

Stove Access and Safety

Stove Access

Independence preparing food or participating in food preparation with others is an important part of daily living for many people.

As we age things around the house that were once easy to negotiate can become more challenging, both limiting independence and posing threats to safety. This is particularly common with stove access and use.

Some strategies to support stove safety include habitually turning each pot handle so that it is not hanging over the edge of the stove, regular use of oven mitts, and avoiding cooking while wearing loose fitting clothing or sleeves.

The type of stove used can make a difference as well. Front control model stoves are often safer than those with controls at the back of a stove.

Front controls eliminate the need for anyone to have to reach across hot burners, pots, or pans to adjust temperature dials. This is especially important for people who experience balance challenges, who use the stove from a seated position, or who have low vision.



Image of Stove with Front Controls

Stove Safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 40 percent of all house fires are caused by unattended cooking related incidents. Kitchen safety can be a concern for many including household members who may have vision, memory, or coordination and balance challenges.

First ensure there is a functioning smoke detector installed. These can be hard-wired or battery operated, and should be checked yearly to be sure they still work. Changing batteries at least once a year is recommended.

There are also a number of options to increase stove safety that support safely aging in place. Be sure to explore options carefully as every situation is different and not all solutions will work for all stoves or all people.

Motion Sensors monitor movement and turn the stove off after a set time if no motion is detected. The sensor can be mounted under a cabinet next to the stove. See below for two examples.



CookStop- Turns Electric Stove Off



iGuardStove- Turns Electric or Gas Stove Off

Auto Stove Turn Off, Smart Burner Temperature Reducer, & Auto Fire Extinguisher are three additional options that decrease the hazard of fire from stove use.



Auto Stove Turn Off

Electric Stove turns off once smoke alarm is activated.



Smart Burner Temperature Reducer

Cycles off at 620 degrees (before ignition point). Turns back on after 212 degrees.



Auto Fire Extinguisher

Automatically dispenses once a stove top fire has started.
(Expensive)

The example on the left is an electric stove turn off that shuts power off to the stove once a smoke alarm is activated. The middle example is a smart burner temperature reducer that cycles off prior to the ignition point of 620 degrees and turns back on after 212 degrees. The example on the right is an automatic fire extinguishing dispenser activated if a stove top fire has started. This type of fire control mechanism is expensive.

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