

# Powerful Appliances in Small Spaces

*By San Rafael Showroom Representatives*

**D**o you ever wonder “how much space is enough space”? Inherently, appliances can accommodate homes with limited spaces. Whether it’s downsizing living spaces, or moving into a condo, apartment, or in-law unit. Usually these areas have less space in their kitchens, which is ideal for smaller sized appliances.

When you find that space is at a premium, but you still want top-of-the-line appliances, don’t despair! Manufacturers are designing compact models of their professional lines and with new technologies the smaller appliances match the incredible features and functions of their larger counterparts food preservation, cuisine, and clean-up.

Let’s address some solutions for “wanting” more things than we have space for. Some families feel the need for two wall ovens, especially around the holidays, and of course, an essential piece of equipment is the microwave. What if there isn’t enough space for all 3 pieces? Perhaps you visualized a built-in refrigerator, freezer, wine cooler, or beverage center in your entertainment area, but full-size just won’t fit? Or a laundry room that is no larger than a closet? How do we manage our wants with space limitations?

First, choose the combination microwave/convection oven to compliment the traditional oven. It’s like having all 3 pieces in your kitchen but using fi the space. The micro-convection oven is available in 24”, 27”, or 30” widths. The combo unit will function as both a convection oven and a standard microwave—to reheat coffee and pop popcorn, or bake a potato and roast a chicken without a loss in taste or quality.

American manufacturers have recently begun offering high output burners on smaller ranges or cook tops. A 24” wide professional range featuring four 15,000 BTU burners is a first on the market. European manufacturers, on the other hand, have always had narrower appliances and cook tops (gas or electric), from deep fryers to built-in barbeques.

Refrigerators, one of the largest appliances in a kitchen, are now available in under-counter systems. The 15” or 24” widths fit perfectly below a counter, and are sold as drawers or with solid or glass doors. Almost all the full-line manufacturers are now making undercounter or drawer refrigerator systems with the majority offering the option of an overlay panel to match the color or cabinetry in the overall design.

Dishwashers have become undersized too! A popular new style called the “Dish Drawer” can be used as a single drawer for small spaces. These impressive units will wash your dishes while saving energy, water, and space. They come in a double drawer configuration, as well, fitting a standard cut-out space. Try two single units, on each side of your sink for a real design statement. Here again, it’s easy to overlay a panel to match your cabinetry. This overlay style makes the appearance of the room look bigger with the continuous cabinetry. Also, there is a dishwasher on the market that is literally “in-the-sink”, therefore taking up no cabinet space.

Finally, the industry offers incredible choices in compact laundry systems. Well known manufacturers produce powerful, energy saving units that are stackable, and can fit in 24” wide cabinet. Need one unit that can do it all—they are still around. Even less space, check out a single under counter system with washer and dryer in one chassis.

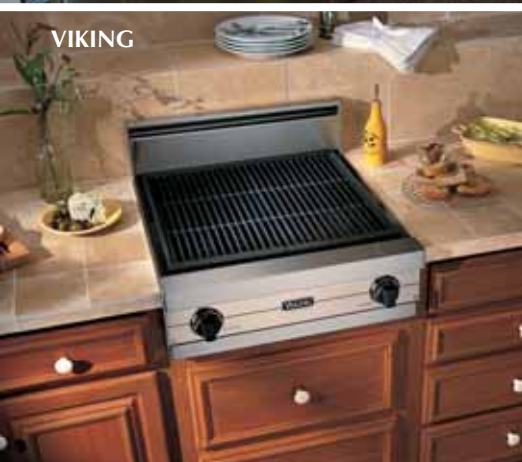
Smaller appliances don’t necessarily have smaller price tags but the good news is that they are far more efficient and cost less to operate. Their performance is just as powerful as the larger professional equipment and take up half the room in some cases. As you have read, there are solutions for different size rooms. Manufacturers offer a range of appliance sizes without compromising their integrity. So, no matter what the size of the room with the right appliance selection and design choices, the project will be successful. ■



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