

Manufacturers serve up high-tech appliances

BY MARK EDWARD NERO
Copley News Service

Many technological advances get a lot of publicity: the latest in computer equipment, home entertainment systems, etc.

But kitchen appliances? When was the last time you saw a media blitz for microwaves or toaster ovens?

Part of this is because home entertainment items are just that — entertainment. On the other hand, kitchen appliances are more practical, and are usually associated with chores like cooking and cleaning. But despite a lack of significant hype about most kitchen appliances, there have been numerous advances in the area in recent years.

As far as trends, manufacturers say there's a leaning away from stainless-steel products and toward color appliances. Makers are trying post-stainless looks and unveiling a wave of add-on appliances for people who want restaurant-style kitchens at home. In addition to the re-emergence of red, black and blue appliances, improved storage and contemporary design and style are in.

Among the modern designs are Jenn-Air's downdraft ventilation cooktop stoves, which eliminate the need for a bulky hood and vent over the stove. They capture steam, odors and smoke at the cooking surface, before they have a chance to escape into the room. And without the need for an overhead hood, the appliance's design opens the possibility of different kitchen configurations.

GE, one of the mainstay companies in the kitchen appliance industry, offers two Advantium ovens — the Advantium 120 and the Ultimate Advantium — that cook four to eight times faster than a regular oven,

yet are the size of a microwave.

If you're looking for warming drawers for your kitchen, Wolf Appliance warming drawers are some of the most sizable on the market. Also, the company states, it has recently improved the drawers' air control to better help keep moist foods moist and crisp foods crisp.

Wolf offers four designs for drawer fronts. Stainless-steel options are classic, platinum or carbon stainless. There is also a new custom wood panel. The company also makes a variety of dual-fuel ranges: gas cooktops with a convection oven system.

Moving on from heat to cooling, Fisher & Paykel offers what it calls the "world's most advanced" refrigeration system. The company's "Active Smart" refrigerator technology uses electronic intelligence to monitor and adapt its performance to lock in fresh-

ness and provide greater storage life. By continually adjusting the flow of cold air based on daily use and climatic conditions, Active Smart ensures it quickly reaches the safe temperature for maintaining freshness.

Additionally, Active Smart's two variable speed fans provide faster cooling and even temperature throughout each compartment. Because the refrigerator and freezer compartments are independently cooled, you have the flexibility to set your Active Smart to perform the way you want.

Fisher & Paykel also sells the DishDrawer, an ergonomically designed dishwasher that combines dishwashing with the kitchen drawer concept. Each drawer requires fewer movements to open, load and close, making clean up simple.

The DishDrawer actually consists of two completely

independent dishwashers:

You can put delicate crystal in one drawer, and heavily soiled pots in the other, then simply customize the wash in each drawer.

And another dishwasher maker, Bosch, loads its machines with features such as the "Party Wash," which can clean six place settings in 30 minutes and the "One Touch" option, which, with the push of a single button, automatically selects the appropriate cycle length, temperature and amount of water to be used.

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Wolf warming drawers are some of the most sizable on the market and recent improvements to the drawers' air control help to better keep moist foods moist and crisp foods crisp.



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Garage Makeover Update!

The Best Laid Plans...

Yes, We had promised a full insider's look at Don Kelly's free makeover in this edition. However, with the Kelly's busy family lifestyle, we wanted to make sure we gave Don enough time to really turn his garage into his paradise.

So, at print time, the epoxy floor was down and Don was sitting with the cabinetry designers from Garage Outfitters to develop an organizational system that met his needs and lifestyle - but that's only the beginning!

The completion date is now mid-October and Don has invited us all back for a garage-warming party.

Look inside the Record-Eagle the week of Oct. 17 for our final unveiling of the Kelly's new garage. It's going to be great!

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