

Make A Right Choice For Cooktop



(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.

Choosing The Best Material For Your Fence



(NC) A new fence can beautify your yard and add value to your home. Whether you're building a fence to add charm to your backyard or create a place for your family to gather, know that different types of fences provide different levels of safety, privacy and style.

Here are some tips from Steve Trescher, director of merchandising building materials at the Home Depot Canada, on which materials to consider when starting your fence project.

Wood. Pressure-treated wood and cedar are very popular options when building a fence. They are affordable, durable and long lasting. Cedar also contains oils that act as natural deterrents against rotting and insect infestation.

Vinyl. If you're looking for something a little lower maintenance, Vinyl fencing is

an affordable option that doesn't require painting or staining. Made from a strong plastic-based substance, vinyl fencing is resistant to moisture, flaking and cracking, making it an excellent option for Canada's unpredictable winters. Most come with easy-to-install kits and panels that allow for easy DIY installation.

Aluminum. This material combines the look of wrought iron, with a powder-coated acrylic finish. It's DIY-friendly and won't fade or discolour. It is a strong material that cannot be cut, giving you extra security.

Slipfence. Slipfence is an innovative fencing solution that gives you the beauty of a wood fence combined with the durability of aluminium. The system is easy to install and you can build to create either a vertical or horizontal fence style.

Go Chic With Your Kitchen Appliances

(NC) Having a difficult time finding appliances that exude that sleek and sophisticated look? You can now create the modern vibe you're looking for with new designs that come with opportunities for customization. Check out ways the latest innovations are changing the trend and design game.

Make a statement. Achieving that modern aesthetic likely means using a lot of greys, whites and blacks. Find appliances that keep the flow of the room by opting for a black stainless steel finishes. You can find refrigerators, coffee machines, stoves and ovens that incorporate the material or are

completely black. The 24" Bosch coffee machine has a brushed stainless steel finish with a black centre accent. The colour touchscreen interface allows for easy use and all the containers are hidden behind the front door for a streamlined finish. Pristine finishes. The last

thing you want to worry about is fingerprints that will make your new appliances look used and dated. Opt for a finish that is smudge and fingerprint resistant. You will save time by not having to wipe them down as often as you once did.

By simply taking a cloth to

these appliances, you can bring them back to their original lustre. This is quick and effective so that you don't have to dedicate your time to a big kitchen clean before hosting your next party.

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