

Device squad: Hammer time

Don't get screwed when the handyman's away: Keith Steier, president of NYC remodeling company Knockout Renovation, lists the must-have tools for every New Yorker's apartment.
By Louis Ramirez



Makita BML-185 rechargeable flashlight, \$45

Prepare for a power outage: This long-lasting, ultralightweight torch operates via a Xenon bulb (the type used in car headlights), creating intense pools of brightness. Its head can also pivot in four positions, making it useful for illuminating hard-to-reach places such as “leaky pipe connections under a sink,” explains Steier. *For more info, go to makita.com*

Milwaukee 30' tape measure, \$24

Featuring a magnetic tip for one-person use, the Milwaukee provides enough durable, nylon-coated length to figure out if a new sofa is too bulky to fit in your doorway, mapping out furniture layouts or installing curtains. *For more info, go to milwaukeetool.com*

Stanley ratcheting screwdriver with six assorted bits, \$17

“A multitip screwdriver can come in handy for a multitude of things like loose door handles, dripping faucets, assembling products and replacing a light switch.” Tackle these tasks with the six-in-one Stanley, which includes a simple-to-use magnetic bit holder and a medley of must-have heads, including two types of Phillips. *For more info, go to stanleytools.com*

Channellock 430CB Code Blue tongue-and-groove pliers, \$20

The pit bull of the hardware set, this rugged set of laser-toughened teeth is designed to clamp on to anything that needs to be secured or fastened. *For more info, go to channellock.com*

Black & Decker Versapak screwdriver, \$34

“You can make fast work of assembly and repair with this powerful tool,” explains Steier. Bend it for a standard pistol-like grip or leave it ramrod-straight for your screwing pleasure. *For more info, go to blackanddecker.com*

Fuller hickory-handle hammer, \$10

A large, striking face makes it easier to pound in nails, and its three-pound weight allows the flabby-armed to easily execute bang-up jobs. *For more info, go to fullertool.com*