

Gas Stoves VS. Induction Cooking

Homeowners 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!



Considering a Doorbell Camera?

Contemplating the purchase of a doorbell camera can be a complex process that requires research into several areas, including the source of power, Wi-Fi bandwidth, picture quality and data storage. In addition, when it comes to security, installation and privacy protection are important considerations for any such device. Because stolen cameras are not uncommon, you should check how protected your unit will be from outright theft. Furthermore, poor password protection can render some camera image feeds vulnerable to being hijacked and shared without the operator’s knowledge – giving hackers access to view or share front-door activity that includes the comings and goings of family and friends.

There could also be concerns regarding video recordings of people who are not part of your household. As useful as cameras may be for viewing or interacting with visitors or couriers (or would-be “porch pirate” thieves), they can sometimes be deemed an invasion of privacy – depending on their position and range of view into a neighbour’s property. Furthermore, in cases where video monitoring is provided through a subscription, it is possible that your contract does not give you exclusive ownership of the captured data.

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 homeowners comes to terms with complicated retirement financing, property 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 home may become a viable option that also helps avoid some family complications by dealing with certain property 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.

