As a plumber, alternative options for lifting solar panels onto roofs are few and far between. Panels are heavy and awkward, not to mention expensive. It is a risk to both you and your staff to lift them using a ladder.

With the increasing popularity of solar heating, the need has arisen to find alternative options to lift solar panels onto roofs. With many options available in the market, we have selected two lift models to preview.

Two Australian companies, MTMG Australia and Bill Grant Engineering, have created some innovative products that help avoid these risks. MTMG Australia has released the All Purpose Lifter, utilising a telescoping mast to ensure you can move solar panels, air conditioners and other goods onto roofs more safely. The All Purpose Lifter only weighs 25kg, reducing the risk of injury to your back.

Bill Grant Engineering has created the Mighty Lift, a unit that looks similar to a modified ladder, making the lifting of solar panels onto roofs safer and easier for you.

Both lifts are excellent options for all your materials handling. The All Purpose Lifter and the Mighty Lift have the advantages of being compact in size and lightweight. This allows you to use them for a range of different jobs, as they are easy to move and won’t take up too much space in your vehicle!

The lifts are designed to handle a variety of different loads, with the Mighty Lift able to hold up to 120kg and the All Purpose Lifter more than 80kg. The All Purpose Lifter is best suited to use on one storey buildings while the Mighty Lift can be adapted to extend up to two storeys in height.

With these new lifting options, you can be sure your personal safety will never be jeopardised again when lifting solar panels onto roofs. Safety should always be a strong focus in the workplace and these lifts will allow you to decrease the risk of injury to you and your fellow team members.

Remember: Always ensure that you adhere to standard safety practices when working on rooftops!

To find out more about the All Purpose Lifter or the Mighty Lift please contact your local Reece Plumbing Counter.
Australia’s trade events calendar is jam packed with dozens of exhibitions and conventions throughout 2006. By attending exhibitions you will be able to check out the latest plumbing technologies and trends and further enhance your trade industry network.

Most trade shows and conventions offer a series of workshops and seminars as well as give you the opportunity to listen to key industry speakers address issues facing the industry.

When choosing which shows to attend you should establish which will assist you best in your business and career development.

### 2006 CALENDAR OF INDUSTRY EVENTS

#### 2006 HIA Home Ideas Show
15 Apr 06 – 23 Apr 06
534 Church Street
Richmond, Victoria
http://www.hiahomeideasshow.com

The HIA Home Ideas Show is a great opportunity for you to view the future of bathroom design and home renovations. There are plenty of demonstrations to attend and expert advice on all things home related.

#### HIA Home & Building Expo
4 May 06 – 7 May 06
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
http://www.hiaexpo.com.au

The HIA Home & Building Expo encompasses both a convention and an exhibition. The convention will give you the opportunity to listen to motivational business speeches as well as the chance to network with fellow trade industry members. The exhibition will allow you to view new ideas for homes and gardens.

#### Sydney Spring Homeshow
18 May 06 – 21 May 06
Rosehill Gardens Event Centre

The Sydney Spring Homeshow is a great place to look at the latest products and concepts for home fit out and design. All the major areas of kitchen, bathroom and outdoor living are showcased for you to view.

#### Designbuild Australia
Incl. National Plumbing Show
28 May 06 – 31 May 06
Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre
www.designbuildexpo.com.au

Incorporating the 2006 Plumbing Show, Designbuild is Australia’s largest building and design expo. All areas of the trades industry are covered including residential, commercial and industrial construction. The kitchen and bathroom stands will be of particular interest to you.

#### National Tradesman’s Expo
Adelaide
19 May 06 – 21 May 06
Royal Adelaide Showground
Wayville, South Australia

#### Perth
16 Jun 06 – 18 Jun 06
Burswood Dome
Burswood Entertainment Complex

#### Sydney
11 Aug 06 – 13 Aug 06
Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park

#### Melbourne
To be announced

These business-to-business events are designed for tradesmen, contractors, sub-contractors, owner operators and serious DIY handymen. The Expo give you the chance to see the latest tools and equipment on offer, all under one roof.

#### RACV Home Show & Garden Expo
19 Aug 06 – 27 Aug 06
Melbourne Exhibition Centre

Thousands of products for the home and garden will be on display at the 2006 RACV Home Show & Garden Expo, including everything consumers seek for their kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor areas.

#### 2006 National Plumbing Conference
21 – 24 September 2006
Cairns, QLD, Australia

The 2006 National Plumbing Conference is a joint initiative of the Master Plumbers’ and Mechanical Services Association of Australia and the Master Plumbers’ Association of Queensland. It is guaranteed to be an exciting blend of social activities, informative and interactive business sessions, tours and networking opportunities.

#### Adelaide Homeshow
19 Oct 06 – 22 Oct 06
Royal Adelaide Showground, Wayville, South Australia

The Adelaide Home Show caters for serious homemakers, renovators, builders and green thumbs. There will be loads of information on hand related to building and gardening as well as the opportunity to chat with experts and exhibitors.

So don’t be left behind the times with future technologies and practices - attend a trade show today! They are a great opportunity to expand your networks and hear from industry experts on the direction of plumbing in the future.

### Price changes

To help manage your purchases, we’ve detailed this month’s main price changes. Should you have any queries, please see your branch manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplier</th>
<th>Products</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decina</td>
<td>Baths &amp; Spas</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iplex</td>
<td>Ductile iron fittings &amp; repair couplings</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stainless steel clamps</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tapping bands</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Profit &amp; PK2 hot &amp; cold water fittings &amp; breeches</td>
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<td>1/04/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crevet</td>
<td>Ductile iron fittings &amp; repair couplings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stainless steel clamps</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tapping bands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thermotec</td>
<td>Insulation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehau</td>
<td>Piping system</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Technologies (not incl spares)</td>
<td>Heating units</td>
<td>3-6%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auspex</td>
<td>Crimp &amp; Push-Fit</td>
<td>6.5-10%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assa Abloy</td>
<td>Locks</td>
<td>0-3%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franke</td>
<td>Sinks &amp; tapware</td>
<td>3-5%</td>
<td>1/04/06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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