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The pros of having a well-stocked kitchen are virtually endless. When you cook at home more often than not you make better food choices for yourself. Having to look at everything you put into a meal will more often than not lead to you choosing healthier options.

On an even more practical and immediate note, even if you are cooking ridiculously unhealthy foods at home you are going to save a lot of money preparing your own food. Most people would probably be shocked by the amount of money they waste buying food instead of cooking at home. Something as simple as taking a thermos with you instead of constantly buying bottled water will save you sometimes hundreds of dollars of the course of the year!

Preparing your own food also puts you more in touch with the foods you eat. You appreciate them more because you put the time into making it. But still, there are practical and beneficial ways to cut back on the time it takes to prepare food.

One of the main reasons that many people choose to order takeout or go out to dinner is because they don't have the time to cook or they don't want to take time to do it. That is where handy kitchen gadgets come in. These are things that are handy to have around the kitchen so you don't have to spend quite so much time working on your next meal. Here are a few examples of handy kitchen gadgets that will remarkably speed up your preparation process.

Perfect Pod EZ Cup

If you have ever had one of the pod coffee makers (like a Keurig machine, etc) then you know it is hard to ever go back. The convenience of these machines is hard to match.

The only problem is that the outrageous price of the coffee pods is also hard to match. You end up paying double, triple, and more for the same amount of coffee. This is due to the fact that you have to keep throwing out and buying those little pods, which come out to being almost a dollar a piece in some cases.

But you can save money and still have the convenience of a Keurig machine by using the Perfect Pod EZ Cup. This brilliant little invention lets you make your own coffee pods with the normal coffee you buy in big tins at the store.

All you have to do is fill up the EZ Cup filter with the coffee of your choice, pop it into the reusable pod, snap the lid shut and you are on your way. This gadget is easy to clean up and use, and you will save all kinds of money in the long run!

Deluxe Ultimate Knife Sharpener

We've all seen the commercials on late night television where some overly excited person is frantically telling us about a set of 20 knives that we just have to have. But the truth is, for 99% of the cooking you are going to do, you really only need one good chef's knife.

The thing is, knives do dull over time, and cutting with a dull knife is dangerous. While it may seem counterintuitive, a dull knife can be far more dangerous than a sharp one. That's because a dull knife will slip much, much easier than a sharp one that cuts right through what you're actually trying to cut through.

That is why it is crucial to have a knife sharpener on hand. If not you'll be having to buy a brand new knife every few months. The Deluxe Ultimate Knife Sharpener will sharpen any knife in a flash, thanks to the carbide steel sharpeners. Never cut with a dull knife again when you have access to this incredibly handy and safety conscious knife sharpener.

Collapsible Hanging Colander

When you're out shopping for items with which to stock your kitchen, you are never going to forget the basics like silverware and plates and pots and pans and things like that. Sure, you might have to run back out for a cutting board or a slicer, but you'll eventually get around to it.

But one handy and simple item that many people never get around to picking up is a simple colander for washing off food, draining pasta, and many more things. Once you have one, however, you won't know how you ever lived without it.

This colander is especially handy because it also hooks onto the side of your sink, allowing you to just direct water right over it. If you prefer to have it free-standing, it has legs for that as well. It even folds up so that you can save room while you store it.

The most important thing in your kitchen isn't any gadget though, it's you. The more time you spend in your kitchen the more cooking you will do, the healthier you will be, and the more money you will save.

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