



# AGEFREE LIVING SOLUTIONS INITIAL PRODUCT EVALUATION

taking the old out of aging

technology evaluation

marketing

design and innovation

## The CookStop™ Stovetop Fire Prevention Device

OVERALL RATING ●●●●○

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR COOKS OF ALL AGES



### THE REVIEWER

Terryl M. Asla, MSC, has over 25 years experience working with older persons and their technology needs.

His work has appeared on television and in newspapers, journals and other publications.

Asla is founder of AgeFree Living Solutions and Senior Lifestyle Editor for *Health Matters Magazine*.

He can be reached at [terrylmasla@gmail.com](mailto:terrylmasla@gmail.com) and [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/terrylmasla).



SETTINGS CAN BE LOCKED

MOTION DETECTOR

LIGHTED ON/OFF BUTTONS

### INTRODUCTION

After testing one, I want a CookStop™ for my own kitchen. The unit turns off your stove if no one is in the room, helping prevent cooking fires—the number one cause of home fires. While children under the age of 5 and adults age 65+ are *(continued on next page)*

### KITCHEN FIRE FACTS\*

- Cooking fires are the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires.
- People ages 25 to 44 are most apt to be injured; children under 5 and adults 65+ are most apt to be killed.
- **The National Fire Protection Association recommends devices like CookStop™ that “shut off or turn down stoves when no motion is detected....”**

\*[www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/cooking kit/USFA\\_Cooking\\_Report.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/cooking%20kit/USFA_Cooking_Report.pdf).

EXCELLENT ●●●● VERY GOOD ●●● AVERAGE ●● BELOW AVERAGE ● NOT RECOMMENDED ○

more apt to be killed in a kitchen fire, people ages 25-44 years old are most apt to be injured because they spend more time cooking.

## EASE OF INSTALLATION ON STANDARD RANGES ●●●●

The UL-approved unit comes with three pieces and the hardware to install them:

1. **On/off power box** for the 220 V. stove outlet (available in both 3- and 4-prong)
2. **Control unit** (shown above) that goes beneath a nearby ceiling cabinet so its motion detector has a clear view of the room
3. **Connecting cable**

Installing the unit on a standard stove was easy and only took about 20 minutes. The hardest part was moving the stove away from the wall to install the power box.

A CookStop™ unit is under development for counter cook tops and built-in ovens, according to Mike Chase of CookStop™.

## EASE OF USE ●●●●

You only use two buttons: The green “COOK” button and the red “STOP” button. (The buttons on the left are for changing settings and require an administrator’s token to unlock—an added safety feature.)

## DESIGN ●●●●

The white plastic control unit is functional with large, illuminated buttons. Some cooks in the study (myself included) would like to see a wider choice of colors to go with their kitchen décors.

## PERFORMANCE ●●●●

The control unit has a 5-minute timer. The motion detector in the control unit has a range of about 2-3 feet to either side and in front of the stove. If no movement is detected in that zone, the unit starts to count down to zero. It beeps and flashes during the last few seconds and then turns off the stove.

## EXPANDABILITY ●●●●

The CookStop™ can be linked with smoke detectors and other safety devices. The system’s incident reporting feature should be useful for housing managers and for older persons who are living alone.

## COST ●●●●

At about \$300, the CookStop™ is a real bargain. Even a small kitchen fire can do thousands of dollars in damages, not to mention the potential for injuries or deaths.

## WHERE TO BUY

Available from Home for Life Solutions, [www.homeforlifesolutions.com](http://www.homeforlifesolutions.com).

**OBSERVATIONS BASED ON PRELIMINARY EVALUATION. EXTENDED TESTING IS NOW UNDERWAY.**

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