

HOT TIPS TO CREATE A SIZZLING “OUTDOOR KITCHEN”

Who needs to be inside a kitchen to cook an amazing dish? The latest trend in kitchen design is outdoor kitchens so now that the backyard is tidied up after the landscaping firm has completed its job, it's time to set up the outside kitchen of your dreams.

An “outdoor kitchen” used to mean roughing it over an open fire and sleeping on the ground. Nowadays, what items used to be considered indoor-only are making their debut outside, especially when it comes to outdoor kitchens – a hot new trend that's taken cooking on the grill from a summer activity to a year-round thing.

DirectBuy (locally situated in Windsor at 2705 Kew Drive with six other outlets close by in Michigan: Brighton, Clinton Twp, Saginaw, Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills and Wyoming) the leading members-only showroom and home design centres in the US and Canada, not only sell “outdoor kitchen” units and other accessories at manufacturer's low prices, but also offer some helpful pointers on selecting the right equipment and setup for your home.

For starters, when it comes to selecting a grill, DirectBuy recommends considering:

- Stainless steel gas or charcoal grills – outdoor kitchen means just that – outside! Sun, rain, wind and, in Canada, snow. Even covered, your grill will be exposed to the elements to a certain degree and you want a grill made of material that will withstand bad weather and corrosion.

- Free-standing or under-the-counter

refrigeration units – help minimize trips to the “other” kitchen and give you a place to store leftovers for the next cookout.

- Infra-red burners – make sure the grill you do select uses infra-red burners, which heat up faster.



Cooking in the great outdoors is easier with brand-name outdoor kitchens.

- Storage – choose a grill with plenty of shelving and cabinets

“The beauty of the outdoor kitchen is it reduces trips to the real kitchen to get supplies,” says Ben Canaran, co-owner of DirectBuy in Windsor. “This means you can actually spend time with your guests while preparing your meal. That's why it's just as important when selecting your outdoor kitchen to not forget the comfort of your guests.”

When it comes to selecting furniture for

your outdoor “dining room,” there are a number of options in terms of style – sling, metal, cushioned and strapped to name a few – and materials – aluminum, iron, resin, teak, wood, wicker, fabric and vinyl. More choices mean more decisions on materials, fabrics and colours.

“One safe rule of thumb is unless you're planning to buy an entire set of outdoor furniture at once, stick with neutral colours like white, taupe or sandstone. Even if the shades aren't a perfect match, it won't matter if there's a little distance between items” says Canaran.

Since 1971, DirectBuy has helped consumers enjoy enormous savings on home furnishings, home improvement items, entertainment and outdoor products, and accessories, by providing an avenue to purchase directly from the manufacturer. DirectBuy offers consumers a comfortable, country-club setting, where they finally have the financial control of buying direct. Visit directbuy.com or directbuycare.com to learn more.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THERE ARE MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES IN WINDSOR & METRO DETROIT SELLING OUTDOOR KITCHEN UNITS AND PATIO ACCESSORIES (LIKE FOREST GLADE FIREPLACES, 11400 TECUMSEH ROAD EAST IN WINDSOR AND PATIO PLUS OUTDOOR FURNITURE, 42367 W. SEVEN MILE ROAD IN NORTHVILLE, MI) BUT THIS ARTICLE WAS SUPPLIED BY DIRECTBUY PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FEATURED THEIR COMPANY ONLY.

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