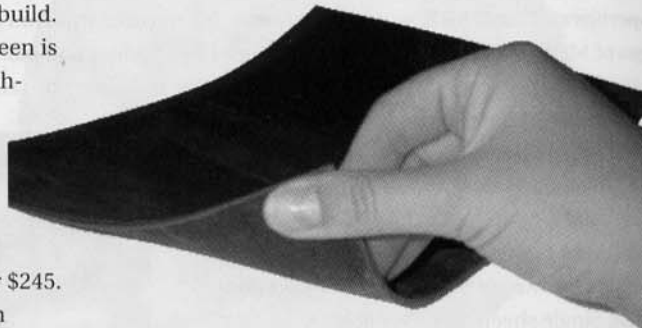


Sound Methods

Effective sound control doesn't have to mean complex wall assemblies that are time-consuming and difficult to build. One of the coolest sound-controlling materials I've seen is easily integrated into conventional construction methods — because it's only 1/8 inch thick. With an STC rating of 27, *LV-1* from Sound Sense works significantly better than sound-control batts, and it can be placed under flooring, in ceilings, and behind drywall without creating problems associated with weird wall thicknesses. A 4 1/2-by-30-foot roll sells for \$245.

■ **Sound Sense**, 631/324-2266, www.soundsense.com



Earth-Friendly Wall Finish

Increasingly, homeowners are demanding environmentally responsible products from their builders and remodelers. For these folks, *American Clay* may be just the ticket. This attractive wall finish is made from clay and natural pigments in 32 standard colors and in any custom color. It is appropriate for most interior wall surfaces — excluding showers and other wet locations — and can be applied to many existing wall finishes. The manufacturer's Web site does a good job explaining wall prep and proper application. Expect to pay about \$65 for a 50-pound bag that covers roughly 250 square feet.

■ **American Clay**, 866/404-1634, www.americanclay.com

Cool Long-Lasting Light Strips

Strip lighting is great for brightening dark countertops and highlighting design elements, but the bulbs can make conventional strip fixtures too hot for certain applications. Chill out: Ardee's *Clikstrip LED* uses LED bulbs that stay cool to the touch and consume about one watt of electricity per eight-bulb element. The bulbs last an astounding 60,000 hours, making them perfect for hard-to-reach places; they can also replace other less-efficient incandescent festoon-style bulbs in fixtures from Ardee and other makers. The Clikstrip LED is available in 12- and 24-AC and DC versions and costs about \$30 per eight-bulb element.

■ **Ardee Lighting**, 888/442-7333, www.ardeelighting.com

