



20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## **British Garden Centres' top tips to help you enjoy your BBQ over the summer season**

Summer is here, what better way to enjoy spending time with loved ones than having a barbecue and enjoying great food together? With National Barbecue Week taking place from June 3rd-9th 2024, the outdoor living team at British Garden Centres has put together some tips and tricks to help you have the best barbecuing experience this summer.

### **Choose a Barbecue that is right for you**

The debate over whether gas or charcoal is best has been ongoing for years, but the choice depends on your needs and preferences. The time it takes for the barbecue to be ready for use can vary depending on the type of barbecue - gas barbecues can reach the desired temperature more quickly than charcoal models. Both types have their pros and cons: gas barbecues allow for more controlled cooking due to their consistent and accurate heat, while charcoal barbecues are versatile, can create authentic smoky flavours, and are not restricted by temperature control.

### **Feeling hot, hot, hot!**

Controlling the heat on a gas barbecue is easy – just turn a dial. However, with a charcoal barbecue, it's a bit more complicated. Some barbecues have a temperature gauge, but if yours doesn't, you can use a simple hand test. Hold your palm about 12cm/5" above the grill and gauge the heat based on how long you can comfortably keep it there: 6 seconds for low heat, 4 seconds for medium heat, and 2 seconds for high heat. For gas BBQs, designate one side for high heat and the other for lower heat. For round BBQs, concentrate charcoal in the centre for high heat, leaving the outskirts for lower heat. With rectangular BBQs, divide the grill into halves for different heat levels.

### **Store your Barbecue appropriately after use**

A common question people ask is whether barbecues can be left outside. We always recommend if you're storing your barbecue outside, covering it when not in use can help prolong its life and shield it from damage, especially during the winter months. British Garden Centres offer a variety of barbecue covers and shelters to help protect your barbecue.



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### **Clean your Barbecue after every use**

After using the barbecue, allow it to cool down to a warm temperature before attempting to clean it, as this will help remove any food residue left on the grill. If the barbecue has fully cooled down, you can heat the grates and use a grill brush, such as the Weber grill brush, to remove any food residue. After that, wash the barbecue grates with soapy water and rinse to remove any soap. To clean the outside of the barbecue enamel or stainless steel, you can use cleaners to keep your barbecue looking its best.

### **Choose the right accessories**

Looking to enhance your barbecue cooking? Consider adding another dimension with our range of wood chips for charcoal barbecues. Infuse your dishes with delicious flavours like apple wood, perfect for grilling fish, pork, and vegetables. You can find our selection of wood chips online and in our garden centres.

### **Plan, Plan, Plan!**

It's a good idea to plan for shelter for your barbecue and your guests, even if it doesn't rain but the summer can be quite breezy. A parasol is an excellent option for providing shelter to people and can also offer some shade from the sun on the hottest days, allowing you to enjoy the party without getting grilled or rained on. Our Fern Living collection has a great selection of parasols that can provide shade or shelter when needed.

Many charcoal and gas barbecues come with an integrated hood that can act as a windbreak and protect against short showers of rain. British Garden Centres stocks brands such as Weber, Grillstream, and Ooni Pizza Ovens. Why not visit your local centre or shop online from the comfort of your home and have it delivered straight to your door.

### **ENDS**

### **WORD COUNT: 645**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 62 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by The Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1987 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018 it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now with 62 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham. The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.



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**Social Media**

Facebook: British Garden Centres

Twitter: @BGCentres

Instagram: @BritishGardenCentres

Website: [www.britishgardencentres.com](http://www.britishgardencentres.com)

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