

'Metal' skin

Like the look of metal? On doors, countertops or even entire walls? There's a new porcelain panel product designed to skin large surfaces with a metallic-looking finish. It's called Oxide and it comes in seven colors ranging from light to dark, with metallic effects that look like they've been weathered by natural elements.

The large-scale panels (1 by 3 meters, or approximately 3 by 9 feet) are manufactured by Tennessee-based Laminam by Crossville. They'll be available locally, starting late this month, from Kate-Lo Tile & Stone, with locations in Plymouth, Burnsville and Oakdale.

DIY repair resource

If you'd rather repair it yourself than call a handyman, here's an online resource to help. RepairClinic.com, an online store for replacement parts for appliances and outdoor power equipment, recently enhanced its free Repair Help feature to help DIYers fix common problems associated with major home appliances and outdoor power equipment.

Users can select which appliance is giving them trouble, such as "washing machine," then select from a menu of problems, such as "washer won't spin" or "washer is making a loud noise" to troubleshoot a particular repair issue.

The site also offers repair videos and access to more than 1 million parts and accessories for 150 brands of appliances and power tools.

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