

SMART KITCHENS – A FAST FOODIES DREAM?



With lockdown restrictions increasingly making more people fans of home cooking or making us reminisce of entertaining at home TD look at how we can use SMART technology to transform our kitchens.

Not everyone who enjoys entertaining is a top chef and that's where intelligent appliances are now available to give you a helping hand. Options such as SMART ovens, networked refrigerators or even SMART food processors are just a few options to make your life a little easier. In this article TD look at a few of the top SMART kitchen ideas to incorporate into your home.

HOME COOKING

Domestic Innovative Commercial Eco-Logical

A SMART oven or hob can take over some of the tasks that would normally require your constant attention. A networked range hood can remove the need use messy fingers to press buttons by automatically switching on and change fan speeds as required.

Don't like hood at all? There are even hobs with downdraft ventilation systems can be incorporated. Don't like a hood at all? There are even hobs with downdraft ventilation systems available.



SMART hoods have a sensor in the air duct measuring the water vapor in the extracted air. As water vapour and smoke levels changes so does the fan speed even running a short time after you finish. Lift hoods are now also available that allow you to adjust the height of the hood so that you can lift it out of sight after cooking. Some models also feature integrated LED-coloured spotlights or fragrance dispensers that can be controlled via a smartphone App or remote. Interchangeable fragrance cartridges let you choose your favourite aroma from minty fresh to the scent of freshly baked bread.



Try an induction hub which have in built sensors to prevent over boiling or use SMART active support to select the dish you are cooking and allow it to suggest a cooking time.

SMART OVENS

These have recipe assistants and digital support built in to help you tackle even the most difficult soufflé. Simply select the dish and the oven selects the right temperature, duration and cooking method. It can even switch itself to steam or microwave to cook your dish to perfection.

Home integrations allow your networked oven to be controlled wireless or remotely for maximum convenience. Some have cameras inside your oven allowing a live stream image of your roast cooking on your smartphone. The high-end SMART ovens even use the camera to recognise the appearance of the dish allowing for such precise cooking that different parts of the dish are cooked to different levels e.g., rare to well done in the same dish. Manufacturers have collaborated with recipe platforms or offer their own recipe apps. This allows your oven to take its settings directly from the recipe and your smartphone displays the next steps.



SMART kitchens often centre around having a central control hub so that your oven display can also show you the status of other appliances in your house i.e., check on the washing whilst monitoring your cooking.



Humidity sensors provide the perfect combination of steam, air movement and heat: A multi-function oven with a humidity sensor automatically controls the climate inside thus supporting the sous-vide method i.e., where you cook food to perfection in vacuum pouches. The precision of some SMART ovens

is such that they can use electromagnetic waves can even be used to cook fish inside a block of ice without melting the ice surrounding it.

SMART DISHWASHERS

A growing number of models have wireless connectivity built-in allowing the replacement of pressing a button on the machine to start by entering the type of dishes and how dirty they are in an App. The dishwasher can then undertake a more efficient and effective clean cycle. You can even follow the progress of dishwashing cycle within the App and receive a notification when it is finished. It follows that you can also start a cycle remotely from your smartphone.

Some models offer automatic dose functionality in addition to the traditional method of adding a detergent tab. This provides flexibility that you can start a dishwashing program at any time with no preparation. The SMART dishwasher sensor detects if your dishes are still dirty and will add more automatically as required. They store enough detergent for on average 20 cycles and monitor usage and permit online re-ordering via the app.



SMART REFRIGERATION

A SMART fridge like there oven counterparts come with camera and touchscreen enabled functionality. Fridges with cameras inside allow you to a look at them remotely via the smartphone App so that you know what to buy when you go to the supermarket. The two-way connectivity allows you to change the settings on your fridge's fresh zone remotely too. Switch on the super-cooling mode while you are still in the supermarket and pre-chill the zone ready for those extra drinks.



A touchscreen in your fridge door transforms it into a digital pinboard. Family members can leave messages on it for each other or check their calendars. The display can stream videos from smartphones and compatible TVs from the same manufacturer. Recipe apps make menu suggestions or viewing cooking demonstrations easy and of course this can all be voice controlled.

Some models incorporate a pane of switchable glass (privacy glass) built into the fridge door. It is usually opaque but turns transparent in response to an electrical signal. Tap the door with your finger and the insulating glass panel turns transparent, letting you see what's inside. This is not just a visual effect but also an ingenious energy saving practical function that allows you to see inside the fridge without opening the door.



SMART KITCHEN IDEAS

You don't necessarily need to go out right now to buy a high-tech SMART oven. Instead of a fridge a temperature-controlled SMART mini-garden unit might be an option. The luxury versions of these provide everything your herbs and salad veg. need to thrive. They have sensor-controlled light and humidity, a simulated spring climate for ideal fast growth all controllable from your smartphone. As many as eight plant species can be grown simultaneously in each drawer.



Mixing, slicing, chopping, stirring, heating and cooking all at the same time is possible with the latest SMART kitchen appliances. These are more than multifunction processors they have in built cooking versatility allowing them to steam fish, cook a creamy risotto or create a smooth hollandaise sauce in a single pot and at the touch of a button. The food processors that cook can reach surprisingly high temperatures (up to 200C) so that searing meat and vegetables is now achievable in the same pot. A SMART food



processor still allows for an experienced cook to benefit from a manual model but opens new possibilities for the less experienced. Preparing baby food, the mother sauces can easily be achieved in automatic modes. Multiple pot sizes are now also a common feature.

SMART coffee machines that have SMART drip filter mechanisms or networked espresso machine options allow for coffee to be freshly brewed for when you get up or into the office. Smartphone Apps allow for programming temperature, brewing time and or even how much milk foam is added for your personalised brew. Even those who prefer to make their own brew can benefit from smart technology. Programmable kettles have the hot water ready at the time you choose at the perfect temperature for you i.e., Coffee at 95C or Tea at 80C. Have a notification to your smartphone when it has reached the right temperature.



Digital herb gardens with a smart benchtop greenhouse allow you to harvest fresh herbs for cooking all year round. LED lights and irrigation are automatically controlled. Models with Apps for your smartphone can show you growing tips and instructions and notify you when the water tank is empty.



SMART HOME INTEGRATION

It is only a small step from the smart kitchen to a smart house. Those who connect their kitchen appliances to other devices via the home wireless network will enjoy additional functionality. For example, a ceiling lamp flashes to remind you when the washing machine is finished. For this integration to work, the products must be able to communicate with each other. If you are thinking about a refurbishment and wanting to incorporate SMART technology into your Kitchen or Home TD are here to help.