

The Man Who's
Taking On the NCAA

Inside Climbing's
Toughest Triumph

Greed vs. the
Grand Canyon

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Best Places to Live

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REBORN CITIES
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ARE SMART APPLIANCES READY FOR PRIME TIME?

It's trendy for manufacturers to put internet connectivity in everything, but the benefits to run-of-the-mill appliances are few and far between.



CONNECTED HOME GEAR can excel at monitoring and adjusting your environment. But when it comes to smartening up appliances, most

of the current options fall short. The **GE Profile Series 30" Free-Standing Electric Convection Range** (\$1,400; products.geappliances.com) lets you preheat before you get home, a feature as underwhelming as it is dangerously unwise.

Other products graft gadgetry onto products without actually changing how they function. The **Samsung 4-Door Refrigerator with 8" Wi-Fi Enabled LCD** (\$3,599; samsung.com) has a built-in touchscreen that lets you check news headlines and stream music with Pandora. Plus, if you sync it with a Samsung Galaxy smartphone, you can make calls from your fridge. Every one of this model's so-called smart features can be done better with the tablet or smartphone that's probably already sitting on the kitchen counter.

And the upcoming **Miele 48-Inch Dual Fuel Range** (\$TBD; mieleusa.com) can receive data from an application called Chef Watson, which uses artificial intelligence to come up with inventive recipes for whatever ingredients you have lying around. But why bother tying this sci-fi functionality to

an appliance when the same recipes can be viewed online? And that's not even taking into consideration the range's huge price tag.



WORTH IT

The only class of smart appliance we heartily recommend are connected washers and dryers, like the **LG WT6001HV Smart ThinQ Washer** (\$1,700; lg.com). It texts you when the wash is done, so you'll never forget to move a load to the dryer, and, cooler still, it uses custom cycle recipes (from an online database) to deal with specific stains and fabrics.

COMING SOON

EVERYTHING WILL BE CONNECTED

These upcoming products show where wired devices are headed — for better or worse.



Lynx Smartgrill

Tell it what you want to cook (it's voice activated) and the SmartGrill guides you through the process. It also learns your preferences. From \$6,000; lynxgrills.com



Luna Mattress Cover

Track sleep, be woken in the least disruptive part of your cycle, and apply separate temperature settings for either side of the bed. From \$249; lunasleep.com



Arist Coffee Maker

Lattes, cappuccinos, and other custom drinks are ground and brewed to order via an app, which also lets you download new drink recipes and check on supply levels. \$699; aristcafe.com



Pantelligent

The Bluetooth-connected frying pan transmits your current (and target) heat and tells you when to flip and when you're done. \$249; pantelligent.com

THE MORE EFFICIENT WAY TO WATER THE LAWN

Just in time for spring — a smart device that can save time and money.



The WiFi-connected **Rachio Iro** (\$249, rach.io) allows you to schedule sprinkler operation from your smartphone, but more interestingly, it can delay or decrease watering based on real-time conditions (if it's going to rain, there's no need for extra irrigating) and use custom watering cycles that match your region's soil composition. The system also gives you precise stats on water used — and saved. In fact, the Iro can cut the average customer's outdoor water usage by 20 to 30 percent, saving thousands of gallons of water per year.