

# Home & Garden

## Topics:

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## Columnists:

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Published: Aug 09, 2008 12:00 AM

Modified: Aug 09, 2008 01:38 AM

## Top Drawer

**JOYCE CLARK HICKS, staff writer**

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### Try this

#### **Oxo Good Grips strawberry huller**

Price: About \$6.

What it does: Scoops leaves and hulls out of strawberries with a simple twist and scoop motion.

How it makes your life easier: The palm-size secure-grip bulb with metal edging hulls strawberries in a hurry, making it easier for you to make clean and attractive fruit displays, salads and more. Simply pierce the strawberry's top leaves and scoop or twist, taking the leaves and hulls with the device. In between berries, push the black button on top of the huller to release the stem into another bowl. You'll be left with clean juicy berries just right for your guests' picking and eating. Pull on the edges of the device's top button to remove the release mechanism for cleaning. Be careful upon opening the package. The button release somehow fell out of the packaging when I opened it and, for a while, I thought it was missing a part. The button also got stuck occasionally and I had to manually pop it

back into place.

Who would use it: Party planners, moms, bakers and perfectionists.

Where to get it: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), larger Bed, Bath and Beyond stores.

joyce clark hicks

[joyce.hicks@newsobserver.com](mailto:joyce.hicks@newsobserver.com) or (919)-829-8908

### **Safety stick**

Now here's a bright idea: The folks at [Safetybright.com](http://Safetybright.com) have created a 4-in-1 tool that's great to keep in your car in case of emergency. This ingenious bright yellow stick includes a strong magnet on one end that sticks to any metal surface. Attach it to the side of your car's exterior at night and push the flashlight and/or beacon button(s) to illuminate your needs -- whether they include surveying a tire, alerting other drivers or signaling for help (the beacon button activates 9 red flashing LEDs). The stick's top includes a recessed seat belt cutter on one side and a pointed glass break hammer on the other -- a possibly invaluable combination should you ever find yourself in a car wreck or your vehicle becomes submerged underwater. It is water proof and comes with two AA batteries. It costs \$14.95 at [www.safetybright.com](http://www.safetybright.com) (but hurry, that introductory price ends Aug. 17 and increases to \$24.95 after that date).

### **Cool it now**

Parents with young kids share a common worry: how to keep small children from getting scalded by hot water coming from bathroom faucets. A new product available at Lowe's stores or [www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com) aims to provide parents peace of mind. When hot water reaches an unsafe temperature, the HotStop Scald Prevention Faucet quickly slows the flow of water to a trickle to avoid scalding. Once the water cools, the normal flow resumes -- normally within 30 seconds. The manufacturer states that HotStop shower heads and tub fixtures require no special tools and install in minutes. The products retail for \$25 to \$45. To learn more, go to [www.h2otstop.com](http://www.h2otstop.com).

### **Do-it-yourself tile**

Why pay hundreds or thousands of dollars to have the tile backsplash or Travertine floors you've always dreamed of? Believe it or not, you can install them yourself. Each Saturday at 9:30 a.m., the Tile Shop in Raleigh offers a free 2 1/2 hour do-it-yourself workshop that shows the basics of installing all kinds of tile. Here you'll learn the difference between natural stones, porcelains and ceramic tiles and which are best suited to your style and needs. Learn about accent pieces and borders, how to seal and grout your products, what tile size fits what projects, how to install a shower pan and how to use a wet saw. Men and women are frequent attendees and there's no need to preregister.

Do you have trouble visualizing what natural stone tile would look like with cherry cabinets? Check out the Tile Shop's extensive showroom, which displays everything from real kitchen backsplashes to bathroom vanities and decked-out shower displays. The Tile Shop is located at 8551 Glenwood Ave. across from CarMax. You can also pick up installation pointers online at [www.tileshop.com](http://www.tileshop.com). Click 'DIY.'

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