How to Get Protection From the Elements

While there are many advantages to having an outdoor kitchen, one of the biggest disadvantages is the fact that it is vulnerable to the elements. If it rains or snows, you have extreme heat, or you end up with a major disaster in your area, the kitchen is vulnerable to damage. Here are some ways to protect the outdoor kitchen from your local climate conditions.

**Choose the Right Location**

Start by choosing the right location in your backyard for the kitchen so that it is well protected from the elements. For example, if you have an area of your patio where it can be protected from an existing retractable awning, that can be an excellent location. You might also have an area of your background that is shaded due to tree coverage or doesn’t tend to experience the brunt of the rain or snowfall. These are good places to consider building the outdoor kitchen.

**Install a Patio Awning**

If you don’t already have a patio awning, now is the perfect time to consider one. You can either go with an awning that is always open to provide adequate shade and raincover for your patio and the outdoor kitchen area, or a retractable one that is only open during inclement weather. While retractable awnings are great, there are some definite disadvantages. Among them include the fact that you might not be home when it starts to rain and can’t open up the awning to protect the outdoor kitchen area. This is something to consider when choosing which awning will work best for you.

**Build a Pergola For the Outdoor Kitchen**

A pergola is a type of outdoor structure that includes framework often of wood that provide shelter and shade. You can have one custom-built so that it fits on your patio and provides excellent shade and protection from the elements. Either have one to cover your entire patio, or just large enough to cover the outdoor kitchen and dining area. You can even decorate it with twinkle lights or climbing plants.

**Go the Easy Route With Umbrellas**

If you aren’t able to have a pergola built or installed, and don’t have the funds for an awning, an umbrella works just fine. They have large patio umbrellas that provide more shade coverage than just at your outdoor patio table. There are large ones you can place in the ground and angle them just right to protect the kitchen area from rain, heavy winds, and heat. These are also great for getting good shade in the dining area when enjoying your meal.