

The Evolution Of The Telephone: New Uses And Etiquette

(NAPSA)—What's new with cordless phones? More than you might expect. They're no longer big and bulky—they are compact, sleek and multifunctional, letting you do much more than simply make a phone call.

Not quite sure what all the new phone features mean and which ones can really make your life easier? Below are a few highlights of today's offerings, along with explanations of how these features benefit you:

- **Personalization:** Many cordless phones offer sound and graphic options—show your personality through downloadable musical ringtones and pictures that you can display on color LCD screens.

- **Storage:** With built-in directories, you can store numbers for everyone in your extended family, as well as numbers for your favorite pizza service, your best friend and more—some models offer 100 slots.

- **Expandability:** With expandable phone systems, multiple handsets can be used with only one phone jack needed for the base unit, making it easy to set up phones throughout the house.

- **Frequency:** Choose a phone running on the latest DECT (Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications) technology for interference-free calls, great quality and range, and enhanced security against eavesdropping.

- **Transfer and Intercom:** Don't yell at your son or daughter to pick up the phone. Take advantage of handset-to-handset intercom and transfer capabilities found on the latest models.

New Technologies

In addition to the cool features noted above, new phones such as VTech's ip8300 infoPhone™ let you



New cordless phones are as sleek and high-tech as today's cell phones.

check e-mail and access the Internet. AT&T's EP5632 uses Bluetooth technology to receive cellular calls with the sound quality of a landline. Fashion fans will love the metallic VTech 6042, which operates on DECT and reflects the slim look of today's cell phones, portable music players and other electronics.

Today's Phone Etiquette

New cordless phones such as these haven't just changed the way people talk, they've raised questions about how people should talk to one another.

For instance, a voice-to-voice conversation is very personal, but if your phone offers e-mail, is it rude to communicate this way? Is it inappropriate to multitask—to use a Bluetooth wireless headset to talk on the phone and keep your hands free for cooking or folding laundry?

Experts say no, as long as you give primary attention to the person with whom you're talking—or emailing. It's about deciding the best form of communication for you.

For more information, visit www.vtechphones.com or telephones.att.com.