

VENTILATION BUYING GUIDE

Range Hood Types

- **Undercabinet:** Attaches to the underside of a cabinet, and comes in a variety of sizes, colors and duct configurations.
- **Wall Mounted:** Similar in appearance to undercabinet hoods, but these mount to the wall.
- **Chimney Hood:** These mount to the wall and have a flue that extends to the ceiling. Check your ceiling height to determine if you need a flue extension. If you have a cabinet above your cooktop or range, you will need to remove it to allow the range hood to mount correctly.
- **Island Hood:** This range hood will hang from the ceiling over a kitchen island. This is the preferred way to vent in an island configuration.
- **Downdraft:** Another option for islands, where the steam and smoke is pulled down. These are not as effective as an island hood, but they don't block lines of vision.
- **Range Hood Inserts:** These are hidden units that are placed in cabinetry above a cooktop, giving your kitchen a custom look.

Range Hood Ventilation

- **Vented or Ducted:** It is recommended to duct to the outside through a nearby wall. If longer distances are needed, you will need a more powerful range hood.
- **Duct-Free or Recirculated:** In these units the air is pulled through a charcoal filter and then back into the kitchen. This option requires no ducting, but you will need to change filters every few months.
- **Convertible:** This option will allow you either non-ducted or ducted, as well as vertical or horizontal ducting.

Features

- **Strength:** This is measured in cubic feet per minute or CFM. If you do a lot of cooking with strong odors, it is recommended to have a range hood with 350CFM or more. Also remember, the more strength, the louder the range hood will be.
- **Filters:** Aluminum filters are used for ducted range hoods to trap the grease before the smoke is pulled outside. Make sure to wash these monthly. For non-ducted range hoods, you will use charcoal filters and need to be replaced every few months.
- **Sound level:** This is measured in sones. Normal conversation is about 4 sones. As noted above, the stronger the range hood, the higher the sones will be.

