow rates up to 7.4 gallons per minute at a 45-degree rise in temperature. Rheem-Rusul and Rusul brand models of these same water heaters also meet the criteria. (Not all tankless water heaters qualify for this tax credit.)

Rheem Manufacturing Company  
[www.rheem.com](http://www.rheem.com)



## New Technology to Strengthen Foundations

In most cases, the best defense for foundation failure is a good offense. The development of The Reinforcer, a recently patented carbon fiber technology system, provides an advanced alternative for repairing and strengthening foundation walls. The externally bonded composite reinforcing system is lightweight, non-corrosive and virtually impossible to stretch. The carbon fibers form in an epoxy resin matrix which has a tensile strength of more than 350,000 pounds per square inch (psi), making it 10 times stronger, and therefore, superior to steel which has a tensile strength of 36,000 psi.

The installation process is simple, fast and cost-efficient. The high-strength carbon Reinforcer strips are supplied on 250-foot continuous rolls, cut-to-length, and spaced based on the engineering design charts prepared by Nationwide Reinforcing's engineers. The block walls must first be cleaned of all paint and debris prior to installation. The Reinforcer strips are then applied with a structural epoxy paste (ECS 104) along the interior surface of the bowed or cracked walls. Removing excess epoxy off the strips and filling remaining cracks with ECS 104 completes the installation.



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