

Grilled to Perfection

Grilling is more popular than ever, especially as families opt to save money by dining at home rather than eating out. The Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA) estimates that three out of four households own an outdoor grill or smoker. From lightweight, portable Smoky Joes to deluxe multi-tasking grills, today's equipment can do much more than ever before.

The Multi-Tasker – Multi-tasking grills have two to 12 burners, so different types of food can be prepared at different temperatures at the same time. Some grills are also equipped with built-in infrared rotisseries, wok stations and side burners that enable cooks to prepare entire meals in one place. Others have storage drawers, built-in thermometers, removable ash catchers and lights for nighttime cooking.

Infrared heat – Infrared technology provides intense heat so meats and steaks can be grilled in half the time as on a traditional grill.

Accessories – Baskets that cook mini-hamburgers, potato grilling racks and non-stick grill toppers that steam or roast poultry and vegetables are gaining favor. Also popular are smoker boxes and grill plates that enhance flavor.

Outdoor cooking areas – Outdoor kitchens have all the same amenities as in-home kitchens, including sinks, blenders, cooking and prep areas, dishwashers and refrigerators, and cocktail bars. Most outdoor kitchen designs are flexible and modular, so homeowners can customize it for their entertaining needs.

With the latest innovations in outdoor cooking, the best place to dine out may be in your own back yard.



* DID YOU KNOW

52 percent of American adults consider television sets to be a necessity in 2009, down from 64 percent in 2006 and the lowest share in 35 years.

Source: Pew Research Center



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