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Around The House

By Compiled by Lisa Kadane, Calgary Herald April 10, 2010

A greener wood stain

Home Improvement - Products by Sansin, a 25-year pioneer in developing environmentally friendly wood stains, are now available in Calgary through Overwalls Paint and Decor (15130 Bannister Rd. S.E. or 141 Crowfoot Way N.W.).

Sansin's water-borne, low toxicity stains now work as well as petroleum-based products with higher levels of VOCs (volatile organic compounds). The non-filming, water-based formulas combine the benefits of oil and water-based coatings -- the stains penetrate deep into the wood and deliver long-lasting durability. They are also easy to maintain because they don't crack or peel. Esthetics needn't suffer to save the planet, either -- Sansin wood stains come in more than 80 colours. Go to sansin.com for more information.

Memory foam for dogs

Bed - It's no longer enough for Rover to doze off on the couch, a corner of carpet or even the foot of your bed. Following on the heels of gourmet dog food, dog strollers and bejewelled dog collars comes the DogPedic memory foam pet bed, an "orthopedic sleep system" made with 12 centimetres of memory foam.

The pet beds are reputed to help relieve pressure on joints and pet pain resulting from arthritis, hip dysplasia, or morning muscle stiffness. The bed's zippered suede cover is machine washable and its non-slip bottom makes it conducive for any type of floor. The DogPedic memory foam bed comes in medium, large or extra large and is available online at buydogpedic.com, which ships to Canada for \$39.95 US (small and medium) or \$59.98 US (extra large).

New reveal

Event - Artist Cory Barkman is part of the mix as Uniquities reveals its latest container shipment of antique and reclaimed building materials on April 13 from 6 to 10 p.m. He's showing his "steampunk" items -- such as the lamp, below -- that mix modern industrial and Victorian styles. Barkman will also be at Ecopalooza at the Calgary Central Library April 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, visit uniquities.ca or corybarkman.com.