

Freestanding Gas Stove Buyer's Guide



Gas stoves are popular options due to convenience and efficiency when compared to wood-burning units. They employ either a natural gas or a liquid propane fueling system, natural gas being more common and propane utilized where natural gas lines are not readily available. Advances in technology, particularly in the increasingly realistic appearance of gas logs and flames, is persuading more consumers to choose gas over wood. Engineers have built an exquisite line of gas stoves that range in styling from modern and contemporary to traditional and classic. You can find the look that best suits your needs, décor, and desired aesthetic.

How much does a Gas Stove cost?

The actual cost of a gas stove depends on the type and size of the unit, the local market, the complexity of the installation, and other factors. Top & direct vent stoves range from \$1,500 - \$6,000. This depends on the customer's needs and wants. The installation cost CANNOT be determined without a visit to the home. Without seeing what we are working with we cannot give a price. Surround work such as stone will also push installation costs up. Annual maintenance cost for an inspection and cleaning are \$290. Other costs to include are annual fuel costs and service repair costs.

Advantages of a Gas Stove

One appealing aspect of a gas fireplace or stove is the convenience regarding owner control of the fire itself. Most gas fireplaces are marketed as "remote ready," meaning there are a variety of options to operate the fireplace remotely. You can use a remote control, a wall switch/timer, or even a programmable thermostat to determine how hot and how long you want the appliance to operate. Many models also offer variable flame control, which allows adjustment of the flame height according to a desire for more heat or a better-looking fire. There are even units out now that can be controlled by an app on your phone. There are also many additional advantages to choosing a gas stove, including the fact the gas burns cleanly, meaning no more cleaning up ashes or buying/chopping wood again. Gas Stoves are not built into the wall and therefore can be installed with

minimal renovations.

Installation

Gas stoves share another useful trait: which is ease of installation, as you can just pick a spot, while observing all safety requirements, and place your new gas stove in the room. Additionally, you have many more installation options with a direct vent appliance, such as in bedrooms or bathrooms. Since direct vent units exhaust to the outside of the living space, there are not the same requirements on these appliances as there are with vent-free systems. Freestanding gas stoves do not require a chimney and instead can be vented directly through a wall or the roof. This allows for greater flexibility when deciding where to install a gas stove. Location: Due to fire concerns, a gas stove must be installed a minimum distance away from drapes, doors, and other combustible objects. In addition, if you're installing a top-vented gas stove, you may be limited by accessibility to the chimney when it comes to choosing a location for the unit.

Efficiency

The most important of the advantages of a gas stove over wood-burning ones is the extreme increase in efficiency. You can use a heater-rated gas stove as a dependable secondary, or perhaps even primary, heating source and save a considerable amount of money on heating bills. When looking for a gas-fired unit, be sure to look for the "BTU" rating. A BTU (British Thermal Unit) is a measure of heat energy. Smaller units have a smaller BTU. Meaning that it won't heat a larger space very well. For bigger spaces you will need a bigger unit or a unit with more BTU's. Considered to be the most popular type of stove, direct vent units are the most efficient vented appliances on the market.

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Care and Maintenance

Homeowners Insurance companies require that you keep up annual maintenance on your stove in order for them to pay out on any claim resulting from the stove. In the case of an emergency such as a house fire, if you cannot provide documentation that you had annual maintenance inspections and cleanings by a professional company the insurance company will claim "lack of maintenance" and not pay you if your house burns down. And no one wants their house to burn down so more importantly, for safety reasons of the occupants, it is very important to keep up on the annual maintenance. The cost for this is \$290. This includes a full cleaning and inspection of the chimney AND the stove. With a detailed service report sent directly to your email or street address. This service report is a pass/fail report. It will tell you every aspect of your system and whether it passed or failed inspection and how it is supposed to be per Residential Code Requirements. You

Home Resale Value

The most sought after mood-setters are gas and wood-burning fireplaces and stoves, although electric fireplaces are preferred over not having a fireplace at all. Regardless of what style you prefer, having some kind of fireplace is a must if you want to increase home value. A fireplace or stove is a pleasing addition to any room. There is an instant draw to a room with a fire. The visual appeal of the amber glow coupled with the beauty of an attractive fireplace or stove structure is just irresistible. In fact, one study showed 46% of homebuyers were willing to pay up to \$5,000 more for a home if there was at least one fireplace.

Buying at Big Box Stores or Online Vs. A Professional Dealer (us)

In an effort to deliver quality products, service, and safety, we receive our family of products exclusively through authorized and trained distributors. Occasionally, individuals will attempt to sell products online without the consent of the manufacturer. Most manufacturers do not authorize the sale of products online. Here are a few things to consider if you are contemplating a Big Box Store purchase of a quality hearth product:

Use a Trusted Dealer- First things first, unless you are super knowledgeable when it comes to wood stoves, a good dealer can be a great resource. I'm not talking an "expert" at a big box store, unless they have been in the business for a number of years, heats their own home with wood, and can show you a showroom full of lit models. Unless they burn regularly, it's very hard for them to learn the ins and outs from a textbook! Your trusted dealer will help you identify trusted brands. We only recommend brands that routinely honor warranties, have been around for years and have replacement parts on the ready. It's hard to trust a brand that has only been around a few years because you have no idea how their stoves will hold up long-term. A trusted dealer is a must!

Warranty - Most manufacturers do not warranty products sold outside of an authorized dealer network, nor will they warranty service work on the product that is performed by anyone other than an authorized dealer.

Maintenance & Service are Non-Existent- Our professionals are trained to evaluate your specific needs and suggest to you the products that will best meet those needs. When buying products at these Big Box Stores, you are more than likely purchasing products that are not ideal for your situation, not quality made, and have no tech or service department if something goes wrong and, as a result, will be much more costly than you anticipated. You can purchase a stove at a Big Box Store, but when you call or stop in because you need it cleaned or serviced you will be left unsatisfied. They do not service or maintain the units they sell. Nor do they have ANY education about them whatsoever. It is actually quite dangerous in our opinion. These products also require specific venting components with restrictions as to their installation which will not be evident in the purchase without a trained professional to assess the installation application and recommend the appropriate venting. Your local TSC worker is not properly educated or trained in this field.