

Gas Stoves VS. Induction Cooking

Condo owners considering a major kitchen renovation may be confused about recent criticism of gas-fuelled cooktops, especially since many professional chefs prefer them. While some studies indicate residual off-gases can be harmful to indoor air quality, appliance manufacturers have long recommended the consistent use of a range hood fan when cooking with gas to mitigate such risk. Still, when the issue of fossil-fuel consumption is added to the debate, some kitchen designers are becoming more inclined to recommend alternate cooking methods.

Induction cooking may well become the popular choice for kitchens of the future. An induction stove has no “burner” and uses less energy than a traditional electric stovetop because the heat is actually created in the body of the cooking vessel through electromagnetism. While on a traditional stovetop, the heat is transferred from a hot ring that also wastes energy by radiating it elsewhere, heat on an induction surface reaches the food more directly from the pot or pan where it is generated. Although they can be expensive and require compatible cookware, induction



cooktops are more efficient, heat faster, and are safer because there is no flame and the surface remains cool – which also makes cleanups quicker!



Condo Security and Privacy

It's likely that most condo corporations and/or their property management firms have clearly established rules regarding the authorized use of surveillance and recording of activity in public or common spaces.

However, with the greater proliferation of doorbell cameras in the digital age, some condo corporations may discover that their rules are lacking in completely addressing the issue of condo owners who wish to monitor outside their own doorways. If the unit's entrance door is not considered the homeowner's property, then such a monitor could be against condo rules. However, even if permitted, the unit owner and condo corporation will need to consider that cameras that provide a 180-degree view may be a privacy threat to hallway passers-by – including your neighbours.

This threat can be further complicated if audio is also recorded – especially when data is automatically uploaded to a third party, as is provided for in some monitor subscription agreements. In fact, such arrangements may actually permit that third party to share data with police – even without a search warrant, or the corporation or condo owner's consent. Other complications may arise if data is shared via Wi-Fi, potentially making the user's collected images vulnerable to hacking. Finally, beyond data, the actual theft of a wireless camera recorder is a real possibility, as a black market exists for inadequately protected devices.

Uncluttering Seniors' Lives

Seniors may need a bit of coaxing, but reducing their clutter can be a very beneficial experience for them. When approached positively, the rewards of a visually organized household become almost immediately evident, and can have a long-term liberating effect. As an entire generation of condo owners comes to terms with complicated retirement financing, condo evaluation and inheritance planning, many are realizing how useful reducing clutter can be in making life simpler, easier and more enjoyable. Sorting, organizing, and decluttering can also open the door for downsizing, which invariably releases funds for leisure, or for creating an annuity that covers expenses for life.

Depending on real estate circumstances, a smaller unit may become a viable option that also helps avoid some family complications by dealing with certain condo assets and precious heirlooms in advance. Regardless of how these would be appreciated and/or shared by heirs eventually, boomers are realizing that family members probably wouldn't look forward to sorting household contents accumulated over decades. If you or another family member is considering decisions where downsizing might be helpful, feel free to call for a private chat about options that may open up a whole new range of possibilities.

