

Property news

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BBQ season is upon us...

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The Met Office has announced summer 2009 is likely to be a glorious affair, with temperatures reaching Mediterranean standards.

So what better way to celebrate the forthcoming sunshine than with a barbecue?

While it may be the traditional fare of the Aussie, all you really need for a good BBQ is good weather, and let's face it, it's about time we had some. So, ever the optimist, Sarah Garrod has compiled the complete guide to summer barbecuing, from products, to fire safety, to the all important recipes; and with National BBQ Week just around the corner, it could be the perfect time to "light up the barbi".



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Financial and trend predicting experts are currently foreseeing more of us will be spending the summer at home this year, as the recession bites into our overseas holiday funds.

As such, the garden will become an all important location, as Kelly Merry, B&Q assistant buyer on leisure furniture, explains: "Outdoor living is worth investing in this year because more people will be having a 'staycation' in 2009 meaning they are most likely to be spending more time in their garden and conservatory than in previous years. With B&Q's range this year we have something for everyone no matter what their budget and that was the inspiration for this season's ranges."

Al Fresco dining is key to the 'staycation', especially after the Met Office announced last week we were "odds on for a barbecue summer". So, first and foremost, the most essential piece of kit is the BBQ itself.

The possibilities are endless, so the best place to start is what 'type' of BBQ you want; gas, charcoal, smoke, fire pit, disposable...the choices are endless. While the easy long-term option is certainly the gas BBQ, it may not provide the smoky flavour more associated with the traditional BBQ.

Barbecuing expert, (who even uses his BBQ to cook the Christmas turkey!) Charles Ramseyer, director of Southampton Calor Gas Centre, says the most important thing to remember when buying a barbecue is to think quality and long-term investment. He says: "I would say that quality is in fashion. People seem to be happy to pay a little more to buy something that will last ten or more years, rather than spending less and having to replace it the following year; a false economy."

"We find that the quality brands like Weber, Broil King and Beefeater sell easily because of the guarantees, the fact that they are genuine and that they do what they are designed to do and do it well!"

Best BBQ Buys

Aboutproperty has put together our top buys for the BBQ season:

Weber's One Touch Gold 67cm, a bigger version of Weber's classic charcoal kettle barbecue, which is large enough to cook for a whole party (pictured above right).

BBQ Herb Mix Hanging Baskets, £12.98 each from B&Q.



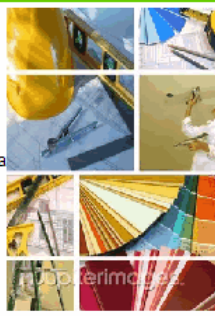
Next's outdoor dining set of Floral Print Melamine bowls and plates, starting from £6.

Go Modern's range of garden furniture, such as the Trinity Garden Chair (£260) and Luton café table (£500) picture right.

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