

By Deborah Stone

Charged with purpose

IT STARTED with power tools and garden equipment, then vacuum cleaners got in on the act. Now kitchen gadgets are finally joining the rechargeable appliances revolution with Cuisinart's Cordless Collection.

It's not the first on the market but the four products – a hand blender, hand mixer, on-the-go blender and wine opener – are both powerful and lightweight. They're also compact, an important issue in ever-smaller homes where storage is at a premium.

Once their lithium-ion batteries are charged they can be used anywhere, so you don't have to stretch cables over crowded work surfaces.

"Over the past year, we've spent more time than ever at home, so our kitchens need to work hard while still looking good," says Cuisinart UK marketing manager Catherine Kiddle.

"As a result, we're focusing on the importance of maximum efficiency in the kitchen with minimal clutter."

On the subject of space-saving, if your kitchen radiator is due an upgrade, consider a vertical model to increase wall space available for kitchen units.

Just as effective as horizontal radiators, they are a joy to lean against when you come in from the cold. If you worry they're too high to dry tea towels on, you can buy a separate towel rail to attach to them – and save even more wall space.

Another great space saver if you're redesigning your kitchen but don't have room for a table, is to create a breakfast bar between the units, with room for a kitchen stool or two.



Dunelm's Loxwood oak bar stools can be hidden under breakfast bars between kitchen units, £59 (0845 165 6565; dunelm.com)



Cuisinart will add a Cordless Mini Prep Pro, £100, in April to its hand mixer, £90, hand blender and chopper, £100, wine opener, £80, and On The Go blender, £100 (cuisinart.co.uk)



Bisque Classic vertical radiator, from £386.40, rail from £162 (01276 605800; bisque.co.uk)

