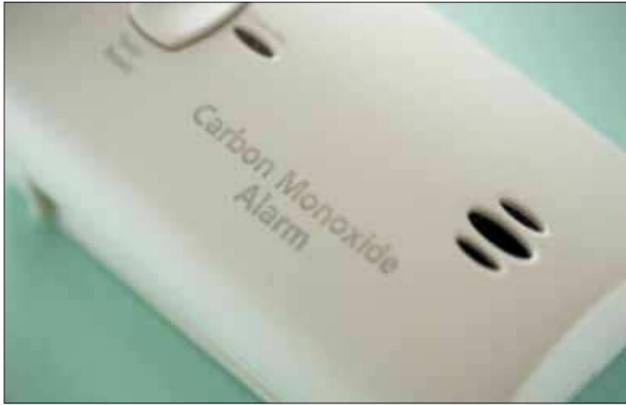


## Get Alarmed To Protect Your Home



(NC) Consider this dangerous, but common scenario — a homeowner deactivates a sounding smoke or carbon monoxide (CO) alarm and leaves the device disabled, opening up the entire household to a high-risk potential for undetected hazards.

According to the Canadian National Fire Information Database, 80 per cent of fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms, often due to missing alarm batteries or expired alarms. Fortunately, a new generation of home safety technology, combined with tried-and-true safety practices, can help keep homes and families safer from the threats of smoke, fire and CO.

### Here are tips to keep your family and home safe:

Be safe, replace. On average, smoke alarms have a useful life of 10 years, while typical CO alarms should be replaced after five to seven years. If you can't think of the when you installed your alarms, chances are, it's time to replace them. Installing new ones ensures you are protected with the most advanced smoke sensing technologies and the latest safety features available.

Double-up on safety. There are two main types of smoke alarms, photoelectric and ionization, which use different technologies to sense smoke and

fire. Ionization smoke alarms are generally more responsive to fast-flaming fires, while photoelectric smoke alarms are generally more responsive to smoldering fires that generate a lot of smoke but little heat. The Canada Safety Council recommends installing both types of alarms or dual sensor alarms because they provide the best potential for early detection of all types of common household fires.

Go for a 10. One of the greatest advancements in alarm technology in recent years has been the development of new 10-year sealed battery alarms, such as the First Alert Dual Sensor 10-year Alarm, which features both photoelectric and ionization sensors to deliver maximum protection from any type of fire. In addition, 10-year alarms provide hassle-free protection, so you no longer need to remember to replace batteries. They also eliminate the risk of having an alarm deactivated due to battery removal.

Cover your bases. Even if you have smoke and CO alarms in your home, you and your family may not be sufficiently protected if you don't have enough devices. To ensure the highest level of protection, install alarms in or near every bedroom and on every level of a home, including the basement.

## Cooktop Confusion? Make A Choice That's Right For You



(NC) In the market for a new range? With so many options facing shoppers in every appliance store aisle, it can be overwhelming to consider all of the available features and benefits.

One key decision that you'll want to think through carefully is your choice of cooktop because there are very real differences between gas, induction and electric options.

"Choosing a cooktop is very much a matter of personal preference. Making this decision requires a bit of self-reflection — what kind of cook are you, and what are the things that will matter to you most once that new range is installed in your kitchen?" explains Bob Park of GE Appliances.

### Here, he outlines some of the key differences between the different cooktop styles:

**Cooking with gas.** Speed and precision are the key benefits of a gas range. Not only can you actually see the heat level as soon as you turn on the burner, but temperature adjustments are essentially instantaneous, meaning no more waiting for a burner to heat up. Gas cooktops also give the kitchen a professional look, even if the most sophisticated cooking that will be happening in your kitchen involves boiling water. Of course, a gas range requires a gas hook-



up in your kitchen, so you'll need to factor that into your planning.

All About electric. Electric range tops are available in a few styles, but smooth tops, which feature radiant burners under a layer of ceramic glass, are by far the most popular.

Park explains that electric cooktops ensure even cooking, making it easy to maintain a consistent temperature, which is especially useful when simmering. And electric ranges are easy to wipe clean. GE Appliances' Edge-to-Edge cooktops, for example, have no silicone or crevices to catch crumbs, making clean up a breeze.

Induction cooking. Although many of us are less familiar with this type of cooking, Park urges

people to take a look at this unique cooktop style. "Induction cooking combines the temperature responsiveness of a gas cooktop and the ease of cleaning of an electric cooktop. Plus, you get a safer, cooler cooking surface."

Induction cooktops use electromagnetic elements to heat the pan directly, rather than transferring heat from a radiant element to the pan bottom. This means the surface of the cooktop stays relatively cool to the touch no matter how high you turn up the heat.

Keep in mind, though, that the pots and pans you use on an induction cooktop need to be made of a magnetic-based material, like cast iron or magnetic stainless steel.

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