

Nothing is Better Than Cooking with Natural Gas

Many professional chefs like to use natural gas burners for cooking because they offer greater temperature control and reduce cooking time. You do not have to be a professional chef, however, to appreciate the control and convenience of natural gas for cooking.

A Style to Fit Your Needs

The various styles of range cooktops and ovens include the following:

- Ovens can be incorporated into kitchen ranges or they can be separate units, such as wall ovens.
- Freestanding ranges can vary in width from 20" to 48". In some models, the ovens and broilers are in the same compartment; while in other models the ovens and broilers are separate, (often the broiler is located directly under the oven but using the same burner).
- Combination cooktop/two-oven ranges have a cooktop surface with one oven above the cooktop and one oven below. In some models, the unit above the cooktop is a microwave. Most combination-type ranges measure 30" in width.
- Slide-in ranges are freestanding units designed to look like they are built-in.
- Cooktop and wall ovens are generally separated. The cooktop is mounted in the countertop and the oven(s) is mounted in a wall cavity.
- Some units offer modular burners, grills, and griddles.

Efficiency

The newer generation of ranges use pilot-less ignition systems that save 30% more energy than older models. Moreover, self-cleaning gas ovens are much more energy efficient than traditional ovens, because they are better insulated.

Gas thermal convection ovens have built-in fans that continuously move heated air around the food, improving oven efficiency. This approach cooks food more quickly and evenly, and at lower temperatures.

Are you in the market for a new natural gas range or cooktop? If so, we can assist you with one of our Appliance Alliance Members. Call us at 729-4700 or go to Okaloosagas.com/buy-cooking.aspx, you will be glad you did!



Safety

Share the Warmth



What is "Share the Warmth"?

"Share the Warmth" provides energy assistance to residents that need assistance with their energy bills, repairs to heating and

air conditioning equipment and other energy related needs. The elderly, the disabled, the sick and others who are experiencing financial difficulties will benefit from this program.

"Share the Warmth" is administered by The Salvation Army and is funded by Okaloosa Gas customers who donate through their natural gas bills. All contributions are forwarded to The Salvation Army.

How can I Contribute to "Share the Warmth"?

To participate, you can pledge to contribute \$1, \$2, \$5, or any other whole dollar amount you choose each month. The amount you select will be automatically added to your utility bill each month. To enroll in "Share the Warmth", go to:

Okaloosagas.com/share-the-warmth.aspx.

INSTALL A CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

CO detectors are highly recommended in homes with fuel-burning appliances. The detectors signal homeowners via an audible alarm when CO levels reach potentially dangerous levels. Some models have digital readouts of current CO levels, which are useful to the homeowner to monitor household air quality. While some less-expensive models indicate varying levels of CO with differing alarms. CO detectors are either plug-in or hard-wired. They should be installed in rooms with a direct connect to combustion appliances, such as kitchens with fuel burning stove and ovens, areas near combustion closets for fuel burning heating systems, and rooms with fuel burning space heaters.



The Information Pipeline

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Cost of Natural Gas Goes Down As Winter Season Approaches



Okaloosa Gas District announced that the cost-of-gas portion of customer bills will decrease 10-percent beginning November 1, 2010 bills going from \$0.55 per therm to \$0.50 per therm.

“We are very pleased to announce this reduction in the cost of gas as we head into the cooler holiday season. The cost of gas has been coming down and we have been able to secure supplies for the coming months at very attractive rates,” said Gary Long, VP Marketing for Okaloosa Gas.

Okaloosa Gas divides customer bills into three components (not counting city, county, state and federal taxes): customer charge, cost of gas and delivery charge. The “cost of gas” rate represents the price paid by Okaloosa Gas to purchase natural gas and have it delivered into the District’s system for use by customers.

The typical residential customer will save \$1 to \$3 per month.

Natural Gas Fireplaces

Add Warmth, Beauty and Efficiency

What could be cozier on a cold, winter evening than a warm, glowing fire? Unfortunately, hauling and stacking wood, and cleaning up the mess that a wood-burning fire leaves behind, detracts from the whole experience. Wood-burning fireplaces also require chimneys, which can lead to costly maintenance and repairs. Moreover, a significant amount of heat is often lost through chimneys. For homeowners that appreciate the warm glow of a fire, but want the comfort and convenience of natural gas, a gas fireplace may be the perfect solution.

Benefits of Natural Gas

Gas fireplaces have a number of advantages over traditional wood-burning units.

Natural gas typically costs less than wood, making gas fireplaces much more economical. Natural gas fireplaces can also be turned on or turned off instantly, and produce far fewer pollutants. With a natural gas fireplace, there is no need to set-up, clean up, buy, chop, haul, or store wood.

Types and Styles Available

Natural gas fireplaces are available in a variety of styles and configurations that will suit most any home setting. A natural gas fireplace typically consists of a firebox, a set of realistic looking logs, a controllable burner, and a tempered or ceramic glass window that separates the firebox from the room. Depending on the model that is purchased, a natural gas fireplace may or may not have a ventilation system. Natural gas fireplaces are sized by the amount of heat output. They typically range from about 20,000 to 60,000 Btus per hour. Large units can keep most any size room at a comfortable temperature, while smaller units serve as supplements to central heating systems. The gas logs are designed to look real and the flame is engineered to have the same glow as a traditional fireplace.

Design Options

There are three main design options available for natural gas fireplaces. Fireplace inserts are installed in an existing fireplace opening and consist of a metal housing, ceramic logs, a controllable burner, and a glass front. An insert is an economical way to make use of your home's existing hearth and masonry work. Stand-alone units can be located anywhere in a room and can be vented either through an existing chimney or through direct venting. Zero clearance units consist of a self-contained metal firebox built into a wall with realistic logs and a controllable burner. Masonry fireplaces are not required for these units; they are often vented directly through a metal vent located in the wall or ceiling.

Safety and Performance

The tips that follow will help to ensure optimal performance and safe operation of your natural gas fireplace:

- Inspect the burner, blower, vents, and thermostat at least once per year.
- Regularly clean the glass window separating the flame from the room.
- Do not store anything near the fireplace, particularly flammable items such as boxes.
- Make sure the unit has an emergency shut-off valve.
- Never cover or block vents or gas lines.
- Do not leave small children unattended while the unit is in operation.

Overall, a natural gas fireplace is a great way to make your home cozy on cold winter nights, while adding ambiance to almost any room or setting.



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