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HVAN Staff Report

Technology pervades our society, so it's no surprise that the home furnishings industry is no exception. HFN's annual list of "tech features" highlights some of the year's most technologically innovative products. Pictured in categories such as security, lighting and wellness are a few of the most surprising options.

1. IPHONE, APPLE

Apple has answered the call for a non-everything compact electronic device with its new iPod and stylish iPhone. The iPhone eliminates the need to carry a mobile phone, MP3 player, PDA, Blackberry and PDA. It combines all these functions in one sleek package. All of these functions are easily accessible via a highly interactive touch-screen and multi-touch interface, allowing access to a wide range of applications. The iPhone is also one of the few devices that offers the ability to use voice commands for text messages and emails. It's a great way to stay in touch with your friends and family. So grab your iPhone now and start exploring the world of technology.

2. PULSONIC ELECTRIC SHOWER, BRAUN

Braun has brought the "next generation of electric showers" when it was launched on the market in 2012. The product uses pulsonic technology to deliver a more comfortable shower. Pulsonic technology delivers more than 10,000 microjets per minute through the shower head, which excite the skin to vibrate and relax the skin. The shower is also extremely quiet, as it uses a low-noise motor to run. This technology ensures that the shower is environmentally friendly and reduces water consumption by up to 30%.

3. THERMOLON COOKWARE, GREENPAN

For those who are looking for an alternative to traditional non-stick cookware, GreenPan offers a product that is both environmentally friendly and durable. Manufactured without PFTE and PFOA and combined with a non-toxic ceramic coating, the cookware is said to be more heat-resistant and to release less smoke and fume than traditional non-stick cookware.

4. LA FORME PERFECT, KAISER BAKEWARE

Kaiser has brought the"form fits all"concept into reality with its new product, the "Kay Forme". The product is designed to fit any size cake, eliminating the need for separate forms. The product is made from silicon and is said to be non-stick, allowing cakes to be easily removed from the form.

5. PROFESSIONAL MARTINI MAKER, WARMING

This is a great addition to your bar cart. The "Pro Professional Martini Maker" includes a printout of drinks and a cocktail recipe guide. The device also comes with an ice scoop and a jigger. It's perfect for the professional mixologist who wants to make the best drinks for their guests.

6. HP THERAPY BEAUTY PILLOW, PERFECT FIT INDUSTRIES

With our ever-increasing daily stresses, it's important to take care of ourselves. The "HP Therapy Beauty Pillow" offers a gentle massage with heated ceramic beads that conform to the contours of the face. It's a great way to relax and unwind after a long day.

7. UV-ST ULTRAVIOLET VACUUM, HALO

Halo has added some light to the harmless particle, allergen and other unseen lurking in our daily life. The new UVST Ultraviolet Vacuum has an ultraviolet bulb that kills dust mites, mold, bacteria, viruses and other harmful organisms. The germ-killing technology has proven effective in removing allergens and other contaminants.

8. FIREDEFENDER, LOUISVILLE BEDDING

According to the latest edition of the "Fire and Life Administration," about 20,000 fires are attributed to mattress and bedding each year. This statistic not only prompted the Consumer Product Safety Commission to implement stricter testing guidelines for mattresses, but it also encouraged Louisville Bedding Co. to introduce the Firedefender mattress pad and boxspring cover. The Firedefender provides added protection against the fire and smoke damage of the CPSC's new standards and can prevent fire from spreading to the entire room.

9. FOOD SANITIZING SYSTEM, LOTUS

With two appearances on "Design Docket" magazine's "Most Inventions of 2005," the Lotus Food Sanitizing System has received plenty of attention. The product cleans food and vegetables by using water, which apparently removes impurities ranging from bacteria and viruses to pesticides. Other food cleaning products have now appeared on the market, meaning that a new category in small kitchen electronics may be opening.

10. LEDS, VARIOUS LIGHTING COMPANIES

Long-lasting, energy-efficient, light-emitting diodes are being marketed as replacements for the high-performance halogen and metal halide bulbs in retail display and commercial applications where it's costly to change bulbs. For example, the R-16 bulb is used in track lighting, retail, displays and landscape lighting, but the cost, usually $40 to $51, is enormous. The external case and housing the product with all the advantages of light output or quality, so products being marketed vary widely on these factors and on price. However, it's a "high-power" light bulb, which can be used for interior lighting applications.

11. NANO TECHNOLOGY, VARIOUS TEXTILES COMPANIES

Nanotechnology—manipulating particles at the molecular level—is increasingly being applied in home textiles products as an antibacterial treatment. It's a great addition to the market for designers and consumers alike. The technology is expected to be utilized in a wide range of products, from laundry to upholstery.
Will Food Cleaners Be the Next Meal Ticket?

By David Gill

NEW YORK—High-tech food-cleaning products are ready for their closeup.

The new product segment is already getting lots of attention. With numerous introductions and consumers being increasingly aware of what they eat, conditions may be right for the next big thing.

Last year, Vesture of Asheboro, N.C., introduced the CuisineClean countertop food-cleaning appliance. Two weeks ago, Atlanta-based Creative Culinary Marketing Solutions came out with the CulinaryPrep appliance, also a countertop product for cleaning food. Tersano, based in the Toronto area, launched the Lotus food sanitizing system about four years ago.

Tersano’s Lotus has received much media play in the past year. It was named one of Time magazine’s Best Inventions for 2006. This year, Steve Hengspenger, Tersano’s president and founder, has appeared twice on “The Big Idea,” the CNBC program hosted by Donnie Deutsch, which spotlights new ideas in business; Deutsch named the new product the “Big Idea of the Month.”

Both the Lotus and the CuisineClean are gaining attention as the urge for healthier living grows.