

healthier housekeeping

**UVX AND UV-ST
ULTRAVIOLET VACUUMS**
from Halo Company
(\$399 to \$499)

After a good vacuuming, the carpet looks clean, but if anyone in the house has asthma or allergies, you know better: Bacteria, viruses, and dust mites are still alive and well, clinging to the fibers—until they encounter this smart vac. As the machine passes over the floor, an ultraviolet light (the kind used in hospitals) instantly kills your invisible visitors, allowing the whole family to breathe easier. And don't worry about exposing yourself or the kids to UV rays: If the Halo isn't standing upright, flush with the floor, the light won't work.



COLOR FIX

DISASTER DYE

ORIGINAL

bye-bye, bad dye job

COLOR OOPS HAIR COLOR REMOVER from Developlus (\$13)

You tried to darken your hair (OK, cover up gray) and the results made you shriek. A salon could make it right, for a price—but this new at-home potion is faster and cheaper. In just 20 minutes, it removes hair dye (permanent or semi) without using damaging ammonia or peroxide. The secret ingredient is hydrosulfite, which acts on the dye, not on your hair. Fine print: Color Oops works only if you've gone darker, not lighter. The final color won't always match the original exactly, but it'll be close enough.



serious stain buster

SHOUT ADVANCED GEL
from SC Johnson (\$3.79)

When stains don't disappear the first time they're washed, you may as well give up—unless you've got this new spot zapper. Spray it onto a clothing splotch (even if it's days later, or the piece has been through the dryer). In the GHRI lab, lipstick, tomato sauce, and even ink just about vanished—which is why our testers say: Your family will have a tough time stumping the Shout.

plug happy

**ROTATING DUPLEX
OUTLET** from
360 Electrical (\$10)

An annoyance of modern life: fitting two big, clunky chargers (for, say, a cell phone and an iPod) into the same outlet. Solution: these sockets, which swivel to accommodate oversize plugs. To install, you must replace the existing wall outlet. (If you've never done it, hire an electrician.) Later this year, adapters (with four outlets) will let you skip that step. ■

