

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

Home *Guide*



Dreamy Kitchens

Discover the latest home trends from locals who know best.

WRITTEN BY HEIDI BETHEL

During the summer months, many homeowners are busy with home projects, outdoor barbecues, and our soothing sunshine. Area experts have a few tips to keep in mind this time of year when it comes to the home and creating the ultimate kitchen space.



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Home Improvements

In a higher-interest-rate environment, residents tend to stay in their homes longer and focus on improvements. Sam Olson, team lead/owner of The Olson Group of RE/MAX Gold in Reno, explains, "When it becomes more expensive to upgrade your living situation by buying a new home, you can update your existing space. Investing money to upgrade your kitchen will pay dividends in the long run, and you can enjoy it in the meantime because it will be an even better place to live."

Betsy Caron, Realtor with Chase International Real Estate in Sparks, agrees and encourages her clients to appreciate the bigger role the kitchen often plays.



"It's the heart of the home, even if you're not a gourmet cook and you order out all the time; it's still the gathering place," she says. "You do homework, wash dishes, warm up food in the microwave. It holds a lot of emotional and bonding value for families."

With kitchen renovations, Caron suggests figuring out what elements are used the most and designing for the best function for your family. Donna O'Connell, Reno division president of Toll Brothers, agrees, noting the importance of a smart space.

"A well-designed kitchen will elevate your cooking experience to a new level," O'Connell adds. "We see customers who want a large island and ample counter space, plenty of storage, and all of the amenities available where and when they need them. Another biggie is state-of-the-art appliances and convection ovens with temperature control. You want to focus on how to save time and cook food evenly, while feeling like a professional chef in your own home."



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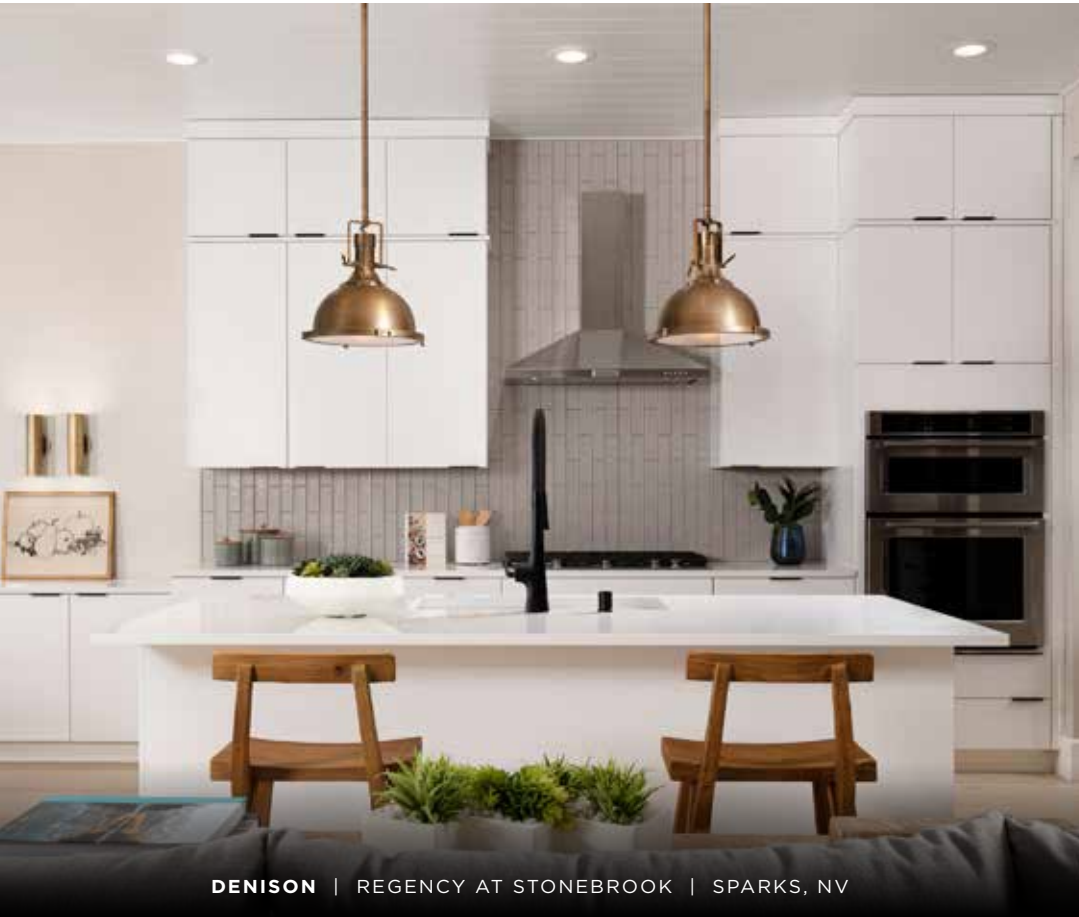
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All About Appliances

A lot of cutting-edge appliances loaded with special features are on the market right now. When it comes to buying new kitchen equipment, Tayona Tate, global real estate adviser with Compass in Reno, reminds readers to consider their home design.

“Does the appliance match the decor?” Tate asks. “If you’re looking for something minimalist, retro, even mid-century modern, there are options out there that will fit in nicely. Not only are we focused on the food tasting good, but let’s do it in style.”

Steve Gunderson, project manager with Curtis Bros. Construction Inc. in Reno, emboldens readers to explore the functions on new or existing appliances.

“If there’s a setting on the microwave that you’ve never used before, use it,” he says. “Explore those features. Induction cooktops offer a sous vide option. There are convection options, air fryers, the works. Go ahead, get creative and push some new buttons.”

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Hanging Hoods

"As the home chefs and *Hell's Kitchen* trainees are practicing their flambé skills over their ranges, a proper range hood size that covers not only the range width but also past that is always recommended," explains Blake Williams, real estate agent with Sierra Sotheby's International Realty in Reno.

A kitchen range hood is essential for maintaining good indoor air quality by trapping and eliminating harmful pollutants that result from the cooking surface, such as smoke, grease, and steam. While cooking, these substances tend to scatter in the air — a range hood that hangs past the range cooktop dimension is essential to capturing everything efficiently.

Accurate Countertops

When it comes to counter surfaces, it's important to use the right type of product for the space and elements. Engineered materials, such as quartz, Caesarstone, and Silestone, are pre-sealed but temperature sensitive. Natural stone, including marble, granite, and quartzite, handle higher temperatures but need to be sealed. Shaun Klein, director of business development at Nova Tile & Stone with locations in Reno, Minden, and Fernley, really likes quartzite both indoors and outside.



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"Quartzite is great for kitchens due to its durability, whereas marble will etch if it comes into contact with citrus acid and knife edges," he explains. "We also have a vegetable-based quartz that can be used outside and will maintain its color if you use a light shade."

Buyer Beware

While she sees great growth in the Reno-Tahoe region and an influx of new jobs happening soon, Karen Walker Hill, residential specialist at Ferrari-Lund Real Estate in Reno, warns folks to be on the lookout for scams.

"There are people out there trying to steal your money," she says. "I just got cancelled on an escrow that was a fake seller, picking out vacant land and putting it on the market for under market, who calls an agent to list it and signs from afar. [Officials] are catching them because they can't sign the final documents that require notary.

"If you're doing a 'for sale by owner' deal where you're not going through a title company," Walker Hill continues, "it's really dangerous right now. They are out in force. Always be aware of who you're buying from. People were also taking the \$60 deposit on rental applications and cashing it, taking the money and calling to say [the applicants] didn't get the place."



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COMPASS



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After an epic winter, it's time to celebrate summer. It's also when buyers, sellers, and investors are especially active.

"Seeking the home of their dreams, a new chapter, or a wise investment, buyers are turning to Sierra Sotheby's International Realty for guidance and advocacy," says Jenny Johnson, president and corporate broker. "Throughout the Lake Tahoe and Reno region, our seasoned, caring, local Realtors are a cut above, bringing extensive knowledge and luxury representation to every client."

She recommended that potential clients reach out to one of its eight local offices or sign up for the Sierra Insider Newsletter, which showcases regional market opportunities, local events, and hands-on information.

And just as a chef may hand-select the finest ingredients, real estate agents at Sierra Sotheby's understand that whom you work with matters. And they hope to be the recipe real estate success. Whether you're planning to host a barbecue with all your friends or hang around the island inside with family members, the kitchen is the heart of the home and a place to call your own. For questions about renovations, countertops, lighting, real estate, and more, be sure to reach out to these local experts today.

HOME GUIDE RESOURCES

Betsy Caron, Chase International Real Estate
Chaseinternational.com

Blake Williams, Sierra Sotheby's
Blakewilliamsrealtor.com

Curtis Bros. Construction
Curtisbros.com

Czyz's Appliance
Czyzsbrandsource.com

Desert Wind Homes
Desertwindhomes.com

Karen Walker Hill, Ferrari-Lund Real Estate
Ferrari-lund.com

Majestic Marble & Tile
Majesticmarbletile.com

Nova Tile & Stone
Novatileandstone.com

Omega Mortgage Group
Omeganv.com

Tayona Tate, Compass
Compass.com

The Olson Group of RE/MAX Gold
Olsonrealestategroup.com

Toll Brothers
Tollbrothers.com



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