

# TAKING THE kitchen basics A STEP UP



**W**e all adore a great kitchen. The kitchen is by far the most important room in the home. As new homebuyers, this is the first place we rush to check out at the open house. Then as homeowners, it's where we nourish our bodies and souls with great food, company and conversation. And from a resale perspective, the ROI on a kitchen renovation surpasses that of any other upgrade. Simply put, the kitchen is where it's at. As a designer, my objective is to strike a balance between beauty and practicality. Thankfully, many

forward-thinking kitchen manufacturers and appliance brands are making my job easier with their latest designs this fall, which marry fashion and function beautifully. Here are three kitchen basics that raise the bar on both.

## **Fridge**

This kitchen staple ranks right up there with the sink and stove - your essential "work triangle." LG is a great brand to check out if you're looking for bells and whistles. LG's counter-depth French-door refrigerator features InstaView Door-in-Door design, boasting a tinted-glass panel



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that lets you see inside without having to open the door. And of course, this fridge is WiFi connected. If you think about it, you'll open your refrigerator on average 15 to 20 times a day - let's elevate that experience, shall we? This is what I like to think of this as "functional luxury."

While we're shopping in the refrigerator aisle, let's talk wine fridges. This is a lovely little bonus feature is a must to include in your next kitchen update. The relatively low cost and compact size make a wine fridge a no-brainer for any size space. Danby offers a range of climate-controlled designs with storage capacity anywhere from 17 to 75 of your favourite bottles.

### **Stove**

The cooking area is the focus of every kitchen, and when it's not drawing attention for what's bubbling on the stovetop, then it should be for the cooking area design itself. If you're going to be sweating it at the stove, it may as well be a fabulous one! One of my favourite upgrades on this basic kitchen essential is by Italian brand Superiore.

The Deco range features a generous size - 6.7 cu. ft. of it, topped by a six gas-burner stovetop with an electric oven. Finishes include black, brown, red or white (matte finish optional) with the choice of gold or bronze hardware, for the ultimate in fashionable function.

### **Dishwasher**

This rounds out our holy trinity of kitchen essentials. Scrubbing the dishes is a dirty job, and I believe that a great dishwasher is the secret to true happiness. LG QuadWash Steam Dishwasher. High temperature steam (trending in kitchen appliances) eliminates the need to pre-rinse dishes and reduces spots, while doing a great job overall with minimal noise.

Every kitchen has its obvious functional requirements, with a fridge, stove and dishwasher at the top of every list, among other things. When it comes to a kitchen you want to spend time in, and get cookin in style why not take the utilitarian a step further by incorporating some unexpected extras - aesthetic, functional or both! . 🌿