

Wonderful Wireless Phones

It's impossible to go anywhere these days without hearing the familiar trill of a cell phone. People around the world can be seen walking and talking, eating and talking, working and talking and even driving and talking on their wireless phones. It's a phenomenon that allows users of all ages and lifestyles stay connected with friends, family and business associates anywhere, at any time.

The wireless phones on the market these days feature a dizzying plethora of functions and gizmos. New functions are constantly being added to make cell phones even more convenient to use. Today's typical cellular phone can do just about anything.

Depending on the cell phone model you choose, here are some of the things you can look forward to doing with your wireless phone:

- * Store personal contact information
- * Create and update task or to-do lists
- * Keep track of appointments and set alarm reminders
- * Use the built-in calculator for math
- * Send and receive email
- * Search the Internet for information like news, entertainment and stock quotes
- * Play games
- * Take pictures
- * Connect to an FM band and play the radio
- * Integrate other devices such as PDAs , MP3 players and GPS receivers

All this # and you can make and receive phone calls too!

Okay, you already know about all of the wonderful things that wireless phones can do. But, have you ever wondered how these marvelous gadgets work? What makes a cellular phone different from a regular phone?

Let's begin with the basics. Cellular phones are no more than fancy radio devices. While admittedly more extravagant than the average radio, they operate on the same principles.

Following the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, Nikola Tesla introduced wireless communication in the 1880s in the form of the first radio. As fate would have it, these two marvelous technologies would one day be combined to create the cell phone.

Before the age of cellular phones, people who required the portability of a mobile communication device would install radiotelephones in their cars. These car phones relied on the use of huge transmitters powerful enough to send a signal 40 to 50 miles. The phones themselves were big and bulky, with long antennas # a far cry from the convenient pocket-sized powerhouses enjoyed by today's mobile generation.

The true genius of mobile phones is the division of a city into small cells. This creates extensive frequency reuse across an entire city, allowing millions of people to use cellular phones simultaneously. Cell phone carriers will separate a city into hundreds of cells, each measuring about 10 square miles. Because cellular phones and base stations use low-power transmitters, the same frequencies can be reused in non-adjacent cells, allowing more people to use cellular phones without choking the frequency pathway. In the United States, the typical cell phone can receive about 800 frequencies to use within the city. This is indeed a big step from the radiotelephone system that allowed only about twenty-five channels per city.

Wireless phones have come a long way since those shoebox-size car phones first hit the market three decades ago. Today's phones are small, lightweight and incredibly versatile. Considering all that a user can do with this small wonder # it's no small wonder that so many users rely on them every day at work, at home, at play and on the road.