

ASK THE EXPERTS



A Cookstove Conversation with Wittus

In your opinion, how is the fire element associated with a home? The fire element is a very prominent feature when added to a home's decor. Not only is it beautiful, it also serves as a great secondary heat source. In Denmark, the homes with fireplaces outnumber the ones without, and the word that describes it is *hygge*, or well-being. The fireplace is at the top of the list when you talk about adding ambience, intimacy, warmth and comfort to a room. As a Danish company that has a long history of *hygge*, we believe that every home deserves a fireplace. In addition to achieving the highest standard of comfort in the home, a fireplace is an economical heating option. The benefits of sitting near a fireplace are endless, including the element of togetherness that it encourages.

What about a wood-burning cookstove?

Wood-burning cookstoves are very versatile. They can be placed in a traditional kitchen setting or in a living room that requires extra heat on occasion. Also, cooking with wood heat is faster and hotter than gas or electric. In the instance of a power outage, a cookstove can be a life saver. We had clients who lost power on Thanksgiving and actually cooked their turkey in one of our cookstoves.

What are the most important points to consider when adding a wood-burning cookstove to your home?

It is very important to do some research and ask questions when selecting a

hearth product. Check your space for size, efficiency needs and style preferences. Every fireplace has its own ratings and product details. If you can get a hold of the product manual, it would be very beneficial to read through it before you make your final decision. Wittus publishes all the product manuals on our website for easy access. It's also good to make sure you have an area where you will get the most benefit from the stove. An indoor or outdoor kitchen, a great room that needs a secondary heat source or a comfortable corner where the stove can do its thing are all great choices.

What are some insider tips for cooking with wood?

There is nothing like food prepared on a wood-burning fire. It may sound like a lot of work, but it's actually a much faster, healthier and tastier way to prepare food. Once you have your fire going, it's smooth sailing. To make it easier, have all the materials you need at your fingertips. Set up your woodpile, gather your utensils and prep the food beforehand so you are good to go once the fire is ready. And, most important, wait until you have a sufficient number of hot embers in your fire before you start.

Which Wittus products are best suited for cooking?

We have a few special cookstoves in our line-up. The Domino 8 Maxi is styled after traditional countryside stoves used daily in Italy, and it's the perfect match for indoor kitchen areas. The Lugo is a contemporary fireplace that has the oven compartment on top and the firebox underneath. This stove is perfect for baking and cooking, and the upper compartment

allows for the chef to reach in easily to tend to the food. And our Klassic cookstove, the brainchild of industrial designer Bent Falk of Denmark, is one of the largest products in our collection. It heats, cooks food to perfection and shows off its designer edge.

Is there a trend in the hearth industry that includes cookstoves?
Definitely. We are seeing a surge in protected outdoor living areas that include full kitchens with more than one cooking appliance. So it's not uncommon to see a wood stove, a gas stove and a pizza oven all sitting next to one another. These are super-comfortable outdoor kitchens that include seating and dining areas.

What are the benefits of adding a wood-burning cookstove to your home?

Adding a stove to your home is great, and adding a cookstove to your home is even better. The added feature of cooking while heating is a true benefit to every homeowner. As I mentioned earlier, one need not worry about the next meal in the event of a power outage.

Resources

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