

Steamy in and out of bed

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Is a man's performance in the kitchen indicative of his prowess in the bedroom? Well, their partners seem to think so.

That's the finding of an Australian-first study that looked at women's physiological and emotional responses to blokes doing housework.

The research showed that fellas clued up on culinary capabilities fared better than their macho counterparts when it came to keeping their ladies happy.

The experiment, commissioned by Sunbeam, put 20 Aussie couples through rigorous scenario-based testing to determine which domestic duties saw females most turned on.

Measuring their responses through brainwave activity and electrical skin conductivity, the results found hand-crafting a fresh coffee or mixing a cake both outperformed using a power drill or sawing wood.

Seven out of 10 women felt receiving a coffee was similar to getting a gift or a loving embrace.

Relationship educator and sexologist Dr Nikki Goldstein said women want different things from their partners these days.

"Guys are still stuck in that vortex of 'we have to do what's masculine, we have to change a light globe and mow the lawn', and I don't think they're getting the fact that we want a guy that's ... going to think outside the stereotypical gender role," Dr Goldstein said.

"Cooking or making something for us can be an infinitely more thoughtful gesture in today's busy society than unblocking a drainpipe."

She said women subconsciously associate kitchen creativity with inventiveness between the sheets.

"Men who are comfortable in a kitchen suggest a more dynamic partner where it counts: behind closed doors."

Dr Goldstein said women are now aroused by a man who is more metrosexual.

"If we look at the celebrity chefs like Curtis Stone and Jamie Oliver, the sexy guy has become the guy that comes into the kitchen.

"A bunch of flowers is really pretty, but I think we're living in the age where we want our partners to do something a little bit more practical to give us a hand."