



Invite prosperity into your life using the ancient Chinese art of feng shui, says Bonnie Cleaver

feng shui for wealth

Wealth and success, it is said, can be created through hard work, self-belief and smart money management. Yet feng shui experts believe our 'earth luck' – or the good fortune we foster with a supportive environment – also plays a part. Feng shui is about arranging your surrounds to attract positive energy or 'chi', which in turn enriches all aspects of your life. The following tips can help you get started.

Clear the clutter to boost cash flow

In feng shui, clutter represents stuck or stagnant energy that blocks the flow of positive chi through the home, preventing new opportunities from coming your way. Start by decluttering your home if you want to boost your bank balance. "There's no point implementing feng shui remedies if your home is cluttered – if anything it will have minimal impact and could even worsen things, because you'll be enhancing the negative *sha chi* around the house," says Elizabeth Wiggins, president of the Association of Feng Shui Consultants. "I often find if you do a big clear out, soon after you'll receive money or opportunities to make more money will come your way."

Toss-out tips:

- tip** Ask a candid friend to walk through your home, pointing out areas that need work. "Another idea is to take photos of each room and then look at them on the computer, which can be quite illuminating," suggests feng shui consultant Carol Partridge.
- tip** While the goal is not minimalism, you should throw out anything that's broken or damaged, is never used or doesn't make you feel good when you see it.
- tip** Rather than attempting to declutter the entire house in one afternoon, start small with a desk drawer or kitchen cupboard. Or prioritise the front entrance, as it's the main wealth 'hot spot' of the home (see right).

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Key wealth areas of the home...

Wealth area #1

The entrance

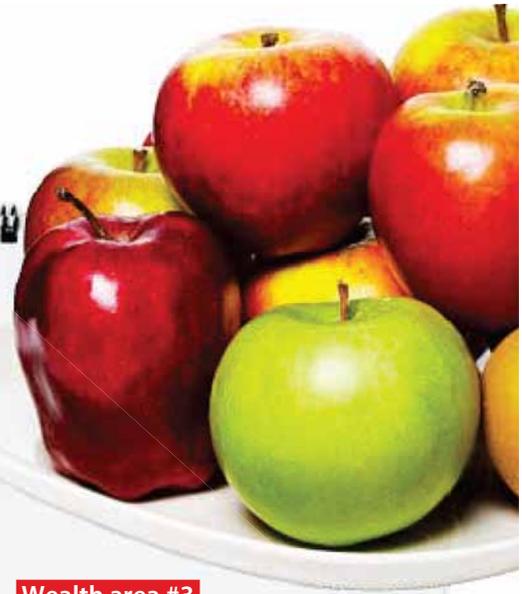
Representing the energy and opportunities we invite into our lives, the front entrance is the most important part of the home for attracting wealth. "The more you can attract chi to the entrance and into your home, the more prosperous you will be – it's like accumulating wealth in chi," explains Partridge.

Feng shui remedies:

- Make sure the numbers on your letterbox are visible and the pathway or entrance to your home is well-lit and unobstructed by clutter or an overgrown garden.
- Place potted jade plants or cumquats either side of your front door. They represent

abundance and entice positive *sheng chi* into the home.

- The inner entrance should be warm and welcoming – a space for chi to gather and circulate before moving through the house. Clear any clutter and hang up a vision board or inspirational picture as a reminder of your goals.
- If you like, place a traditional wealth enhancer like a money toad in the entrance. The most powerful objects are those with personal meaning, so Partridge advises you "choose something that is symbolic to you or that you've found is prosperous in your life".



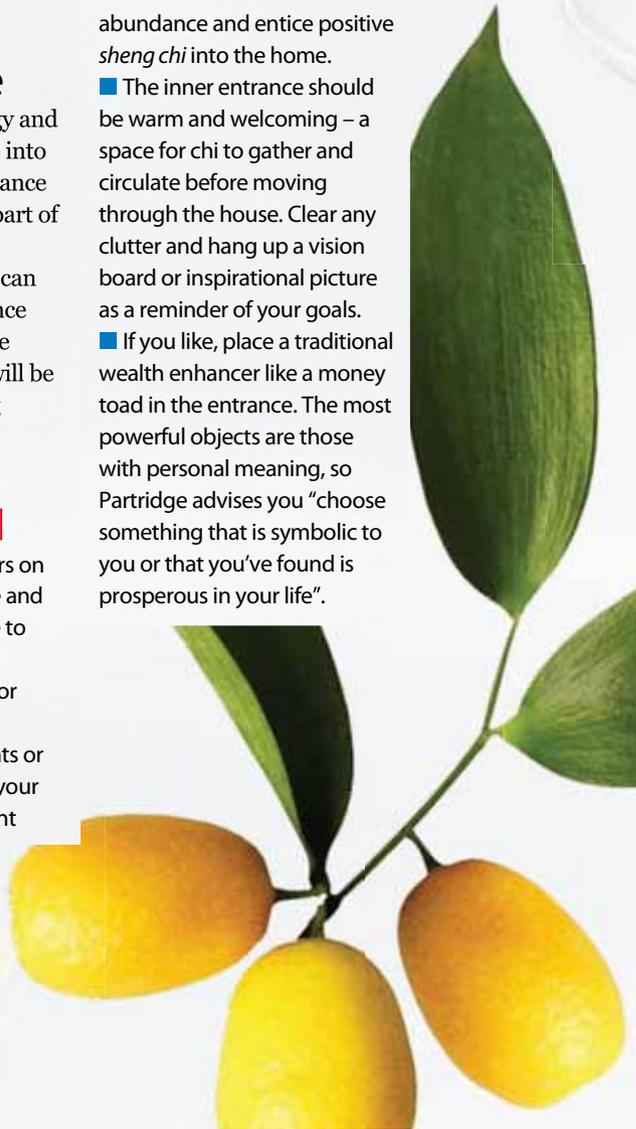
Wealth area #3

The kitchen

In feng shui, the kitchen – and in particular the stove – are intrinsically linked to our health and wealth, as the place where we enjoy the fruits of our labour and nourish ourselves so we can continue earning money.

Feng shui remedies:

- Because the stove is a symbol of wealth and bounty, it's important to keep it clean and in good working order. "One of the best quick fixes is to clean your stove until it sparkles, then watch the money come in," says Wiggins.
- Using each of the stove burners regularly is thought to maximise your money-making potential.
- A stove located adjacent to your sink, dishwasher or fridge represents an inauspicious clash of the fire and water elements. To remedy it, place wood, like a chopping board, in between them.
- Fruit symbolises abundance, so keep a bowl on your kitchen bench or dining table. Top it up regularly, as a half-full fruit bowl signifies reduced wealth.



Wealth area #2 The south-east sector

The true wealth sector of your home is based on its exact orientation, floor plan and the year it was built, and can only be deciphered by a consultant trained in the Form, Compass and Flying Stars schools of feng shui. However, as a basic guide, use a compass to locate the south-east sector of your home, which relates to abundance.

Feng shui remedies:

- Clear any old or unused items from the south-east to allow money reach you more readily.
- Lucky bamboo or fresh flowers in a vase are ideal in this area, as the south-east is associated with wood, which is fed by water.
- Water features can stimulate financial growth, but if put in the wrong position they can have the

opposite effect. "If your finances start going backwards, remove the water feature immediately," says Wiggins.

- "To energise your finances, stimulate the south-east of your home or the south-east corner of rooms you use often by adding a bright light, TV, candle, wind chime or orange citrine crystal, which stirs up positive energy," suggests feng shui consultant Michele Castle. ►





Money drains...

Money drain #1

Broken or leaking taps, pipes or toilet

Because water attracts and activates wealth energy, any water flowing away from the home signifies financial loss, and should be fixed immediately. Another issue can be if your bathroom is located in the south-east or abundance sector. "The remedy, in that case, is to keep the toilet lid down and the bathroom door shut," advises Wiggins.

Money drain #2

A missing south-east sector

If your house is L-shaped rather than square or rectangular, it may be missing the south-east sector. "Basically you want to square the area off, which you can do by adding a patio, tree, pot plant or outdoor light," says Castle. Another cure is hanging a faceted crystal sphere in the missing area.



tip



FENG SHUI YOUR WALLET

Is your wallet well-ordered, with the notes neatly stacked inside? Or bursting with old receipts and small change? Eric Shaffert, author of *Feng Shui and Money* (Allworth Press, \$27.95), says the state of our wallets provide a snapshot of our attitude to money, so it makes sense to keep it organised and clutter-free. The same goes for your bank statements, accounts and other paperwork – remember that 'where attention goes, energy flows'.

Wealth vase

As symbols of accumulated riches, wealth vases are said to bring good fortune to a family for generations to come. Here's how to make your own:

- 1 Choose an attractive vase or jar with a wide opening, narrow neck and generous base, so wealth chi can easily flow in and accumulate.
- 2 Fill your vase with objects that symbolise abundance. This could be anything from Chinese coins and semi-precious stones to Monopoly money. "It's more about the intent than the objects, so add anything that represents wealth to you," says Castle.
- 3 Once your vase is finished, cover it with five pieces of coloured cotton cloth in the order of blue, green, red, yellow and white, to represent the five elements, and secure with five coloured pieces of string.
- 4 Store it out of sight in the south-east of your home and leave it unopened, or it will lose its power. ❖

tip

TRY A WEALTH INVOCATION

According to Partridge, negative emotions – including worries or anxiety about money – leave an energetic 'imprint' in the home, creating blockages and disharmony. That's where the occasional space clearing can help. "Open all the windows and move around your home in a clockwise direction using incense or a sound tool like a bell or signing bowl," she says. "Hold an intention in your mind to transform all negative energies into positive energies and fill your space with abundance."

TO FIND A FENG SHUI CONSULTANT IN YOUR STATE, VISIT THE ASSOCIATION OF FENG SHUI CONSULTANTS AT WWW.AFSC.ORG.AU.