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IS YOUR
AIR-CON IN THE
RIGHT HANDS?

VOL 10

DJ ANDREW ZHAN'S PERFECTLY IMPERFECT HOME

STAY COOL

Ideas to stave off the heat
that won't harm the planet

HOUSEHOLD HELPERS

Home appliances
we can't do without

CELEBRATION RECIPES

X'mas and CNY dishes
with a difference

SET THE MOOD
RIGHT WITH A
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PHILIPS

Television

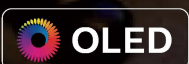


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This elegant OLED Ambilight TV entrances with its lifelike picture and powerful sound. The beautifully thin, bezel-free screen lets the action take center stage—while Ambilight's glow makes everything seem even bigger and more immersive.



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IMAX
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Variable Refresh Rate

ALLM
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Premium

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2.1 CH



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THE COVER



For UFM 100.3 radio DJ Andrew Zhan, the past is as important as the present when it comes to his digs.

PHOTO:
Frenchescar Lim

CORRIGENDUM

In the March 2024 issue of City Living, we erroneously stated that Jayley Woo did a stint as a getai singer. We sincerely apologise for the error.





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Flawless beauty

A professional paint job begins with meticulous surface preparation.

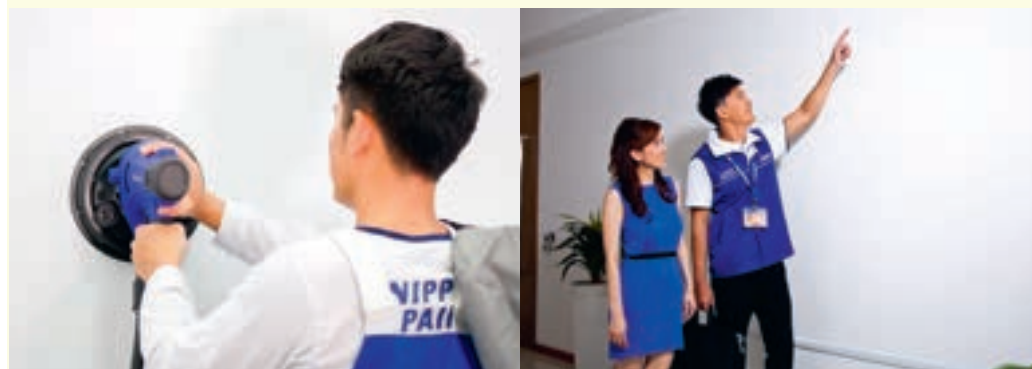
While anyone can “slap on a coat of paint”, there is a temptation to skip crucial steps that can undermine the appearance and shorten the lifespan of the paintwork. If you don’t have the time or the tools to do it yourself, you can always engage Nippon Paint’s professional painting service.

MECHANICAL SANDING FOR OPTIMAL RESULTS

Nippon Paint’s painting packages – for HDB flats and condominium apartments – come with the exclusive value-added service of mechanical sanding. As the term suggests, mechanical sanding is performed with the aid of a specialised machine.

Here are some of its benefits:

- It provides faster and more uniform results than manual sanding.
- It facilitates the adhesion of new paint to the existing paint film or substrate.
- It removes oil and grime.
- It creates an aesthetically pleasing, uniformly smooth finish.



A CONFIDENCE-INSPIRING PROCESS

In addition to mechanical sanding, every Nippon Paint painting project comes with a dedicated project manager and a one-year warranty. Of course, the use of Nippon Paint products, manufactured here in Singapore for local conditions, inspires confidence in itself.

Visit www.nipponpaint.com.sg for more details.



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and Energy (Korea) In Asia
2019-2021

Nominated 6 Consecutive Years



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Sleek sips

Dispense extra hot, purified
water, instantly.



Make hot drinks taste better with the CUCKOO TITAN, a tankless water purifier with multiple hot water temperature settings for a variety of beverages.

EXTRA-HOT WATER, INSTANTLY

Dispense water at a temperature range of 40°C to 100°C. The temperature control button changes by 10°C every time you press it. It also has an “instant extra hot” function that quickly heats water to 100°C – perfect when brewing floral tea. This makes the CUCKOO TITAN Singapore’s first water purifier with the instant 100°C Extra Hot Water Function.

STERILISE FRESH PRODUCE AND MORE

The water purifier is linked to the portable kitchen faucet and has a one-touch function that thoroughly sterilises fruit, vegetables, baby bottles and more by killing 99.9% of germs.

ALWAYS PURE

The In & Out Auto Electrolytic Sterilisation system allows its own pipes and faucet to be easily disinfected at any time by the water purifier. The Carbon Composite Filter removes impurities and harmful substances, while the Nano Positive 3.0 Filter removes traces of heavy metals, 99.99% of pathogens and bacteria, and residual chlorine.

SMART FEATURES

The sleek water purifier has mood lighting to enhance your kitchen décor. And its Smart Cup Mode allows you to control the amount you want to dispense: half-cup (120ml), one cup (250ml) or continuous flow.



Scan here to find
out more

AT HOME WITH...

Wine bar par excellence

Anytime is cellar-bration
time at Mag's Wine Bar.

AT HOME
WITH...



8

Rooted in the past and present

UFM 100.3 Radio DJ Andrew Zhan is on a quest to conserve his apartment's storied past.

TEXT Sean Yee

PHOTOGRAPHY Frenchescar Lim

When faced with a canvas as compact as Andrew Zhan's bachelor pad, one must draw from an infinite supply of creativity to make up for a space that is just so finite. And that's exactly what he did to turn his small living space in central Singapore into a sophisticated sanctuary, expanding on the area's rich history to harmonise contemporary accents with timeless artefacts.

Andrew invited us into his cosy studio apartment to reveal his stylistic preferences and how he keeps his home uncluttered. (Spoiler: It involves his trusty Dyson vacuum!)

“During my discussion with my interior designer, I recall throwing words like ‘modern’ and ‘retro’ into the conversation...”

You were holding down a corporate job before UFM 100.3. Tell us more about this unconventional career pivot.

It's a cliché, it's over-said, but it's true – the pivot is essentially a result of a quarter-life crisis. I have always been a theatre kid. Back in secondary school, I was very active in my drama club, and I was surrounded by peers who were just so enthusiastic about the craft. Life kind of moved in a different direction when I majored in Business at Singapore Management University. It just seemed like I was primed for the corporate ladder climb.

As I muddled through the

grind, an opportunity came up. A friend was looking for a part-time DJ and asked if I was keen. I don't think I ever said “yes” that fast before. And I just learnt so much from the stint, having met so many new people I wouldn't have otherwise encountered and feeling as comfortable as I was in the radio station. Three-and-a-half years later, a full-time position opened up and I gladly took that leap of faith.

In retrospect, it really was my drama teacher from secondary school who inspired me to venture beyond that safety bubble. During one of our catch-up sessions, she simply asked, “Is this a job that you feel will provide the greatest value and happiness to a life that you foresee yourself having in the future?”

The private lift never fails to make his first-time visitors do a doubletake.

Your bachelor pad is really unique: It's not every day that you see a home with its own private elevator.

The lift actually has a door on both sides, with the other facing my neighbour's apartment. So, it can be awkward when we share a lift, as I get to see his entire home when he enters the elevator. Of course, I try to look away but the last thing I want is for him to think of me as aloof. That said, it's always great to see the look of awe on first-time visitors as they go, “Woah.”



AT HOME WITH...



“I really wanted it to exude modernity while still preserving traces of its origin story.”

If your home was a person, what would their personality be like?

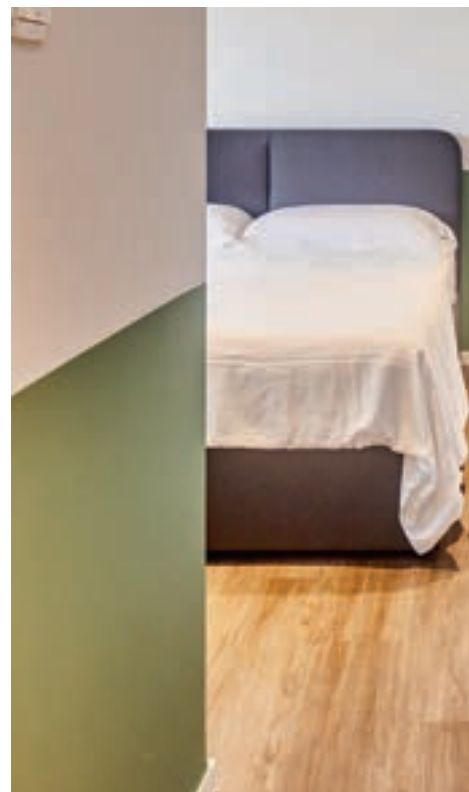
Warm, open and fully at one with the present moment. They'll probably be very into the whole “zen” vibe as well.

What are some key themes that you wanted your home to embody?

I really wanted it to exude modernity while still preserving traces of its origin story. During my discussion with my interior designer, I recall throwing words like “modern” and “retro” into the conversation, only for him to respond, “So, mid-century modern.” And it was like a eureka moment for me where I went, “Exactly!”

Did this inspire the home's primary colour scheme?

The house itself actually inspired this colour palette. Sage Green was the apartment's original hue, and I felt that it fits into the whole concept of “contemporary rustic”. I needed a colour that echoes earthy and warm undertones to complement the various wooden fittings I had, so Sage Green was a great natural starting point. We ultimately decided on Walnut Brown to contrast the muted quality of green, inducing this artful balance between timeless serenity and inviting warmth.



How do you manage clutter?

With the compact size of my apartment, I have to get really creative when it comes to managing clutter. See those two columns at each corner of the lift? I had them installed to act as the home's main storage cabinets. Not only do they go well with the home's thematic layout, but they also store my shoe collection, travel knick-knacks and bulky household items. I also make it a point not to make needless purchases.

It is shocking how quickly clutter can accumulate when left unchecked. Now, when I see dirt or mess, I clean it immediately. Thankfully, my trusty Dyson vacuum cleaner makes the cleaning process so effortless. Not only does it eradicate the toughest stains, it also has a self-cleaning function that makes home maintenance hassle-free.



The Dyson WashG1 eradicates tough stains on varied surfaces, including vinyl, laminate and sealed wooden floors. It also doubles as a mop with a built-in water tank. With self-cleaning capabilities, the vacuum is ever-ready for use.

How did you design your home to accommodate your hobbies?

This question comes at a good time as I'm currently exploring my more inquisitive side. I have been taking callisthenics classes purely for fun, so I actively put aside unnecessary obstructions in the living room for my practice sessions. (Hopefully, I'll get to master a proper handstand soon!) I'm also trying to meditate more, so it is important that my space is unburdened by trivial distractions.

Oh! I can't forget my turntable. It's fascinating how vinyl records produce a richness in quality that conventional music just cannot replicate. I could spend hours just browsing through vinyl catalogues to hear music as intended by my favourite artists.

AT HOME WITH...

“ The reality is
that every home
comes with its
fair share of
blemishes...I
love my perfectly
imperfect home! ”

Share with us some insights that you've gained as a first-time homeowner.

I think the term that best encapsulates my learning journey is “wabi-sabi” (a Japanese concept that translates as “finding beauty in imperfection”). All of us, me included, want a home that is immaculate. But the reality is that every home comes with its fair share of blemishes. And it is these little imperfections that make the home feel ever more unique. I love my perfectly imperfect home!

Remember KonMari's life-changing rule – Ask yourself if it sparks joy? Well, she expounds on this concept with *kintsugi*, a Japanese art that is centred around the restoration of broken items. It considers defects and imperfections as natural opportunities to grow and improve, and as we mend and reconstruct what is broken, we cultivate a unique affinity with our belongings. They then become a part of us as much as we are of them. Once, I inadvertently left a crack on the wall. I remembered googling “wall plastering”, to learn how to sand, prime and paint over the gap. Admittedly, it doesn't look good even after my feeble attempts, but the home now carries a bit of me that otherwise wouldn't be there.



Andrew's choice of Sage Green and Walnut Brown gives his home a serene and warm ambience.

Name one thing you wish you could have done differently in relation to your living space.

It isn't so much a particularly poor aesthetic choice as a misguided approach to homemaking. I went into the whole process wanting the home to be perfect. Took a while for me to realise that a home can never be fully complete, as even until today, I'm still changing my furniture and fittings. It's always a work in progress, but that means the home can accommodate new ideas and inspirations whenever they come!

Let's circle back to your career. Are there any unfinished items on your checklist?

There were a few creative ideas I had for a morning show that I was eager to try out. I'm thrilled to say that I can now check those off my list! Every Monday to Friday, from 6am to 10am, I host The PLAY Show, where we not only play games with our listeners, but also exchange banter on an array of subjects! The show has always been light-hearted and fun, but we really wanted to double down on the moniker "PLAY" by spotlighting the interactions that we have with our listeners!



Dual functionality for double the cooking pleasure!

BPI384BH 80cm Induction Hob with Integrated Hood



Brandt

Cook with confidence

The Brandt Induction Hob boasts quick access functions and 10 safety features.

Experience the cutting-edge technology of the Brandt Induction Hob BPI384BH, an innovative two-in-one appliance that combines a powerful induction hob with an integrated downdraft hood. Part of the Alysee Project, the hob offers a seamless blend of functionality and style.

With its four cooking zones with individual boosters, the avid home cook can easily achieve a power output of up to 3,700W, accommodating even the largest pots and pans. The hob's beautiful Brandt powder-coated cast iron grid is built into the central downdraft hood, ensuring efficient ventilation while cooking.



SMART AND PRECISE COOKING

Key highlights include intelligent touch control with a digital display, nine power levels plus Ultra Boost, and four independent timers for precise cooking. Quick access functions and 10 safety features, such as residual heat indicators, anti-overflow protection, and automatic saucepan detection, provide peace of mind in the kitchen.

With its sleek 80cm design and advanced features, the Brandt Induction Hob BPI384BH promises dual functionality for double the cooking pleasure, making it the perfect addition to any modern kitchen.




Scan here to find out more



DHP2962BX 90cm Pyramid Wall Mount Hood

QUIET EFFICIENCY, SLEEK DESIGN

De Dietrich 



Sleek performer

The De Dietrich Pyramid Wall Mount Hood is a perfect blend of modern design and powerful performance.

Crafted from stainless steel and black glass, De Dietrich 90CM Pyramid Wall Mount Hood DHP2962BX features a sleek pyramid design that adds a touch of sophistication to any kitchen décor.

The electronic touch controls allow for easy operation, offering four suction speeds to suit various cooking needs. Illuminate your cooking area with the 2 x 2.5W LED lights, which provide bright and energy-efficient lighting.

QUIET & EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE

Key highlights include a single motor and fan

capable of delivering an impressive airflow of 710m³/h, ensuring efficient removal of cooking odours and smoke. The hood operates quietly at 52dBA, providing a peaceful cooking environment.

Equipped with three stainless steel grease filters, this hood can be used in both recycling and evacuation modes. It comes delivered in evacuation mode, with a charcoal filter included for recycling use. The extraction hose is sold separately.

Experience the perfect combination of style, functionality, and efficiency with the De Dietrich 90CM Pyramid Wall Mount Hood DHP2962BX. Capable of elevating any kitchen with its good looks, the Pyramid Wall Mount Hood also ensures that your kitchen remains fresh and inviting.



Scan here to find
out more

An unstoppable culinary duo

Two incredibly gifted chefs,
one unwavering commitment to
exceptional food.

TEXT Sean Yee

PHOTOGRAPHY Frenchescar Lim

The chemistry between Chef Ian Tan and Magdalene Tang, chef-owner of Mag's Wine Kitchen, is so palpable that it feels as if they have been cooking with one another since time immemorial. Even as Ian finds himself fully in the zone, Magdalene stands by him, offering pointers as well as gentle reminders to stay safe. This very scene played out very differently just a year ago, when Ian was an aspiring competitor in World Young Chef Young Waiter 2023 and Magdalene was one of its judges.

As Magdalene took him under her wing, they would later advance to the finals in Monaco where they secured a decisive victory with a brilliant Peranakan menu. We speak to the spirited mentor-mentee chefs.



Ian, you're the first Asian chef in its 45-year history to win the World Young Chef Young Waiter competition in 2023, with a fully Asian-inspired menu no less.

Ian: In retrospect, it really was serendipitous. I had just left my job at Seroja and was just so ready to simply

take a chill pill and relax. My friends wouldn't let me "hibernate" (thankfully). They would constantly coax me, "Ian, you can't stop now!" And given how effective they were, it was inevitable that the pressure started setting in. I still have so much I have yet to see, experience and accomplish. So, I took that leap of faith, went through the first rounds of qualifying interviews and never looked back.

Before Mag's Wine Kitchen, you were a trader in the banking industry. What led to this career pivot?

Magdalene: I thought I was getting fired (haha!). In all seriousness, I live to eat. I remember spending hours in the kitchen being my grandmother's assistant. She even got a fun-sized mortar and pestle just for me! At 12 years old, I was already cooking our family meals. When I got my first apartment, it was almost like a continuous party central. Friends would come over and I would prepare quick meals for them. Wanting to continue this pursuit, I saved enough money and started Mag's Wine Kitchen.

So you guys met for the very first time at the 2023 competition?

Magdalene: I was doing my rounds as a judge when I spotted this competitor working with fatt choy – an ingredient we rarely saw in the competition. I remembered thinking, "What the heck was this guy doing?" Whatever it was, I needed to know. As we conversed, he revealed his attempt to reinvent Nyonya Chap Chye and immediately, I got excited.

Ian: I didn't know she was of Peranakan descent!

Magdalene: The novelty of the dish may impress the other judges, but I know this cuisine like the back of my hand. It was a bold pursuit, which made the stakes so much higher.

What impressed you most about Ian?

Magdalene: His intrepid nature for sure. Can you imagine, we have some of the world's most exotic and exquisite ingredients, and he settled on a very modest selection! I asked him, "Where did you get your ingredients from?"

Ian: Fairprice!

Magdalene: This joker!

Ian: And it aligns well with my culinary ethos – to serve food that is good, honest and humble! Sure, we can always amp up our creations with performative theatrics like grilled prawns served as a flambe, but I choose to spotlight the very heart and soul of everyday cooking with relatable ingredients.

What do you appreciate most about each other?

Ian: She doesn't mince her words. Magdalene tells me what I need to know, what I need to hear, no matter how brutal the truth may be. Her guidance is my secret ingredient!

Magdalene: I'm like a vampire, I feed off young people.

Ian: So that's how you stay so young!

Magdalene: The Achilles heel for veteran chefs is when complacency and pride get in the way of creativity. Learning never stops, regardless of age. And I do gain new insights from Ian's experiences and perspective, of course, while keeping him in check!

“I choose to spotlight the very heart and soul of everyday cooking with relatable ingredients.”

- Chef Ian Tan



AT HOME WITH...

Tell us about the recipe you're sharing.

Ian: I decided on a modernised take on “jiang cong yu pian fan”, otherwise known as ginger scallion sliced fish on rice. It’s a reconstructed approach where the aromatics become the sauce, the rice is transformed into a textual complement and the fish replaces the rice as the base for the sauce.



Ginger Scallion Fish With Rice

Ingredients:

1 600-700g local fish of your choice

GINGER SCALLION SALSA VERDE

2.5g White Pepper
10g Ginger (minced)
10g Garlic (minced)
10g Hua Tiao Cooking Wine
25g Sesame Oil
30g Fish Sauce
100g Canola (or Corn) Oil
120g Spring Onion (chopped)

GARNISH

50g Puffed Wild Rice
10g Shio Kombu (sliced)
15g Ginger (sliced)
15g Dried Sakura Ebi

Preparation:

Garnish

- 1 Soak the ginger slices in iced water for at least an hour (optimally, overnight). Pat dry and fry at low heat until golden brown.
- 2 Heat up cooking oil to a temperature above 190°C. Fry the puffed wild rice until crispy and golden brown.
- 3 Toast the sakura ebi until crispy.



Salsa Verde:

- 1 Add minced ginger, garlic and chopped spring onion into a bowl. Mix well.
- 2 Heat up oil to 200°C or until smoking point.
- 3 Stir the mixture continuously as you gradually add hot oil into the bowl of aromatics (including the pepper, Hua Tiao, sesame oil and fish sauce).
Optional: Add 5g of sugar for a sweeter sauce.



Fish:

- 1 Reverse-butterfly your choice of fish. Then, season it with soy sauce, white pepper and Chinese cooking wine.
- 2 Steam the fish for eight to 10 minutes or until tender.
- 3 Spread the Salsa Verde evenly over the entire fish.
- 4 Garnish with sakura ebi, fried ginger slices, shio kombu slices and fried puffed wild rice and serve.



Mag's Wine Kitchen, at 55 Keong Saik Road, #01-06, is beloved for its commitment to haute cuisine and seasonal omakase offerings. Reserve a table through Chope or call +65 6438 3836.



What every kitchen needs

Electrolux appliances make cooking and cleaning up a breeze.

Prepare meals efficiently and in style, and get your dishes sparkling clean with these kitchen appliances from Electrolux.

A RELIABLE KITCHEN PARTNER

The Gas Hob Ultimate Taste 500 is designed to seamlessly interact with you, to support and help you in the kitchen. The Flexi Cut Out design translates to effortless installation – the smaller lower box of the cook-top combined with the extended glass overhang and flexible bracket make installation into existing counter cut-outs easy without additional modifications.

The hob also features a Flame Shield Trivet, which reduces heat loss to deliver more intense heat to the cooking process. The curved trivet profile cups the flame and channels energy directly onto the bottom of the pan, directing heat more efficiently and thus make cooking faster while consuming less energy.

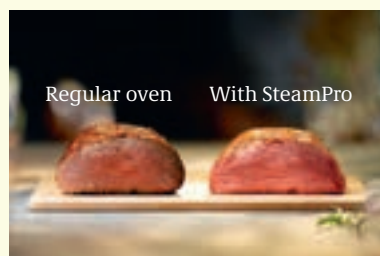
Another highlight is the flame failure safety device, which automatically cuts off the gas supply if the flame goes out during cooking.



Induction Hob
EH18255BE



Scan here to find
out more



LOCK IN THE FLAVOURS WITH STEAM

Get restaurant-quality meals with the KOAAS31X Steam Oven. Use it to cook meats, fish and vegetables the sous vide way – this method of cooking in vacuum-sealed plastic pouches at low temperatures seals in the flavours and nutrients and prevents food from drying out.

With the Steamify function, you can steam dishes at different temperatures, depending on what you are cooking – select Full Steam for vegetables, side dishes or fish, High Steam for stewing, Medium Steam for gentle crisping, or Low Steam for baking, roasting or cooking.

When you are done cooking, dissolve grease and residue on the interior surfaces of the oven using the Steam Cleaning function.

EASY CLEAN

A dishwasher uses less water and is thus more eco-friendly than handwashing dishes under a running tap.

Getting super-clean dishes has never been quicker or more convenient with the UC900 EFF9392SXA Dishwasher. Its SprayZone function uses powerful water pressure to get everything spotlessly clean, taking away the need to pre-soak heavily soiled dishes, while ComfortLift uses a unique hinge mechanism that allows you to gently lift the lower rack rather than having to bend down low to load and unload the dishwasher.

If you want to sanitise your dishes, use the ExtraHygiene function, which heats the water up to more than 60°C during the final rinse to remove more than 99.99% of bacteria and viruses.

The dishwasher also has ample holders, trays and dividers, for everything from bulky utensils and knives to delicate glassware.

At the end of the drying phase, AirDry technology automatically opens the appliance door by 10cm, allowing air to circulate within to dry your dishes completely while saving energy.



Steam Oven
KOAAS31X



Dishwasher
UC900 EFF9392SXA



Scan here to find
out more

Clean and green

Meet the front-load washer that cares for your clothes and the planet.

You love your clothes and want them to last. You also care about the environment. The Electrolux UC700 EWF1143R7SC (Onyx) front-load washer does both.



SUPERIOR CARE AND CLEANLINESS

The SensorWash technology uses unique sensors to automatically detect up to 53 different stains – even stubborn ones like oil, fruit puree, ketchup and soil – and then adjusts the cycle duration accordingly to remove the stains without the need for pre-treatments or pre-washing. This not only reduces washing time, it also saves water and electricity.

The CareDrum feature ensures extra care and protection for your garments, letting them glide smoothly within the drum, which has an elevated cushion-like pattern and lifter paddle.

For an extra-clean load, select the Swissatest-certified Sanitise programme, which washes and then steams your clothes above 60°C to reduce pollen and allergens and remove more than 99.99% of bacteria and viruses.



Washer UC700 EWF1143R7SC (Onyx)

A SMART WASHER

Smart features like IntelliQuick take the guesswork out of selecting the right cycle for your laundry load.

For instance, the Full Wash 45 programme (available as part of IntelliQuick in this model) cleans a full load at 30°C in 45 minutes, making it a fast and energy-efficient choice for mixed fabrics, coloured cottons, and clothing with light soil levels.

If your clothes are not heavily soiled, SmartSelect adjusts the washing intensity based on your needs, guiding you to save energy, time and water. Other smart and environmentally sustainable features include: EcoInverter Motor for lowest energy consumption with the highest efficiency and durability; and VapourRefresh, which gently refreshes clothes without washing, reducing wrinkles and water usage.



reddot winner 2021



Scan here to find out more

Eco-friendly drying

This tumble dryer protects your garments while caring for the planet.

Care for your clothes and lower your energy costs with the Electrolux UC700 EDH903R7SC (Onyx) tumble dryer, which has a range of features to gently yet thoroughly dry your laundry using less energy.



Dryer UC700 EDH903R7SC (Onyx)

TECHNOLOGY THAT DRIES AND PROTECTS

With this dryer, thick clothes will no longer feel damp or wet after a drying cycle. The machine



features Electrolux's most advanced drying technology called 3DSense, which scans the moisture level in garments for precise, complete drying. Even thick items like down jackets and duvets will be evenly dried and not be left with damp spots.

If you never know how much time clothes need to dry, select the SyncDry programme, which effortlessly picks the most suitable drying cycle for your laundry load.

At the same time, protect your clothes from over-drying and keep them looking newer for longer with the SensiCare programme, which measures the temperature and humidity within the drum and dynamically adjusts the time and energy consumption accordingly.

Need to sanitise your clothes, duvets or pillows? The Hygiene cycle runs above 60°C to remove more than 99.9% of common bacteria and viruses during the drying cycle, certified by Swissatest.

REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

The tumble dryer has a number of energy-saving characteristics. For example, its Heat Pump technology protects fabrics by drying effectively at lower temperatures while using up to 60% less energy.

And the SmartSelect user interface has EcoCare visual cues – leaf symbols that indicate how environmentally friendly your initial selection is, allowing you to make a conscious decision before you begin the drying cycle.



Scan here to find out more



Modern elegance in every detail with LG InstaView™

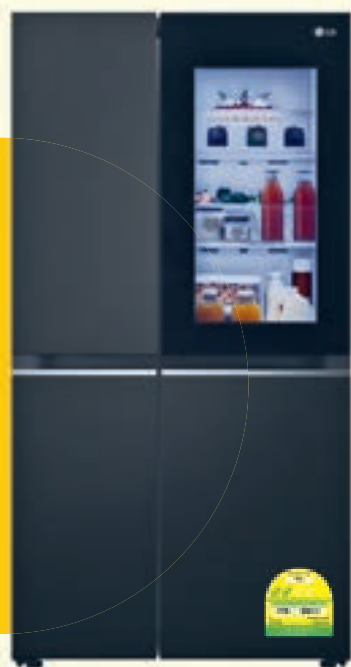
The LG 647L InstaView™ Refrigerator combines innovative design with smart features. Simply knock twice to see inside, making it easy to find what you need while keeping your food fresh. Perfect for a stylish and efficient kitchen!



Life's Good.

The clear choice

A refrigerator that saves energy and keeps your food fresher.



The LG 647L InstaView™ Refrigerator in Essence Matte Black (Model: GS-V6473EP) not only keeps your food cool, it also saves energy, minimises bacteria and odours, and retains the freshness of its contents.

INNOVATIVE FEATURES

Every time you open your fridge door, warm air from the outside rushes in, forcing the appliance to work harder. With InstaView™, you can see what's inside your fridge without having to open it. Simply knock the door twice to view the contents. This saves energy and keeps your food fresher.

To further maximise freshness, Hygiene Fresh+™ technology removes up to 99.99%* of bacteria (including Escherichia coli) and minimises odours, while Linear Cooling™ reduces temperature

fluctuations, locking in freshness for up to seven days. Door Cooling+™ ensures that the inside of your fridge cools faster and more evenly than conventional cooling systems.

SMART FRIDGE

The fridge operates quietly and is durable, thanks to the Smart Inverter Compressor™, which comes with a 10-year warranty* on parts.

And with LG ThinQ™, you can control and monitor the fridge through your smartphone and voice commands. You can also activate your fridge remotely and receive notifications if something is amiss – for instance, when the door is not closed.

*Detailed disclaimers apply.



Scan here to find out more



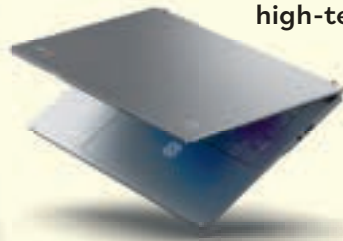
The Future is
Closer Than You
Think

Swift 14 AI



The future is here

The new ACER SWIFT 14 AI laptop is sleek
and smart, with an impressive array of
high-tech features.



Sleek, smart, fast and powerful – the next-generation ACER SWIFT 14 AI laptop delivers on many fronts to help you get things done.

CUTTING-EDGE FEATURES

This laptop delivers unique Copilot+ PC experiences: easily remember and retrieve what you have seen with Recall; generate and refine AI images in near real-time directly on the device using Cocreator; and



bridge language barriers with Live Captions, which translates audio from 40+ languages into English subtitles in real time on your screen.

Other ACER AI features include Acer QuickPanel, which allows for easy fixtures to the videoconferencing tools, and Acer PurifiedView2.0 for enhanced video.

EXQUISITELY AND THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED

The ACER SWIFT 14 AI laptop has a brilliant 2.5K high-resolution display with touchscreen option.

It also features Qualcomm's Snapdragon X Elite for laptops, backed by 45 TOPS NPU computing power.

The AI Activity Indicator on the touchpad lights up anytime you are using Copilot, to make sure you know it's working.



Scan here to find
out more

WORLD'S No. 1
OLED TV
FOR 11 YEARS



A Legacy of Brilliance

Crafting a sensation as breathtaking and awe-inspiring as LG OLED doesn't happen overnight. It takes an unparalleled commitment to innovation, artistry, and an advanced AI processor that changes more than just the picture. Experience the next generation of LG OLED AI TVs.

Visit www.lg.com/sg for more information.

LG OLED TV has been ranked No.1 selling OLED TV Brand for 11 consecutive years by Omdia.



LG OLED AI

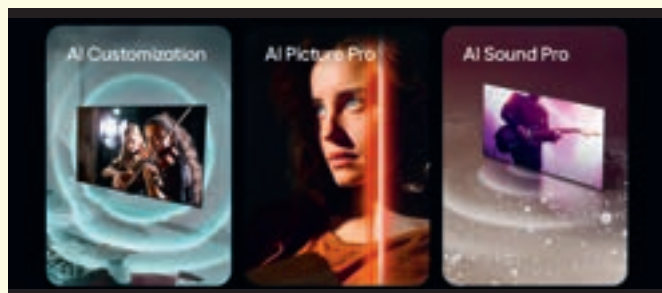
Life's Good.

Next-generation AI TVs

The latest range of LG OLED TVs uses advanced AI to enhance your viewing pleasure.

LG has been using AI (artificial intelligence) in its OLED TVs since 2018, with the aim of improving your viewing and usage experience.

This year, it offers an even more impressive lineup of OLED TVs, bolstered with advanced AI to enhance picture quality, audio performance, and personalisation.



POWERFUL AI PROCESSOR

LG's α (Alpha) AI processor, the only chipset dedicated to OLED, redefines the viewing and usage experience through deep learning, graphics, and speed.

Over the last seven years, LG has been improving this experience, and central to this year's line-up is the new α 11 AI Processor.

Powering the new LG SIGNATURE OLED M4, LG OLED evo AI M4 and G4, the α 11 AI Processor offers AI-driven deep learning capabilities that are four times more powerful than its predecessor, the α 9 Gen 6 processor.



AI FEATURES YOU'LL LOVE!

With AI Brightness Control, LG OLED AI TVs provide optimal brightness by detecting the ambient light. AI Acoustic Tuning detects the layout of your room and enhances audio that is perfectly tuned to your room's acoustics.

Enjoy more lifelike scenes, thanks to AI Picture Pro, and clearer vocals and more dynamic and adaptive audio with AI Sound Pro.

LG's webOS provides further AI experience with personalised services such as AI Picture Wizard, AI Concierge, AI Chatbot, and more.



Scan here to find out more

BEST NEW FINDS

Home essentials

Robotic vacuum cleaners. Pet feeders. And more. They're such a great help at home, we wonder how we ever got by without them.

27

Sustainable ways to cool your home

From filling your rooms with plants to adjusting your ceiling fans, here are seven ideas that won't harm the planet.

TEXT Mel Wong

In our hot and humid climate, it's nearly impossible to live and work without air-conditioning. In fact, our founding prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, once called air-conditioning "the greatest invention of the 20th century". And if you ask us, it certainly is an indispensable asset.

Sadly, though, air-conditioning accounts for 19% of Singapore's carbon emissions. This is due to the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are commonly used as refrigerants in air-conditioning equipment (a refrigerant is a substance that absorbs heat from the indoor environment and provides cool air as it travels through an air-conditioner system). HFCs contribute significantly to global warming, more so than other greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

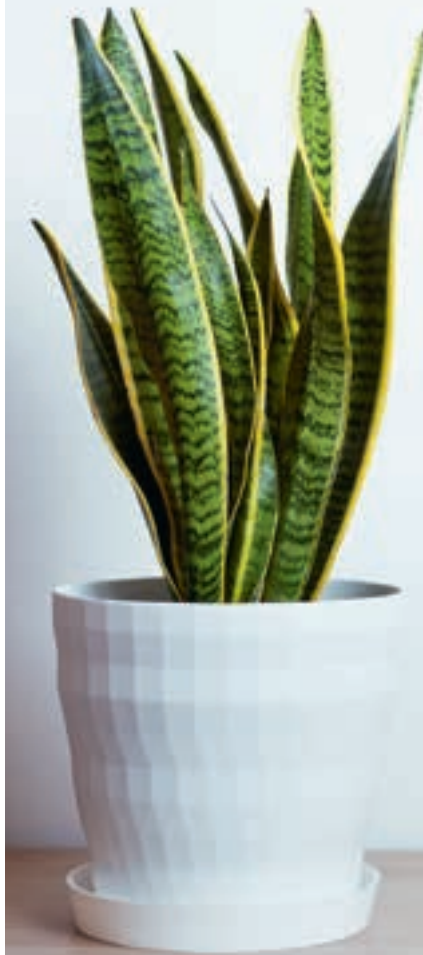
Whether you're trying to reduce your carbon footprint or save electricity, there are ways to keep your home cool without running the air-conditioner 24/7. Here are seven that are inexpensive and environmentally friendly.

Add heat-absorbing houseplants

Plants are a natural air-cooling solution. Many houseplants absorb heat and release cool evaporated moisture into the air, which helps lower the indoor temperature slightly.

Plants also make great dehumidifiers. Humidity can make a room feel warmer than it actually is, and plants help pull this excess moisture from the air.

The best houseplants to buy for their cooling effect include the snake plant (*Sansevieria trifasciata*), the money plant (*Epipremnum aureum*), the Boston fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*), the Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema*), the peace lily (*Spathiphyllum*), the rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*), and aloe vera.



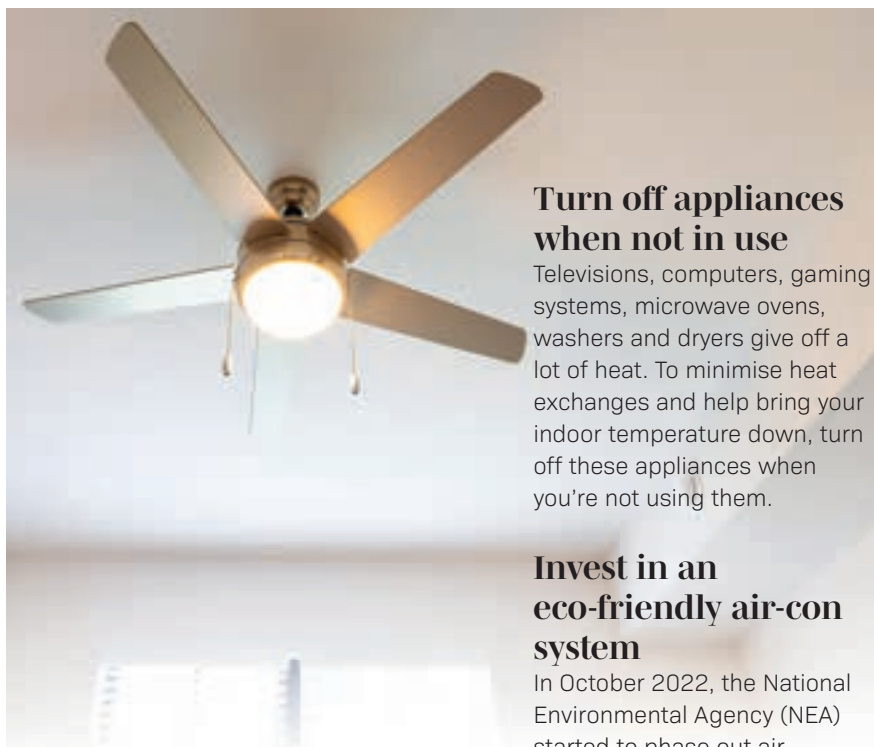
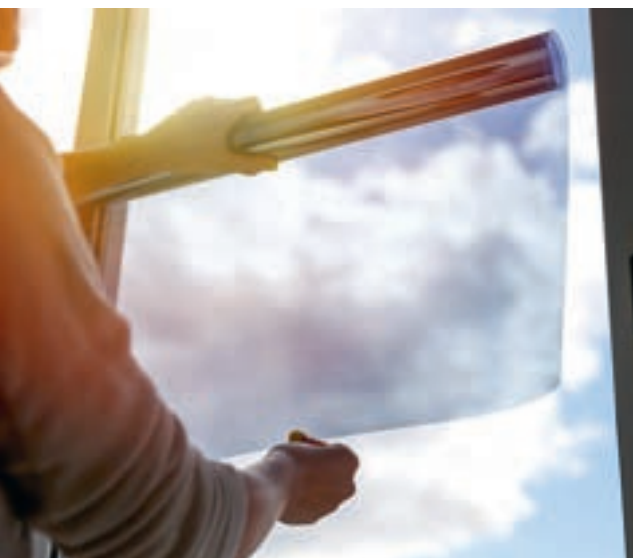
Keep window coverings closed during peak sunlight hours

If your windows face the sun, keep the curtains and blinds closed between 10am and 4pm. This will block the sun's rays and keep the heat out, thereby cooling your home significantly.

Investing in blackout curtains is also a good idea, as these block the light and minimise the amount of heat entering the room.

Use reflective window film

Reflective window film is designed to reflect solar heat, reduce glare and filter the sun's dangerous ultraviolet rays. This solution is especially useful if your windows face the sun and you don't have window treatments such as curtains or blinds.



Turn off appliances when not in use

Televisions, computers, gaming systems, microwave ovens, washers and dryers give off a lot of heat. To minimise heat exchanges and help bring your indoor temperature down, turn off these appliances when you're not using them.

Invest in an eco-friendly air-con system

In October 2022, the National Environmental Agency (NEA) started to phase out air-conditioning equipment that uses refrigerants with a high Global Warming Potential (GWP), such as R-410A, in favour of more environmentally friendly, lower GWP options like R-32 that do not impact the ozone layer.

Mitsubishi, Fujitsu, LG, Midea, Panasonic, Samsung and Daikin are among the leading appliance brands that produce environmentally friendly air-conditioners with R-32 refrigerant.

Last but not least, remember to service your air-con system every three months. Regular professional servicing helps your air-conditioner run more efficiently and keeps it performing at an optimal level. In the long run, this lowers your utility bills, reduces energy consumption, and contributes to sustainability.

Set your ceiling fan's direction counterclockwise

If you have a ceiling fan, run it so that the blades move counterclockwise. This helps push the cooler air down towards you, creating a "wind chill" effect. Tip: As fans only cool the person and not the space, you will only experience this cooling effect if you are in the room.

Dim the lights

Lights generate heat, so turning off or dimming your lamps and ceiling lights can help to cool down your space substantially.

Incandescent and halogen light bulbs also produce a lot of heat, so switch them out for LED ones, which emit very little heat. LED bulbs are also energy-saving, helping to lower your electricity bills.



Stay cool, not cold

Comfort cooling the way you like it with Samsung's WindFree™ air-conditioners.

Imagine if you could keep cool without freezing. While most air-conditioners dispense cold air at a high air speed, chilling your skin uncomfortably, the Samsung WindFree™ air-conditioner cools you gently.



COMFORT COOLING THE WAY YOU LIKE IT

WindFree™ Cooling is unique to Samsung. This mode gently and evenly disperses air through 23,000 micro air holes that cover the front panel of the air-conditioner. This creates an environment where you feel cool but without that unpleasant feeling of cold wind on your skin – great news if your skin is dry or sensitive.

On hot days when you need to cool your room quickly, there is still the option to turn on Fast Cooling mode for quick relief.

The air-conditioner also features WindFree™ Good Sleep, which monitors your usage patterns and analyses them to automatically regulate the unit and provide optimal cooling conditions throughout the night.

CONTROL YOUR AIR-CONDITIONER ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

Feel comfortably cool as soon as you get home with the Welcome Cooling function. A notification will be sent to your phone to allow you to turn on the air-conditioner remotely when you are within a preset distance from your home.

You can also effortlessly switch between temperatures using Voice Control.

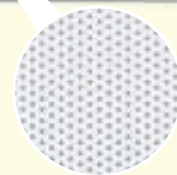
Thanks to AI Energy mode, which uses AI (artificial intelligence), the system can analyse your usage patterns and external conditions to adjust the temperature to



an optimal level, reducing energy use by up to 28%.*

CLEAN AND HYGIENIC FOR GREATER COMFORT

The WindFree™ air-conditioner keeps indoor air clean, with a 4-in-1 filter that removes 99%** of fine dust, viruses, bacteria and allergens, as well as fibres and hair for greater comfort.



What's more, the unit cleans itself with Auto Clean mode, keeping your air-conditioner fresh! The heat exchanger is automatically dried by default, removing 95%*** of microorganisms and preventing a build-up of bacteria and odour.

*Based on internal testing on AJ018DBAPKF/SP and AJ045DCJ2KF/SP models, comparing AI energy mode vs AI auto mode. Actual savings may vary by usage patterns and environment.

**Tested by Intertek for anti-bacterial properties, the Chungbuk National University (Korea), witnessed by Intertek, for anti-virus properties, the Japan test lab (JTEA) for anti-allergy properties and the Korea test lab (KITECH) for PM2.5 dust collection. The filter performance is based on testing of the filter material and not a specific model. Data has been measured under specific testing conditions and may vary depending on environmental factors and individual use.

*** Tested by Samsung in accordance with internal protocols. Results provided to and interpreted by Intertek for organisms (Escherichia coli ATCC 8739, Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 6538).



Scan here to find out more

SAMSUNG



Say goodbye to
uncomfortable drafts



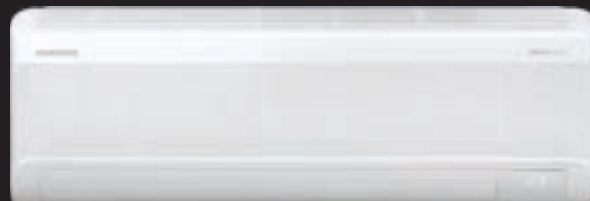
And hello to
serene comfort with WindFree™



WindFree™ Air Conditioner

With Samsung's innovative WindFree™ technology, cold air is dispersed gently via 23,000 micro air holes to create a comfortably cool environment.

Learn more on page 30.



Energy Rating



Life's sweet... with these household helpers

32

Master tricky or tedious jobs around the home with these six efficient and time-saving appliances.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales



Preparing meals and doing housework can feel like a drag, especially when you're pressed for time or exhausted. That's where certain household and kitchen appliances can help. Over the years, we've seen an increase in the number of products that make light work of some of the tasks many of us hate doing or have no time or patience for.

Automatic pet feeder: An automatic pet feeder gives you peace of mind that your furry friend will be fed on time, allowing you to focus on other important tasks. It's especially convenient when you're not around, and reduces the stress of having to rush home by a certain time to dish out your pet's meal.

Designed for dogs and cats, an automatic feeder dispenses a predetermined quantity of food at set times without human intervention. As well as helping you maintain portion control, it's a more practical and hygienic alternative to leaving extra bowls of food around in the hope that your pet will help itself whenever it's hungry.

Most feeders can be operated via an app on your phone.



Robotic vacuum cleaner:

Your regular vacuum cleaner may do a great job of removing dirt, dust, hair and debris from your floors, but “robovacs”, as they’re sometimes called, go one step further by cleaning areas many traditional vacuum cleaners can’t reach, such as under the bed or sofa. Compact yet hefty, these rechargeable units are guided by cameras and sensors, so they know exactly where to go. Best part is, they can be programmed to do the job when you’re out.

Dishwasher: Nobody looks forward to handwashing stacks of dishes and cookware at the end of a long day, which is why more people are investing in dishwashers. Whether freestanding or built-in, dishwashers clean your crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, as well as handwashing does. They also sanitise these items with hot steam at the end of every wash cycle. Other benefits to using a dishwasher: they’re perfect for fragile glassware, which may break in the sink when hand-washed; they use less water compared to handwashing; and they help keep your kitchen sink clutter-free.

**Steam vacuum cleaner:**

While a normal vacuum cleaner picks up loose debris like pet hair, dust, lint and dirt particles, a steam vacuum cleaner gives hard floors and carpeted areas a deeper clean by sanitising and sterilising these surfaces.

They’re not complicated to use, and the hot vapour that’s released from the nozzle loosens and removes ingrained dirt, and is also effective at killing bacteria and mould spores and minimising stubborn stains. Steam vacuum cleaners are touted as environmentally friendly because they reduce the need for bleach or other harsh chemicals.



Washer-dryer combo: This appliance combines two functions – washing and drying – in one and is a popular choice for small apartments and tight spaces. Because it’s a two-in-one, it’s perfect for people who don’t have time to wait for a wash cycle to end and then manually transfer their clothes to the dryer. A washer-dryer combo has a smaller footprint than two standalone appliances and is generally cheaper than buying separate washer and dryer units. In terms of drawbacks, washer-dryer combos have a limited capacity, which means that you can’t dry too many items at once. They also take longer to complete a full wash and dry cycle.

Sous vide machine: Almost anything can be prepared sous vide, including tougher cuts of meat, eggs, chicken breast, delicate seafood like salmon and lobster, fillet steak, and even vegetables.

Sous vide, which means “under vacuum” in French, is a cooking method hitherto employed by professional chefs. It involves placing food in a vacuum sealed bag and then heating the bag at a precise temperature in a water bath. The constant low cooking temperature prevents overcooking, resulting in perfectly tender, moist and flavourful food every time.

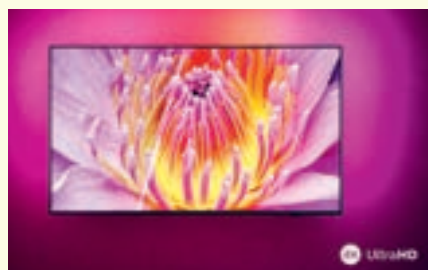




Your cinema at home

Philips' elegant OLED Ambilight TV offers lifelike pictures and powerful sound for an immersive experience.

If you are shopping for a TV that will make your living room feel like a home theatre, the Philips OLED Ambilight TV (Model: 55OLED809/98) delivers on both sight and sound.



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE ACTION

The 55-inch TV has a thin, bezel-free screen that lets what you're watching take centre-stage. It also boasts a stunning OLED panel for incredible picture quality – blacks are deep, colours are vibrant, and every detail appears lifelike, making movies, shows, and games look incredible.

Ambilight technology integrates LED lights on the back that react to what you watch, immersing you in a halo of colourful light. Not only does your TV seem bigger, you will also be drawn deeper into your favourite sports, movies, music, and games.

Love watching movies in IMAX theatres? This TV is IMAX Enhanced certified, so you can experience the full impact of movies originally made to play in IMAX cinemas. Marvel at the far greater sense of scale and see more in every scene, right in the comfort of your home.



Plus, the Philips P5 Perfect Picture Engine with AI (artificial intelligence) delivers pictures that are so real, you will feel like you could step into them.

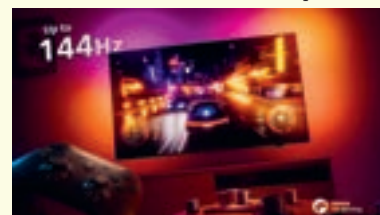
A deep-learning AI algorithm processes images in a manner similar to the human brain.



No matter what you are watching, get lifelike detail and contrast, optimised sharpness, rich colour and smooth motion for an exceptional viewing experience.

MORE FEATURES TO ENJOY

If you are looking for content, Google TV puts a universe of options at your fingertips. Stream movies and shows, watch live TV, or catch up on on-demand content, all from one place.



Or play without limits – gamers will love the ultra-smooth 144Hz refresh rate, perfect for fast-paced action.



Scan here to find out more



make yourself at home



The station that does it all

The Midea MV12 UltrasGBK is a cutting-edge robotic vacuum cleaner designed to revolutionise home cleaning.



CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Using an advanced intelligent navigation system combining LiDAR technology with dual line sensors and the NaviPolaris 5.0 Algorithm, the smart vacuum cleaner supports real-time mapping, efficient path planning, and precise obstacle detection. This system allows the vacuum to clean methodically from the farthest point back to its charging base, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

POWERFUL CLEANING PERFORMANCE

With a robust 5000Pa suction power, the MV12 UltrasGBK effectively handles various debris, from fine dust to larger particles, across different surfaces. It features a multi-surface brush and adjustable suction settings tailored to homes with pets

or high traffic areas. The vacuum also includes an ultrasonic carpet detection system to prevent wetting carpets during mopping.

SMART FEATURE FOR A HASSLE-FREE EXPERIENCE

Smart connectivity via the Midea app enables remote control, scheduling, and monitoring. It offers up to 120 minutes of battery life on a single charge. Additional features include an auto mop washing system with multiple modes, a large water tank, self-emptying dust bags, and a hot-air drying function to prevent mould and odours.

The sleek, user-friendly design ensures ease of operation and efficient cleaning in hard-to-reach areas, making the MV12 UltrasGBK a state-of-the-art choice for the modern household.



Scan here to find out more

Dry run

Dehydrators are finding their way into kitchens, but how exactly do they work and do you need one?

TEXT Sasha Gonzales

36



If making your own snacks or treats for your pets is something you enjoy, you may want to consider investing in a dehydrator. The appliance, which is usually the size of a microwave oven, is slowly becoming a must-have in Singapore kitchens as more of us discover how versatile and easy they are to use.



How dehydrators work

A dehydrator dries food out by circulating heated air around the food for a long period of time (about several hours at a minimum). To use one, simply place the food on the provided trays. The heating element inside the dehydrator then raises the temperature of the air to between 40°C and 75°C, which is high enough to remove moisture from the food without cooking it. A fan draws air into the appliance and circulates it around the food, and air vents push the hot, moist air out.

What foods can be dehydrated?

You can dehydrate a range of foods, says Bibi Chia, Principal Dietitian at Raffles Medical Group. This includes foods that are naturally high in water and sugars, like apples, bananas, kiwis, pineapple and mango. Citrus peels can also be dehydrated as an addition to soups and teas.

Vegetables like carrots, green beans, mushrooms, kale and sweet potatoes are also ideal for dehydrating, and if you want to dehydrate meat and fish, Bibi recommends using lean cuts



Photos: Cornell

and varieties (trim off any fat first, to prevent the food from going rancid, and follow food safety measures when preparing the meat and fish for dehydration).

You can also dehydrate herbs and spices, and grain-based products like noodles and pasta, Bibi adds.

Foods that aren't ideal for dehydrating include those that are high in fat or oil, like avocado and fatty meats.

"Fats tend to oxidise and turn rancid during dehydration, impacting taste and safety," says Bibi.

Starchy vegetables like potatoes, yam and beets, dairy products, and foods with a high moisture content like lettuce, cucumber and watermelon are also poor candidates for dehydration.

"High-moisture foods lack the necessary structure for efficient dehydration and may turn mushy," Bibi points out.



Pros and cons of dehydrated foods

"Dehydration significantly extends the shelf life of food, reducing waste and allowing for the convenient storage of seasonal produce," says Bibi.

"Additionally, dehydration concentrates some minerals and fat-soluble vitamins like vitamin A in food, providing a potentially beneficial boost. It also retains the fibre in foods, and fibre contributes to digestive health and satiety."

Finally, dehydrated foods are lightweight and portable, making them ideal for lunchbox snacks, hiking, camping and travel.

On the downside, Bibi says that dehydration, especially with high temperatures or prolonged drying times, may lead to the loss of vitamins B and C, which are water-soluble. Some minerals may also leach out with the water.

Dehydration concentrates a food's natural sugars due to water removal. Fruit, for example, becomes concentrated in sugar and calories when dehydrated. While still containing fibre and some vitamins, be mindful of portion sizes to avoid overconsumption, Bibi says.

Safety tips when dehydrating food

Preventing bacteria overgrowth in dehydrated foods is crucial for safety and preservation, says Bibi. Here are her tips for safe food preservation:

1 Proper preparation:

Start with fresh, high-quality produce or ingredients. Thoroughly wash fruit, vegetables and herbs before dehydrating to remove dirt or contaminants.

2 Pre-treatment:

Some foods benefit from pre-treatment methods to inhibit bacterial growth. For example, blanching vegetables in hot water for a short time before dehydration can help kill surface bacteria.

3 Adequate dehydration:

Ensure that foods are dehydrated properly and completely. Follow manufacturer instructions for dehydrator settings or recommended drying times. Insufficient dehydration can leave moisture behind, creating an environment for bacterial growth.

4 Storage conditions:

Store dehydrated foods properly in airtight containers or vacuum-sealed bags to prevent moisture reabsorption. Store them in

a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight. Moisture can lead to bacterial growth and spoilage.

5 Use of additives:

Consider using natural preservatives like salt, sugar or citric acid, which can inhibit bacterial growth and extend the shelf life of dehydrated foods.

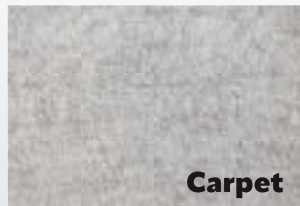
6 Monitor for signs of spoilage:

Even with proper preparation and storage, it's essential to check dehydrated foods for any signs of spoilage such as mould, "off" smells, or changes in colour or texture. Discard any food that appears spoiled or questionable.

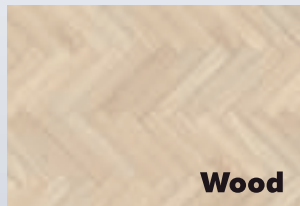
7 Practise good hygiene:

Maintain good personal hygiene and cleanliness while handling food. Wash hands thoroughly before and during food preparation to prevent contamination.

Consider vacuum sealing dehydrated foods in individual packages to further remove oxygen and extend shelf life.



Carpet



Wood



Vinyl



Tile

Traps Up To **99.9%** Bacteria & Dust

**Protect Loved Ones With
Water Filtration Technology**



**Up To
35,200 RPM**



**Suction Power
253W**



A hygienic way to vacuum

**Sona's eyecatching vacuum cleaner
traps vacuumed dirt, germs and
bacteria in water.**

Bagless vacuum cleaners are convenient, but emptying them can be messy and cause vacuumed dirt and dust to escape and become airborne.

That's not what you get with the Sona Water Filtration Vacuum Cleaner (SVC 6880).



WATER FILTRATION TECHNOLOGY

This bagless appliance uses water filtration technology to protect your family and home. Once vacuumed dirt, germs and bacteria touch the water, they are trapped in the water by gravity, making them impossible to be airborne. This technology effectively removes 99.9% of bacteria and germs not visible to the eye.

After use, simply pour the dirty water away to prevent bacteria and germs from building up in the dust container.



A POWERFUL AND THOROUGH CLEAN

Use the blower function to remove dust and dirt trapped in corners and narrow crevices around your home.

The vacuum cleaner is perfect for carpets as well as wood, tile and vinyl flooring. It is super-powerful, with 1400W motor power, 253W suction power, and a motor speed of up to 35,200RPM.



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out more

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are built with
great love, care
and attention
to detail.

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Singapore
Prestige
Brand Award 10
Winner, SPBA - Heritage Brands



KENSINGTON
STORAGE WATER HEATER



KINGSTON
INSTANT WATER HEATER



7 Year
Warranty
on Tank



2 Year
Warranty
on Part



Blue Enamel
Coated Tank



Blue Enamel
Coated Heating
Element



Copper
Class Tank



Inverter
DC Booster
Pump



Earth Leakage
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Heater

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From design to performance, 707
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are hard to beat.

The last thing anyone wants while
showering is for the water to run cold or
too hot. With reliable performance and
safety features, the 707 Kingston and Kensington
range of water heaters will not let you down.

HOT WATER IN AN INSTANT

The 707 Kingston instant water heater
provides continuous hot water on demand.
It features the luxurious HydroSpa Ace rain
shower, quality copper tank, superior flow
switch and inverter DC booster pump to
boost water pressure for households with low
water pressure. Equipped with multiple safety
features such as overheat warning indicator,
double safety anti-scald protection system and
ELSD – a device that cuts off power supply if
leakage current is detected, the 707 Kingston
gives you peace of mind with every shower.
Available in Piano Black and Pearl White.



Kingston



Kensington

FAST AND EFFICIENT HEATING

The 707 Kensington storage water heater features
the Whirlflow 2 technology which controls the
cold and hot water flow mechanics inside the
tank, resulting in faster heating and better energy
efficiency. It is also well thermally insulated to
minimise heat loss.

With its blue enamel coated tank and heating
element, the 707 Kensington is highly
resistant to corrosion, providing
reliable performance for many
years. It includes safety features
like overheat thermal cutoff system
and IPX1 splash proof protection.
The 707 Kensington also offers
multiple installation options to
meet your bathroom layout design
requirements. Available in 25 litres
and 35 litres.



Kingston



Kensington

Scan here to find
out more

Clean the air

Panasonic's latest air-conditioner range cools, protects and deodorises.



If you are looking for an air-conditioner that does more than cool your home, the Panasonic X-Premium Inverter XU Series is an excellent choice. Not only does this range maintain a more comfortable interior temperature, it also purifies the air and gets rid of odours, all while being energy efficient and gentle on skin.



PROTECT WITH CLEANER AIR

The air-conditioners in this series double as air purifiers. Simply switch on nanoe™X mode without the cooling mode for clean air around the clock.

The nanoe™X mode operates at just 25W/h. Compare this to a regular light bulb that consumes 60W/h and a ceiling fan at medium speed which uses 25-30W/h.

Smaller than a steam droplet, nanoe™X also penetrates deep into clothes, fabrics and other surfaces to inhibit pollutants like bacteria and viruses, mould, allergens, pollen, and hazardous substances. Plus, it deodorises the air, and moisturises your skin and hair.

cause discomfort and irregular sleep cycles. The Humidity Sensor constantly monitors and adjusts relative humidity levels to below 60% for an optimal sleeping environment and comfortable cooling.

BETTER FOR THE PLANET

The XU series air-conditioners are energy efficient for greater cost savings. Its 5-tick energy efficiency rating translates into lower energy consumption and energy bills.

STAY IN CONTROL

With the built-in Wi-Fi and Panasonic Comfort Cloud App, you can simultaneously monitor and control air-conditioner units in multiple locations and track their energy consumption levels remotely.



IDEAL SLEEPING ENVIRONMENT

A high relative humidity even with a low temperature may increase the risk of heatstroke and



Scan here to find out more

Panasonic



X-Premium Inverter

PANASONIC BRINGS COMFORT
AND SAFETY INTO YOUR HOME

Make your home a safe haven for your loved ones with quality air. Panasonic X-Premium Inverter Multi Split air conditioners are equipped with nanoe™ X technology which effectively inhibits up to 99.7% of Novel Coronavirus in 24 hours*. nanoe™ X keeps you and your family safe indoors with 24-hour active air protection. Smartify your air conditioner anytime, anywhere with Comfort Cloud App and cool your house before reaching home.

Panasonic Air Conditioner, giving you quality air for life.

*Research by Texcell SA(France) in January 2021. Test conditions apply.



**INHIBITS VIRUSES, BACTERIA,
AIRBORNE PARTICLES**



CLEAN & FRESH AIR

QUALITY AIR FOR LIFE



Cool & comfortable

The Mitsubishi Electric Starmex series of air-conditioners is quiet, easy to maintain, and environmentally friendly.

What if you could keep your home cool, save energy, and take care of the planet at the same time? The Mitsubishi Electric Starmex R32 series of air-conditioners boasts improved EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) levels, significantly reducing energy consumption and saving you more money. The range also operates quietly at just 19 decibels, and uses the eco-friendly R32 refrigerant.

HASSLE-FREE CLEANING

Mitsubishi Electric Cleaning-Free Technology incorporates a filtration device called the wide strainer to trap iron particles and facilitate cleaning-free pipe reuse. This technology allows you to replace your air-conditioning system without replacing the refrigerant pipes and this lowers installation cost and time significantly.

With easily detachable panels, Starmex R32 air-conditioners are easy to clean. Simply open the blower outlet and remove the vertical vanes, front panel and fan for separate cleaning.

Regular cleaning eliminates odours, prevents mould growth, ensures that your air-conditioner continues to perform efficiently, and saves energy.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY R32 REFRIGERANT

Refrigerants used in air-conditioners contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. R32 gas – an environmentally friendly and energy efficient refrigerant – is a greener alternative. Having a low GWP (global warming potential) value of only 677, it is one-third the GWP value that R410A carries, lowering carbon emissions by 30%.

R32 refrigerant has lower density, making it more efficient than other refrigerant equivalents, like R410A. This translates to lower carbon emissions and lower energy costs with the same performance.

Finally, R32 gas has a higher cooling capacity, resulting in higher efficiency and lower electricity bills compared to the use of R410A gas.



Scan here to find out more

COOL STUFF

Counter intuitive

They're not only great for prepping food, they can also double as storage space. We're talking about kitchen islands and counter tops.

Is your air-con in good hands?

With 43 years of experience, a panel of more than 100 BCA-certified air-con technicians, and over 200 service vehicles, Gain City is well-poised to meet your needs when it comes to caring for your air-con.

TEXT Andrew Y

Having invested in an air-con system for your home, you'll want to make sure that it performs well for years to come. This is why it's important to service your air-con regularly.

But you shouldn't leave the job to just anyone. Gain City offers an air-con maintenance and repair service for home and business owners. Backed by more than four decades of expertise, the service is designed to keep your air-con system in tip-top condition, so you can feel at ease knowing that it will continue to operate smoothly and reliably to keep you cool and comfortable.

Air-con servicing: What's involved?

"Servicing your air-con regularly ensures that the system runs more efficiently and performs at an optimal level," says Mic Fong, Maintenance & Repair Manager at Gain City.

"In the long run, regular servicing saves on energy costs, plus you'll enjoy cleaner air and peace of mind knowing that the system is well-maintained."

Here is the full list of benefits of regular servicing:



- **Reduces energy costs:**

It keeps your air-con system running efficiently, reducing energy consumption and lowering your utility bills.



- **Improves efficiency:** It helps your air-con operate at peak performance, maintaining optimal cooling capacity.



- **Promotes a healthy lifestyle:** Clean filters and coils improve indoor air quality, reducing allergens and pollutants for a healthier indoor environment.



- **Ensures cleaner air:** It prevents a build-up of dust and debris in your air-con system, promoting cleaner air circulation throughout your home or office.



- **Prevents major breakdowns:** Routine inspections allow technicians to identify and address potential issues early, preventing costly repairs and inconvenient breakdowns later on.



- **Extends the lifespan of your air-con system:** It protects your investment and ensures long-term reliability.

Mic recommends quarterly servicing to keep your air-con system performing optimally all year round.

A long track record of expert air-con servicing and repair

Gain City's air-con maintenance and repair service also includes inspections, overhauls, and replacement of parts across various air-conditioning brands.

"We have proudly offered air-conditioning service and repair for over 40 years," says Mic.

"This longevity matters because it reflects our deep expertise, reliability, and commitment to excellence in serving our customers' air-conditioning needs."

Gain City has a panel of more than 100 employees who specialise in air-con servicing. These staff members operate with more than 200 service vehicles.

Gain City technicians: Qualified, knowledgeable and experienced

Gain City's air-con technicians are skilled

in various brands of air-conditioning systems, so no matter what type of air-con you have in your home, you can be sure that it's in good hands.

The technicians can help homeowners with a range of air-con problems, from minor repairs to major overhauls. They use the latest diagnostic tools to identify and fix these problems efficiently and quickly.

Specific problems that they can help with: cooling inefficiency, noisy operation, frequent breakdowns, faulty thermostat, water leakage, compressor problems, and poor air quality.

"Our technicians undergo rigorous training conducted by our product engineers and typically have more than five years of experience with our company," Mic explains.

"Additionally, they are known for their meticulous and comprehensive approach to their work. As experts in air-conditioning maintenance, repair and optimisation, they excel in various areas."

These include:

Air-con maintenance and tune-up:

- Regular inspection and cleaning of air-con components.
- Adjustment of settings for peak performance.
- Recharging refrigerant levels when necessary.

Chemical cleaning and overhaul:

- Professional chemical cleaning and thorough overhaul process.
- Utilisation of specialised tools and solutions for deep cleaning.
- Identification of potential system issues before they escalate.

Troubleshooting and repairs:

- Precisely diagnose air-con problems.
- Resolution of issues such as compressor failure.
- Focus on enhancing efficiency and preventing major breakdowns.

Gain City also provides customised maintenance plans to fit homeowners' specific needs and budgets.



Let the professionals help

Gain City provides air-con servicing for both residential and commercial premises at reasonable rates. Call 6222 1212 for a quote today!



Scan here to find out more



Like a cool breeze

Enjoy comfortable and effective cooling in all your rooms, thanks to this air-con's special features.

You want your air-con unit to emit cool air into your room and not directly at you.

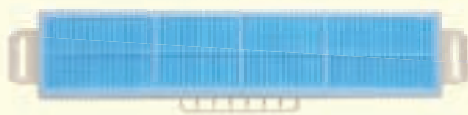


WIDE-ANGLE
REACH



CLEAN AIR

MHI's air-cons have an Allergen Clear Filter to deactivate allergens and bacteria, and a Nano Air Filter which can remove 99% of pollutants as microscopically small as PM2.5.



The same aerodynamic analysis technology used in developing jet engines has been applied to the design of air channels in MHI's air-cons for the best air circulation.

NEW DESIGN THAT MAKES ME FEEL COOL!



JET-POWERED HEAVY-DUTY COOLING SYSTEM



WI-FI CONTROL SYSTEM

You can control the air-conditioner at home or on the go by installing SMART M-AIR app on your smartphone.



CONTROLLED AIRFLOW

The 3D Auto Vertical + Horizontal feature automatically controls airflow volume and direction, so that comfortable air-conditioning of the entire room can be done effectively.



CLEANER
AIR FLOW



JETTA

Your mighty jet powered home protector.



Scan here to find
out more

Keep your cool

Look no further than LG's next-generation air-conditioner for energy-efficiency¹ and ease of installation.

No matter how often you use your air-conditioner, you'll want to make sure that it's energy-efficient and economical enough to run. This is where the LG R32 Multi Split Inverter Outdoor Unit comes in. The compact 5-Tick energy-efficient¹ LG R32 refrigerant conveys heat efficiently and offers a higher cooling capacity, while being kinder on the environment.



ADVANTAGES OF R32 REFRIGERANT

Compared to R410A refrigerant, R32 refrigerant has many advantages, such as being more environment-conscious. It also uses less gas² and performs more efficiently.

RELIABLE AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT

LG Multi Inverters are equipped with a BLDC compressor that uses a strong neodymium magnet. This technology affords more savings over the product's lifetime.

The addition of a pressure sensor³ also means that it takes less time to reach the desired temperature with a high level of accuracy and stability. This translates to greater reliability during operation.

QUIET, EASY TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN

Set the dip switch on the PCB of the outdoor unit to reduce noise levels during night operation.

The inverter also boasts the new light and compact Multi Piping Type, making it easy to carry and install, and LG's Gold Fin, an anti-corrosion coating on the surface of the heat exchanger, which ensures that the surface is more resistant to corrosion.



¹As compared to LG R410 air-conditioner models.

³Only applicable to 28,000 BTU Multi Split Inverter Outdoor Unit.



Scan here to find out more



Turn on your greener* world

*Compared between air conditioner using R32 and air conditioner using R410

Amplify your space

Visual tricks and expert tips to give a small home a bigger, more open appearance and feel.

TEXT Su-ying Chen

In this home, a few carefully selected larger furniture pieces allow for a minimalist and spacious feel, adhering to the “less is more” principle.

As apartments get smaller, maximising every square metre of space that you have becomes all the more important, especially if your home was never big enough to start with.

Thankfully, there are many clever ways to make a small apartment look and

feel bigger, with lighting, accessories, paint, storage solutions, and smart furniture placement.

We asked Rachel Eng, Design Lead from interior design firm, The Minimalist Society, to share her best advice for making your space feel bigger.



Suspending the night curtain between the carpentry platform and ceiling imparts the illusion of increased height.

Choose furniture wisely

"When seeking to amplify the perceived spaciousness of a small area, you can strategically choose which type of furniture to buy and how to place the furniture," says Rachel.

"Go with a couple of well-selected, larger furniture pieces rather than numerous small ones. This helps create a more open and uncluttered feel. Remember, less is more, so opt for a restrained approach with a few appropriately scaled large pieces. This involves incorporating multifunctional furniture, such as storage ottomans, to maximise utility."

Be transparent

"Transparent or glass furniture pieces, such as glass coffee tables and dining tables, may also help to create the illusion of more space by allowing light to pass through and maintaining a visual lightness," Rachel points out.

Try an open layout

If possible, leave empty spaces to allow for a more open and breathable atmosphere. Rachel says that your furniture shouldn't obstruct natural pathways.

"In short, it's about personalising the space within the minimalist framework, making intentional choices to enhance both functionality and aesthetics," she adds.

Make a difference with accessories

If you have curtains or blinds, Rachel recommends hanging them closer to the ceiling and to use floor-length options to create the illusion of taller walls and a more expansive atmosphere. Light and sheer fabrics in window treatments also contribute to an airy feel.

With rugs, choose light colours and simple patterns, extending them just beyond the furniture to visually enlarge the floor space.

Play with mirrors

According to Rachel, mirrors serve as versatile tools in

creating the illusion of a larger space, but their effectiveness depends on thoughtful consideration of placement, size, and shape. For instance, strategically positioning mirrors across from windows or on walls perpendicular to them can maximise natural light reflection and expand the perceived dimensions of a room. Large mirrors, especially in smaller spaces, can help brighten and visually enlarge the area.

Tall order

Love tall bookshelves or high-backed chairs? Rachel says that these can work in a small home, but with some thought.

For example, tall and slim bookshelves help maximise vertical space without overwhelming the room horizontally like wide ones do. Similarly, high-backed chairs

can be incorporated if they have a visually lightweight design, ensuring they don't dominate the space. You'll want to balance these taller pieces with lower-profile items to avoid a cramped feel.

"A mix of heights can add visual interest and create depth," Rachel adds.

Lighting matters

Proper lighting is crucial. Rachel says that insufficient lighting or relying solely on harsh overhead lights can diminish the sense of openness. Likewise, opting for dark colours on walls and large furniture pieces can absorb light, contributing to a perception of an even smaller space.

Be colour smart

Rachel advises using light, natural colours like white, beige and light grey, for walls and larger surfaces. These hues reflect light, creating an open and airy atmosphere. Light-coloured upholstery on furniture can also reflect light.

"Ensure a seamless visual flow by maintaining colour continuity between walls, furniture, and accessories, and maximise natural light to enhance the impact of the chosen colour palette," she adds.





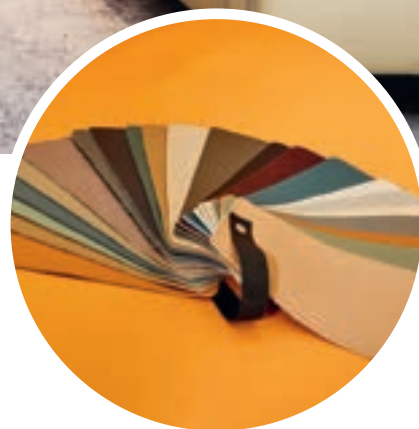
Shop smart for furniture

Take note of these four expert tips when you're selecting upholstery fabrics, table shapes, and more.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales

If you're shopping for living or dining room furniture, you may be overwhelmed by the various styles, shapes and sizes out there. To help you make a more informed choice, Chris Zheng, Senior Buyer (Furniture) at Gain City Best-Electric, shares the advantages and drawbacks of different upholstery fabrics, shapes and materials.

To check out the full range of furniture available, scan here

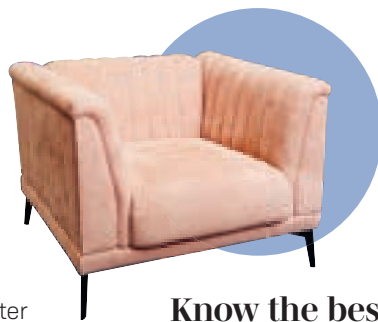


Choose suitable upholstery fabrics

When buying a sofa, go with upholstery fabrics that are durable, especially if you have children and pets. Tightly woven fabrics in particular are long-lasting. You should also consider your budget, as some materials are more expensive than others.

"Microfibre and microsuede are affordable, hypoallergenic, scratch-resistant, stain-resistant, easy to clean, and versatile," says Chris. "Genuine leather is also hypoallergenic, stain-resistant, and easy to clean."

When it comes to dining chairs, Chris says that you have several options.



Synthetic fabrics like polyester and viscose (rayon) are durable and resistant to stains, wrinkling and fading, and come in a range of colours, patterns and textures. However, they absorb oil spills, and oil stains are often hard to remove.

"Leather is sophisticated, strong, has a natural shine, ages well, does not accumulate allergens or dust mites, and is easy to maintain," Chris continues.

"But leather dining chairs can be expensive and are prone to scratches."

And while velvet is soft and rich, with a slight sheen, velvet stains easily and can be a hassle to maintain. Plus, it's a magnet for dust and pet hair.

Know the best sofa styles for your space

If your living room is small, you'll want to take your time choosing the right sofa, as the wrong style or size can make a room look and feel smaller and cramped.

Chris recommends a two-seater and a one-seater, or a two- or three-seater sofa for small apartments.



Consider different dining table shapes

"Round tables are great for gatherings, but if the table is large (with a diameter of more than 120cm), your family may find it difficult to reach for items that are in the centre," Chris says.

"On the other hand, most long tables are no wider than 120cm, making it easier to reach for dishes. Plus, long tables are more practical for rectangular or long rooms.

"If you want a large round table, consider adding a lazy susan to it, so that you can access dishes easily. Alternatively, opt for an extendable round table for versatility."



If you like natural fabrics, cotton and linen are good choices. Chris says that these are breathable and comfortable, resistant to wear-and-tear, and have anti-microbial properties (so they're resistant to mould and mildew).

The downside of natural fabrics is that they wrinkle and stain easily.

Decide on the best material for your dining table

Wood tables, typically crafted from oak, walnut, maple, mahogany, pine, teak and acacia, are popular with many homeowners. Chris says that they're durable, aesthetically pleasing, versatile, and easy to repair. However, they can be costly and difficult to upkeep.

Affordable alternatives are composite or engineered wood tables made from MDF, plywood or particleboard with veneer. These tables are stable and look good, but Chris adds that they are not long-lasting or durable and are sensitive to moisture.

Marble dining tables are stylish, add a touch of luxury to your home, and are heat-resistant. Carrara, Calacatta, Statuario, Emperador, and Crema Marfil are common types of marble used for dining tables.

Drawbacks, according to Chris, include high porosity, their heavy weight, and their high cost. Marble dining tables are also hard to maintain.

Tempered glass dining tables are a good option for small homes, as they help create the illusion of a larger space. "This material is aesthetically pleasing and also easy to maintain," says Chris.

"Unfortunately, glass tables are fragile and may pose a safety issue. Additionally, they are see-through, which may not work for everyone."



Reinvent Your Sofa with the Modular OSIM uDiva SOFA

Kevin
NoonTalk Media Artiste



The World's 1st Multi-functional Massage Sofa

Have a seat and relax in this modular massage chair that can be configured to suit your lifestyle and home.

The sofa is the soul of the home, where people bond and create cherished memories. Discover the OSIM uDiva Sofa, a versatile multifunctional modular massage sofa that can be configured to accommodate a different number of seats, perfectly adapting to your living space. Beyond its sleek design, it offers cutting-edge massage and wellness features, ensuring comfort and practical functionality.

With 45 years of industry experience, OSIM has crafted a sofa that combines advanced massage technology with tailored comfort, making it the ideal choice for your new living room sanctuary.





Modular design for easy customisation

Whether you prefer a one-seater for yourself, a cosy two-seater for intimate gatherings, or a spacious three-seater or more for family movie nights, this modular sofa can be arranged into endless options to suit your lifestyle and living space. Now, two or more people in your household can enjoy a massage at the same time.

Choose between Cream White Fabric or Brown PVC leatherette covering – each option excels in aesthetics, functionality and durability.



Side Table



Bluetooth Speakers



Control Panel

Do more than just enjoy a massage – the OSIM uDiva Sofa comes with a side table, Bluetooth speakers, and USB ports, so you can enjoy a drink or snack, work, or watch a movie, play video games or listen to music on your electronic devices, while enjoying a massage in the comfort of your three-seater uDiva Sofa, in your very own living room.



Touch of excellence

The sofa features V-Hand Massage, a humanised massage feature that emulates the hand grip of a professional masseuse; the Hyper-Power Foot Massage powerfully squeezes and kneads your feet to enhance blood circulation, relax your feet muscles and boost your well-being; while a dual-speed vibration feature is incorporated into the seat to improve circulation in your buttocks and thighs.

Space-saving comfort

Featuring a zero wall design (patent pending), the OSIM uDiva Sofa slides forward to fit snugly against walls, offering recliner and massage sofa modes for clever space-saving comfort.



Scan here to find out more

Counter intelligence

Kitchen islands and counters have become a fixture in many homes. Here's what to know about selecting and installing them.

TEXT Lily de Souza

56



On top of providing a focal point, a kitchen island creates a natural flow in the space, making it easier to move around in. It can also help separate your cooking and cleaning areas and give you extra counter space and storage. Counters also help elevate the look of a kitchen, and provide an excellent surface for preparing food and storing kitchenware and appliances.

What should you consider before installing either? Here's what we found out.



Islands and counters are not the same

Islands and counters have become an essential consideration in kitchen designs and renovations, but they are not the same, says Low Yilin, Manager, The Alchemists Design.

"Islands are typically positioned in the centre of the kitchen, whereas counters are generally installed against a wall or as an extension of existing cabinets and counters, rather than as a freestanding unit."

They are functional and can enhance your kitchen

"Both islands and counters

provide innovative storage solutions, offer plenty of worktop space for food preparation, improve the workflow in the kitchen, and may function as an additional dining area," says Yilin.

"If you have a smaller, new build, you may be more inclined towards an open-concept design, and having a kitchen island or counter can be a great way to demarcate the space. They also foster a communal atmosphere where cooking and socialising can coexist."

Size and placement matter

"The size of your kitchen may be the greatest influence on your decision to install an island or counter," says Yilin.



In small kitchens, for example, a centralised island may not be feasible. In such cases, Yilin says that a small counter on the side, against the wall, may be a more practical alternative.

If you intend for the counter to function as a bar, Yilin recommends fabricating it at a height of above one metre to accommodate bar-height chairs. Conversely, if the counter is to serve as an additional workspace, she suggests installing it at the same height as the kitchen cabinetry.



Your design options are practically limitless

A popular design trend is the multifunctional kitchen island or counter. Yilin says that you can integrate storage options, seating and appliances to maximise the functionality of the unit.

Combining the kitchen island with your dining table, either perpendicularly or as a continuous stretch, is another great design idea.

"You can differentiate the two by varying their heights, with the island positioned

higher than the dining area," Yilin points out.

"This design creates a seamless transition between the cooking and dining areas, making it perfect for entertaining guests or enjoying family meals. The dining table extension can be designed to match the island, creating a cohesive look in the kitchen."

Mixing materials and finishes allows you to express your personal style and create a unique kitchen centrepiece.

"Design-wise, I typically incorporate open shelving

at the corners of a kitchen island, with rounded edges to differentiate them from the standard kitchen cabinets," Yilin notes.

"I also often add decorative groove lines on the front side of the island or counter (the side that usually faces the living room), transforming the unit into a stand-out design feature."

If the size and positioning allow, Yilin suggests going for a fluid-shaped island, which lends movement and dynamism to the space without looking too stark.

Rounded corners improve functionality and flow while helping to soften the look of the island or counter, she adds. It is also a more child- and elder-friendly option.



6 tips to storage mastery

From decluttering to ideas for maximising cabinet capacity, here's how to organise like a pro.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales

Almost all of us have found ourselves with way more stuff than we need and hardly any space to put it. When your home is overrun by too many things, it can look cluttered and messy. And clutter isn't just bad for your physical and emotional health; it can be a fire hazard, too.

The key to keeping clutter at bay is to store your possessions the right way with these space-saving and organising tips.

1

Declutter before you organise

Clutter takes up more space than you realise, so items that you have no use for or no longer want shouldn't crowd your home.

"Prepare at least four large bags to sort out your possessions: Keep, Donate, Trash, and Miscellaneous," says Alex Chan from Kalm Organise.

"You shouldn't feel pressured to make

immediate decisions about what to keep, throw and donate. If you're unsure about an item, it can go into the Keep bag if it has sentimental value or the Miscellaneous bag so that you can decide what to do with it later."

Once the Donate and Trash bags have been removed from your home, you'll be in a better position to tackle the Miscellaneous bag, Alex adds.

2

"Hide" things

Never underestimate the usefulness of furniture items like bed frames with drawers, and ottomans, footstools and benches with storage.

These are great if you need extra space for books, blankets, chargers and photo albums, for example.



3

Get your possessions in order

Even after decluttering, you may still have more items than you have space for. In this case, you may want to organise your possessions according to category, such as Clothes, Books and Documents, Toiletries and so on.

"It's important to sort by category and not by location, as this allows you to see everything you own in the category you are tidying and lets you make better decisions on what to keep and discard," says Clara Chew, Konmari Consultant & Professional Organiser, and Founder of Reglow Living.

"First, decide on the category of items you want to tidy. Then, gather everything belonging to that category and lay them all out. This gives you a clear picture of what you own. Finally, decide what to keep by asking yourself if you like the item or not, and whether it 'sparks joy' in you. Is it something you want in your life?"

4

Optimise the space you have

Look at your cabinets, cupboards and shelving units and ask yourself if you're making good use of the space. For instance, instead of cramming everything into a cupboard, store them in stackable boxes, so you can fit more into the existing space.

Making effective use of a space means items are easier to retrieve, says Alex.

"You should be able to retrieve items with minimum effort – to this end, it's a good idea to invest in space maximisers like two-tier turntables, shelf inserts, pot organisers (to keep pots and lids separated), and so on."

With wardrobes that only have shelves, Clara recommends buying ready-made plastic drawers or rectangular baskets. This allows clothes to be folded and placed in a row instead of being stacked.

"The problem with stacks is that the items at the bottom tend to be difficult to reach and you end up not using them," she adds.

Clara prefers magazine stands for keeping papers and magazines tidy, and foldable shelves to create more space, such as in cupboards below the sink, for example.

5

Keep it simple

Clara advises against devising complex storage methods.

"Storage should ideally be kept simple," she explains.

"Storage methods work best when things can be easily retrieved and returned after use. This ensures your home will be tidy, as items will always be where they belong."

6

Buy the right type of storage

Decide how you want to store and organise your possessions, and then invest in the correct containers or organisers. Large tubs, for instance, are perfect for toys; stackable containers help to keep tools, stationery and craft supplies neatly separated; shelf inserts are useful for creating more space in your pantry; and wire baskets help keep a T-shirt collection tidy.

Finally, opt for clear containers so that you can see what's inside easily and quickly.





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3-Rm Flat	491-700 sqft	\$1,750	\$1,300	\$1,850	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$1,650	\$2,150	\$1,800	\$2,250	\$1,900
4-Rm Flat	701-1000 sqft	\$2,050	\$1,600	\$2,150	\$1,800	\$2,300	\$1,950	\$2,450	\$2,100	\$2,600	\$2,250
5-Rm Flat	1001-1200 sqft	\$2,250	\$1,800	\$2,350	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,150	\$2,650	\$2,300	\$2,800	\$2,450
5-Rm Exec	1201-1400 sqft	\$2,350	\$2,000	\$2,450	\$2,200	\$2,600	\$2,350	\$2,750	\$2,500	\$2,900	\$2,650
Executive Maisonette	1401-1600 sqft	from \$2,550	from \$2,150	from \$2,650	from \$2,350	from \$2,800	from \$2,500	from \$2,950	from \$2,650	from \$3,200	from \$2,800

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Imagine waking up to relaxing tunes playing in the background or unwinding with soothing melodies before going to sleep. The MaxCoil Audio Spa wireless sound system makes it possible.

THE FUTURE OF BEDROOM TECHNOLOGY

The Audio Spa features Bluetooth 5.0 connectivity for wireless convenience, providing seamless pairing with your devices up to eight metres away.

With exceptional sound quality, elevate your connection to music, movies and games through every lyric, note and beat. The powerful and immersive bass syncs rich, low tones with deep rhythmic pulses, taking you right into the heart of cinematic action or the sonic tapestry of your favourite soundtrack.

NO BULKY SPEAKERS OR TANGLED CORDS

The Audio Spa can be incorporated into selected MaxCoil bed frames, eliminating cluttered bedside tables and cumbersome speaker set-ups. It's a sleek and innovative solution that brings high-quality audio into your bedroom sanctuary.



Scan here to find out more

No.1 Italian Water Heater Brand



Save energy while you shower

Ariston's electric storage and instant water heaters can help reduce up to 25% of your utility bills.

Your shower is a great place to save energy, and the Ariston range of electric storage and instant water heaters makes the task so easy.

SLIM, SLEEK AND STYLISH

The slim and sleek Aures range is designed to fit perfectly in Singapore homes. It is equipped with Constant Temperature (CT) technology, and is the first electric instant water heater range to be certified by PSB Singapore to deliver up to 25% in energy savings.

Equipped with Earth-leakage Circuit Breaker (ELCB), Ariston AURES electric instant water heaters provide an additional safety point. If a dangerous electric leakage is detected, the built-in double pole ELCB in the Ariston AURES range will interrupt the electrical circuit, avoiding the risk of electric shock.

A SMART CHOICE

Ariston Wi-Fi electric storage water heaters come with voice control functions and are pairable with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant. It is also equipped with a patented full-titanium heating element that comes with lifetime warranty, energy-saving smart ECO EVO

function and AG+ technology that inhibits bacteria proliferation for better hygiene (selected models only).

Use the Ariston NET smart app to turn your water heater on or off, adjust the water temperature, and even learn how to improve energy consumption, saving up to 25% in energy.



Models in the range include AN2 TOP 30 WI-FI, SL2 20/30 LUX-D WI-FI, ANDRIS2 15/30 LUX-D WI-FI and ANDRIS LUX WI-FI 15/30.



Scan here to find out more

Responsible living

Every choice we make – from the bulbs we use to the food we eat and the appliances we buy – contributes to a world of difference.

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GET SMART

Good-fortune gifts

Everyone loves to receive red packets during Chinese New Year, but beyond the expected hongbao, why not gift these as well to bless your loved ones with good luck, good health and prosperity.

64

TEXT Su-Ying Chen

Red packets and oranges are traditionally exchanged during Chinese New Year, but they're not the only gift options we have when visiting with relatives and friends. There are many other items that are considered auspicious, or that symbolise good luck, good health and abundance that most people would be delighted to receive – in addition to the obligatory red packet, of course.

Our good-fortune gift guide features four modern, practical and stylish products to bring joy to your loved ones.



Make fluffy rice and more

This **Hitachi Rice Cooker 1L RZD10Vfy-DRE** in auspicious Dark Red has multiple cooking modes so you can use it to prepare more than rice. Its Double Cook mode lets you cook other dishes in a separate basket using the heat generated from the boiling rice. It also comes with a steam basket so you can steam glutinous rice and vegetables with ease. And you don't have to worry about unevenly cooked rice, thanks to the 3mm-thick pot, which is designed for conductivity.



Chilled to perfection

Alcohol is a common Chinese New Year gift as it conveys the giver's respect and admiration for the recipient. Help your loved ones keep their wine collection in perfect condition with this **Whirlpool Wine Cellar ARC1501**. Designed for 48 bottles, it features a low thermal emissivity glass to protect the contents from infrared and UV sunlight heat, as well as anti-vibration features that prevent the bottles from being disturbed whenever there is activity within the cellar (such as when taking bottles out or putting new ones in).



A sparkling clean result

Spring-cleaning the home before Chinese New Year symbolises the sweeping away of bad luck and negative energies that have accumulated over the past year. This **Karcher Steam Cleaner 2200W SV7** is a practical gift as it combines the advantages of steam cleaners with the power of dry vacuum cleaners. It makes light work of picking up leftover crumbs and other fine and coarse dirt, plus it wets and subsequently dries floors, all in one easy procedure and without the use of chemicals. It can be used on both hard and carpeted floors.



Pour a hot cuppa

Tea is a traditional Chinese symbol of hospitality and is used as a refined way to connect with others, making it a thoughtful gift for your friends, colleagues and neighbours. Of course, a gift of premium tea would not be complete without a teapot, a set of elegant teacups, and this attractive **Delonghi Cordless Kettle KBOV2001-GR**. Weighing just 1.3kg and with a 1.7-litre capacity, it features a glossy Sage Green, jade-like finish, a stainless-steel body and a detachable lid.





Smart home appliances you never knew you needed

Urban living has never been more effortless since the integration of Automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) at home.

TEXT Sean Yee

There is no better time than now to usher the future into our living spaces, now that homeowners have a trove of smart appliances at their disposal.

From the multitude of smart tools out there, we've curated these four inventive gadgets that we feel not only embody the ideals of modern smart living, but are also practical helpers to make going home at the end of a tiring day pure joy.

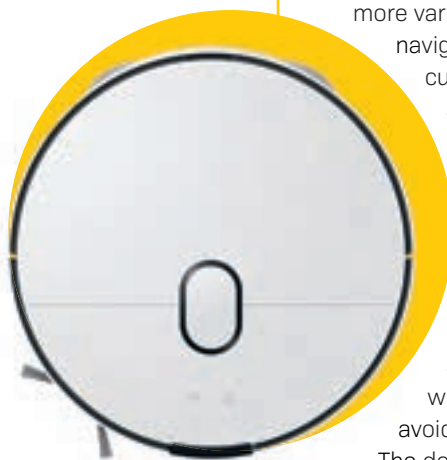
Robot Vacuum

Samsung Bespoke Jet Bot Combo

Sure, robot vacuums are not exactly novel, but Samsung's latest entry in an already saturated field is truly a breath of fresh air. Besides more varied cleaning methods, an upgraded navigation sensor and a brush designed to cut up loose hairs for easy removal, the standout feature of this device has to be its AI Floor Detection capabilities.

Leveraging object recognition technologies, the Bespoke Jet Bot Combo can effectively identify different floor types and intuitively adjust its settings to adapt to its surroundings. The robot cleaner also lifts its mop pads automatically whenever it approaches any carpet to avoid wetting it.

The device also comes with a Clean Station that not only washes dirty mop pads but also refills the water in the Jet Bot Combo Steam from its water tank.



Steam Closet

LG Styler with SmartThinQ™

Picture this: You return home after a long day hoping to indulge in the comforts of your cushy recliner. Then you recall a pile of damp laundry resting in the washing machine awaiting your care, and possibly using up your precious leisure time. LG's steam closet is not just much faster than conventional air drying processes, this pioneering appliance utilises pure water and guided movements to greatly reduce allergens, odours, and wrinkles in your clothes. Its low-temperature drying system reduces shrinkage and damage often caused by extreme heat. The closet even comes with LG's signature pants-press technology that ensures your trousers come



out wrinkle-free! Did we mention that the steamer works well with soft toys as well?

Its most noteworthy feature, however, is its interconnective functionalities. With SmartThinQ™, you can easily automate your steaming cycles from anywhere via an easily accessible app. In fact, all you really have to do is ensure that its water tank is topped up!



Doorbell

Aqara's Smart Doorbell G4 Black SVD-C03

Equipped with a comprehensive AI-enabled facial recognition algorithm, this doorbell acts as your home's vanguard, capable of charting up to 30 unique faces. You can go a step further by customising Welcome Home scenes for each face, uplifting your very first step into your abode. With enhanced sensors, you can still operate the doorbell even if your internet connection is disrupted. From family members to friends or even regular service providers, the doorbell can also be customised to trigger specific actions and prompts.



Air Fryer

Toshiba AF-74CS1TRSG (B)

It wasn't so long ago that many homemakers were skeptical of the air fryer's ability to deliver results comparable to a traditional fryer, but today, you'd be hard-pressed to find a kitchen without one. Toshiba's newest 7.4L air fryer aims to challenge cynics once more with a pioneering AI sensor that can optimise cooking times based on the quantity of food.

Coined as "Menu-IQ", this AI function improves an already effective cooking appliance with the convenience of automation. Simply select the menu and the air fryer will do the rest.

As for the cherry on top, the appliance's sensors can maintain consistent cooking temperatures with a 1°C margin of error. In contrast, the temperatures of a conventional air fryer can fluctuate by more than 10°C.

PASECO No.

1

SELLING
CASEMENT

AIR CONDITIONER
(PWA-3300W) FROM KOREA



PASECO's cutting edge dual inverter technology not only cools your space faster, it gives you quieter cooling. Keep the heat away with this one-and-only made-in-Korea casement air conditioner.

- Faster Cooling
- Quieter
- Cost Saving
- Slim and Curvy Design
- Easy DIY Installation
- Magnetic Remote Control
- No Drainage Needed



Cool and quiet efficiency

Paseco Casement Air-conditioner is arguably the quietest casement air-conditioner in Singapore.

Designed with efficiency and convenience in mind, the Paseco Casement Air-conditioner (Model: PWA-3300W) from Korea blends seamlessly into any casement window and is just what you need to keep small spaces cool.

SLEEK DESIGN FOR EFFICIENT COOLING

This appliance is equipped with advanced dual inverter technology for efficient cooling and energy savings. Cool your space quickly and consistently and feel



comfortable even on the hottest days.

It's also easy to use, with intuitive touch controls that allow you to adjust the temperature, set timers, and switch between modes effortlessly. Regardless of your room layout or window type, it's easy to install due to its sleek and versatile design.

An informal survey shows that more than half of the users were impressed by how quiet the Paseco casement is. Some have even compared it to split air-conditioners as its noise level goes as low as 37.1 dB.

SAVE ENERGY AND SPACE

With a two-tick rating from the NEA (National Environment Agency), it is designed to be energy-efficient, helping you save on electricity bills of at least \$268 a year.

The vertical design looks modern and saves space. It has a capacity of 8,000 BTU (British Thermal Unit), making it suitable for cooling rooms of approximately 161-215 square feet (15-20 square metres), such as small bedrooms, small living rooms and home offices.



Scan here to find out more



Connected to home

Aqara's smart solutions use breakthrough technologies to improve your lifestyle.

Aqara offers personalised smart home solutions to keep your family safe and connected, conveniently and effortlessly. Here are three products every household needs.

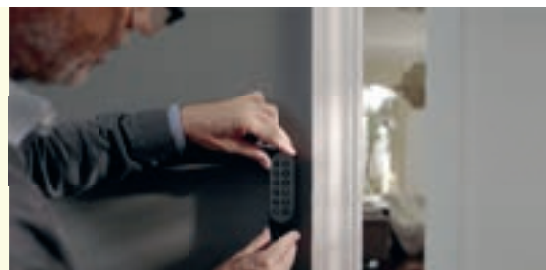
ELEVATE YOUR SMART HOME

The Hub M3 offers continuous connectivity for your smart devices. It provides support for Aqara Zigbee devices and an array of third-party Matter devices. The advanced infrared controller integrates your air-conditioner into your Matter ecosystem, enabling precise temperature adjustments.



FOR KEYLESS LIVING

The Aqara Smart Lock U200 Kit installs easily over your existing lock without drilling and supports various entry methods like fingerprint, NFC, passcode, and more, as well as integrates with Apple home keys. Compatible with Matter, it is managed via the Aqara Home app and built to last with a six-month battery life and is ideal for both indoor and outdoor use.



FOR PEACE OF MIND

Enhance your home's convenience and security with minimal effort with the Aqara Presence Sensor FP1E. It sets up quickly, and integrates effortlessly with your smart home hub, enabling instant, accurate automations without the need for complex configurations.



Scan here to find out more

TOSHIBA

YouMe 2.0



Reliable, efficient and smart

Toshiba YouMe, the first 5-tick inverter Multi Split R32 air-conditioner in Singapore.



When Toshiba invented the world's first inverter residential air-conditioner in 1980, it significantly improved comfort and energy efficiency for homeowners everywhere, leading to the widespread use of inverter air-conditioners across the world.

This time around, Toshiba YouMe has been making waves with Singapore's first 5-tick inverter Multi Split R32 air-conditioner.

ENHANCED INDOOR AIR QUALITY

With indoor air quality being more important than ever, Toshiba's Ultra Pure filter creates clean and healthy living spaces at home by capturing up to 94% of PM2.5 particles.



Between maintenance intervals, YouMe uses special Aqua Resin-coated coils that allow impurities to drain away easily, keeping dirt and debris from building up. In addition, the self-



cleaning function allows the fan to continue running for 20 minutes after the unit is switched off, to dry any moist air and prevent mould growth.

SMART CONTROL

With Toshiba Home AC Control app*, you can take control of your YouMe air-conditioner wherever you are – to arrive at a comfortable, cooled home by turning on before arrival, or to turn off in case you had to rush out and inadvertently left the air-con running.

DARK MODE

With Toshiba YouMe's adjustable halo lighting, you can now enjoy better sleep with always-on aircon lights.



* Requires add-on optional Wi-Fi module



Scan here to find
out more

TOSHIBA

YouMe 2.0

The Efficient, Climate-Friendly and Smart Inverter Multi-Split System



Available
in System
2 to 5



Energy Saving



Quick Cooling



Dark Mode



Enhanced Indoor
Air Quality



Smart Control



Easy Care



Know more here!



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How to childproof your home

Minimise the risk of household hazards and keep your little ones safe.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales



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It's not easy keeping an eye on your kids all the time. They move fast and are always exploring their surroundings, and even when you think they can't possibly run into trouble, something happens and they end up hurting themselves.

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for children to injure themselves at home, says Dr Lughen Harikerishnan, a general practitioner at Raffles Medical.

"Young children are more accident-prone and more likely to injure themselves compared to older kids because their motor skills are not quite as developed. Plus they're naturally more curious and less aware of the dangers around them," says Dr Harikerishnan.

The best way to prevent these accidents is by familiarising yourself with the most common hazards and taking the appropriate steps to keep the home a safe space for your precious ones.

Danger ahead: How to minimise accidents

Here, Dr Harikerishnan shares his top tips for preventing littles ones from getting hurt at home.



Danger: Sharp table edges/corners

What to do: Kids can't help but run into furniture sometimes. Avoid buying sharp-ended furniture or cover sharp edges with corner guards.



Danger: Small or sharp items

What to do: To prevent choking and cuts, keep small and sharp items out of your children's reach. For example, store them on a high shelf that your kids cannot access, or lock them away in a cabinet.



! Danger: Hot items or liquids (like food, oil and water)
What to do: These can scald and burn the skin and potentially even cause disfigurement. Make sure your tots stay away from the kitchen or install a gate to block their entrance to the kitchen. Keep hot items and liquids out of their reach and always test the water temperature before showering or bathing them. Install stove and oven guards to prevent little hands from touching these appliances when in use.

! Danger: Slippery surfaces
What to do: Use anti-slip mats and ensure that your floors are dry at all times.

! Danger: Loose, unsecured items
What to do: Secure furniture to the wall so that it doesn't tip over and fall on your kids. Use childproof locks on drawers. Replace tablecloths with non-slip place mats and put small stools away when not in use.



! Danger: Household chemicals and medication
What to do: Store all medication and detergents, disinfectants and other cleaning agents in a cupboard and lock the cupboard with a childproof lock.

! Danger: Open containers of water
What to do: Prevent drowning by keeping toilet seat covers down and never leaving containers of water unattended.

! Danger: Slamming doors
What to do: These can crush small children who are in the way. Use a door stopper.

How to handle accidents if/when they do happen

While waiting for medical attention, you may need to give your tot acute care. Dr Harikerishnan shares some tips and advice:



- Always keep a first-aid kit at home and replenish its contents accordingly.
- If your child is bleeding, clean the injury site with a clean cloth and apply pressure/compression to the site.
- Learn what to do in case of choking – if you take a first-aid course, for instance, you'll be taught to give five blows to your child's back when he's choking or to do chest compressions, and so on.
- Learn how to do simple CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on infants and children. This knowledge will come in handy if your little one loses consciousness.
- If your child has fallen from a height, do not move them if you suspect that his neck or back is injured unless there is an immediate danger. Keep your child still and calm until help arrives.
- In the event of a burn injury, run cool water over the burn site for at least 20 minutes and then apply clean dressing to the burn.



9

ways to live more responsibly

Tips to save resources, minimise waste and reduce your carbon footprint at home.

TEXT Leslie Ong

Our daily actions are more significant than we think when it comes to keeping our planet liveable for the generations after us. With climate change the biggest single threat facing humanity, and climate impacts polluting our air and waterways, causing extreme weather events and affecting livelihoods and wildlife, it's important to find ways to live more sustainably. And not in the future, but now.

Here are 9 habits we can inculcate to help improve the health of our planet.



1

Use LED light bulbs

Replace halogen, fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs with LED (light-emitting diode) ones. Not only do LED bulbs last longer – meaning fewer bulbs going to landfill – they are also recyclable, contain no toxic materials, and are more energy efficient than conventional light bulbs.

2

Participate in recycling programmes

Always recycle items made from plastic, glass, paper and metal. And don't forget to recycle electronic waste (e-waste) too – there are e-waste collection points all over the island for small household appliances, gaming consoles, power supplies, batteries, lamps and more. Check the National Environment Agency website (www.nea.gov.sg) for locations.

3

Buy energy-efficient appliances

When buying appliances, make sure they are energy efficient. Energy-efficient appliances consume less energy, thereby reducing your carbon footprint, and also help lower your electricity bills. The more ticks on an energy label, for instance, the more energy-efficient an appliance is. An item with an Energy Star label is also a better option for saving energy.

6

Adjust your refrigerator thermostat

Overcooling your fridge wastes electricity. Instead, adjust the thermostat to the recommended setting. Other ways to make your refrigerator more energy-saving: ensure the door is tightly closed, don't leave the door open for longer than necessary, and do not overload the fridge with too many items, as this may interfere with the appliance's cooling capabilities.

4

Eat locally grown produce

Eating local reduces the distance that fruit and vegetables travelled to get to you and hence the emissions produced during transportation. This goes towards reducing your carbon footprint.



7

Switch off or unplug appliances

If you're not using an appliance, turn it off. To save even more electricity, unplug it at the power socket, as some appliances still continue to draw power even when turned off.

8

Keep windows and doors closed when the air-con is on

Not only does this maintain indoor air quality, it also ensures that your air-con does not have to work harder than it needs to in order to cool your home, thereby prolonging the life of your air-con system and enhancing its energy efficiency.

5

Be a responsible consumer

This includes purchasing items with less packaging, that are refillable and that will last longer; storing perishable food in the fridge and cooking just enough food for meals to minimise food waste; using cloth rags instead of paper towels for cleaning; and borrowing or hiring items that you would only use occasionally.



9

Clean and service your air-con

Getting your air-con professionally cleaned and serviced every three months helps to prevent a build-up of mould and ensures that the unit continues to run efficiently. An air-con system that performs optimally helps to reduce your energy consumption and utility bills in the long run.



THE WATER HEATING EXPERT

CRAFTING COMFORT FOR ALMOST A CENTURY.

ELECTRIC STORAGE WATER HEATERS



ELECTRIC INSTANT WATER HEATERS



SOLAR WATER HEATERS



HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS



COMMERCIAL GAS TANK & STORAGE TANK WATER HEATERS



SCAN HERE



www.RheemSingapore.com

Heat it up

Innovative water heaters for your home or business.

Rheem, a well-known name in residential and commercial water heaters, has been providing comfort to millions for nearly a century. The American company offers a diverse range of products including residential instant and storage heaters, commercial electric and gas heaters, and advanced heat pumps.

INSTANT AND STORAGE WATER HEATERS FOR RESIDENCES

Homes have varying hot water needs, from bathing to washing and relaxation. Instant water heaters deliver on-demand hot water, while storage heaters ensure a constant supply of hot water with continuous flow.



Rheem's Royal and Prestige series are leading choices for instant water heaters. The Royal series stands out with its exceptional features, including 99.99% antibacterial protection powered by AG+ technology to safeguard your family's health.

Its replaceable stainless-steel chamber ensures durability and longevity, while the stylish rainbow finish complements any home decor.

The Prestige series brings luxury to any home. Enjoy precise temperature

control for consistent comfort and quiet operation, thanks to its advanced DC pump. The sleek black design adds a touch of elegance to any bathroom.

Rheem also offers a range of storage heaters to suit your needs. Experience longer showers with the XWell Series and its exclusive RheemHot+ Diffuser. For space-saving solutions, the compact EHG Slim Classic is ideal for its easy installation. When durability and performance are top priorities, choose the 86VP or 85VP Classic.

COMMERCIAL WATER HEATERS

Rheem offers a comprehensive commercial water heating solutions portfolio, including heavy-duty electric and gas storage water heaters, energy-efficient heat pump water heaters, and solar water heating systems. Different heating solutions are tailored to individual projects, ensuring that it will fit their needs.

Ready to learn more? Contact us and experience a new degree of comfort with Rheem today!



Scan here to find out more

Year-end feasting

Wow your family with recipes from Happy Cafe and Lucky Cuisine.

77

HOMEINSIDER

8

CNY taboos & traditions you should know

You've probably heard of some of these before, but others may be new or surprising. Homeowners, take note of some of these sensible tips.

TEXT
Leslie Ong

Wealth, happiness and longevity are common themes that arise during the two-week Chinese New Year period. For those who celebrate, this means following traditional customs that are said to attract good fortune and good health, and avoiding certain taboos that are considered unlucky. Of course, these traditions and superstitions aren't evidence-based – so you can take them with a grain of salt – but they're fascinating and fun to know.



Avoid cleaning your home on the first day

If you have to clean and declutter your home, don't do it on the first day, as the act of sweeping or discarding of rubbish at the start of the New Year symbolises the clearing out of wealth and good luck.



There's a right way to hang those lucky decorations

Hang vertical couplets on each side of a doorway; position horizontal banners above doorframes; and paste cutouts on doors and windows. As for the Fu character, many people deliberately place it upside down to signify "good fortune arriving". (In Chinese, the word for "upside down" sounds similar to the word for "arrive".)



If you break something, wrap it up

Breaking a glass, bowl, plate, cup, vase or mirror is considered bad luck. Of course, we can't always prevent accidents, so if you do break something, wrap the shards in red paper and discard the package when the festive season is over.



Put sharp objects away

Try not to use sharp objects, like scissors, knives, nail clippers and needles on the first day, as this represents "cutting off" wealth and good luck. (This might also be why cutting one's hair on the first day is considered taboo.)

5

Don't visit anyone on the third day

The third day is commonly known as Chi Kou Ri, or the day of the red mouth. Older Chinese who are superstitious believe that a red mouth may result in arguments, so they avoid visiting loved ones on this day. They also call this day Chi Gou Ri, or the day of the red dog. In Chinese mythology, the red dog is the God of Anger, and people are said to be more likely to quarrel with others on this day.

6

No books, please

We're all for learning, but avoid buying books during the entire Chinese New Year period. The Chinese word for book, "shu", sounds the same as the word for "lose", so buying books after welcoming the New Year is regarded as inviting misfortune into your life. You should also avoid giving books to people, as this is considered wishing bad luck upon them.

7

Schedule that nap for another day

Taking an afternoon nap in your cosy home boosts alertness and relieves stress, but napping on the first day is not recommended as it means you'll be lazy all year long.

8

Never give these gifts

Certain gifts have a negative meaning in Chinese culture – clocks, watches, shoes and umbrellas, for instance, symbolise bad luck. Shoes are considered evil; mirrors are said to attract ghosts; wallets imply that the recipient may lose their fortune; and cut flowers and black and white objects are deemed more appropriate for funerals. Stick to "safe" and auspicious gifts like red packets, oranges, alcohol, premium tea, and tonic foods.



Keep it fresh

Store meat and fish for longer, reduce bacteria and odours, and freeze food rapidly – Panasonic PRIME+ Edition does it all.



Looking for a fridge that does more than just chill your food and drinks? The Panasonic PRIME+ Edition series of refrigerators is sure to impress.



KEEP MEAT AND FISH FRESH FOR LONGER

Prepare quick, fresh, and healthy meals without defrosting. With Prime Fresh technology, fish and meat are frozen at approx. -3°C , preserving nutrients and flavours for up to seven days, ensuring that the water inside the food does not expand and cause cell damage. The process also stops the fat in food from oxidising, thus maintaining optimal freshness and taste, and



prevents blood from seeping out so that there is no visible drip or colour change.

Prime Fresh also saves you time, since the food does not require defrosting and can be cooked immediately or seasoned quickly.

REDUCE BACTERIA, ODOURS AND PESTICIDES

nanoeX technology spreads nano-sized ions to every corner of the fridge. These ions inhibit bacterial growth in the air and on the surfaces inside the fridge while targeting odour-causing fungal

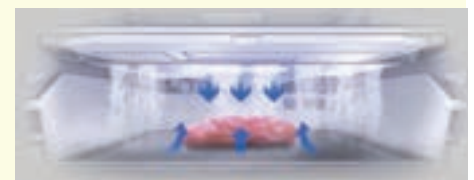
spores. Safely store raw fish without worrying about harmful bacteria or unpleasant smells.

If you eat raw vegetables often, it helps to know that nanoeX also degrades up to 93% of pesticides that remain on the vegetables.

FREEZE FOOD 5X FASTER

Prime Freeze technology features three modes: Rapid Freezing prevents ice crystals from forming and destroying cells, thereby sealing in the freshness and nutrients of food. It also prevents the juices in meat from dripping out – this helps to maintain the original taste and texture of the meat.

Prime Freeze includes two other modes: Quick Cooling, which speeds up the time it takes to marinate food, and Cool Down, which cools hot food quickly.



Scan here to find out more



A smart & stylish fridge

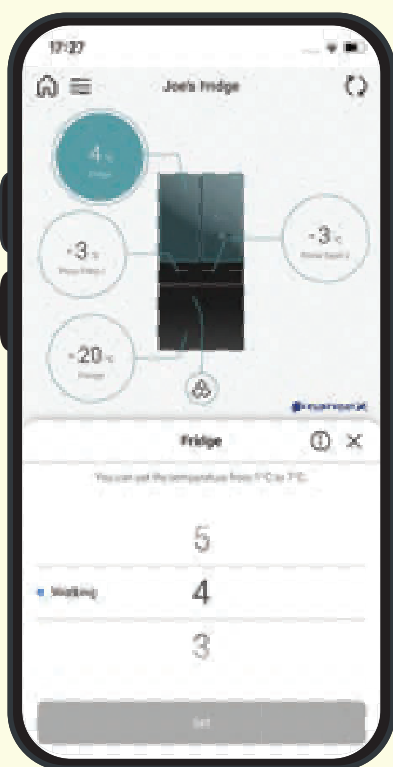
This range of refrigerators makes life more convenient and enhances the look of your kitchen.

The Panasonic PRIME+ Edition series of refrigerators is a convenient and stylish addition to your home.

SMART FEATURES

Use the Panasonic Smart App+ to connect your fridge to your smartphone and enjoy greater flexibility and convenience. The app lets you customise your Prime Freeze settings with just a tap, as well as control the temperature settings for the fridge, the freezer, and the Prime Fresh compartments. You can set the ideal temperature for specific food purchases, even while you're still in the supermarket grocery shopping.

Additionally, the app helps you save energy using GPS detection. When you go on holiday, the app detects your mobile GPS location information and checks whether it should start its energy-saving operation through AI ECONAVI. This then activates the Leaving Home mode. It also detects when you're at the supermarket and checks whether it should start the pre-cooling operation so that it's ready for the foodstuff you bring home.



IMPRESSIVE, FUNCTIONAL DESIGN

The PRIME+ Edition range boasts well-placed compartments that are easy to access, generous storage spaces, and transparent storage shelves for easier visibility and organisation.



You can also store wine bottles three ways according to your needs: on a hanging wine rack, on a wine-rack holder, or on a stackable shelf.

The range adds a touch of luxury to any home with its sophisticated, furniture-like finish that is reminiscent of exquisite Japanese craftsmanship.

THE FRIDGE FOR MODERN FAMILIES

The PRIME+ Edition 6-Door Refrigerator NR-WY720ZMMS is a premium refrigerator that includes all the features and functions of the PRIME+ Edition series. Its thoughtful usability and elegant design blend seamlessly into your home to support your family's modern, healthy eating lifestyle.



Scan here to find out more

Festive recipes to nourish the soul

Excite your loved ones this Christmas and Chinese New Year with these absolutely banging recipes!

TEXT Sean Yee

Nothing says an exuberant celebration better than a lavish spread to enliven the mood. This is especially so at Christmas and Chinese New Year, when food becomes the centrepiece that draws everyone to the table. As the universal love language, food doesn't just fill the belly; it also feeds the soul.

Gain City's Executive Chef Jeffrey Chua, who also helms Happy Café, and Sous Chef Ken Ng from Lucky Cuisine, each share a festive recipe that will surely uplift your upcoming reunion dinners.

Christmas is often associated with turkey. Why break with tradition and go with lamb instead?

Jeffrey: Turkey dishes here aren't as well-received as they are in Western countries. As I deliberated on how to inject my own twist into the customary Christmas dinner, it came to me – one of our best-selling dishes here at Happy Café is our lamb chop. It's halal, easy to find and incredibly forgiving to prepare even for novice chefs.

For non-fans, lamb tends to have a gamey smell.

Jeffrey: The key to removing its odour is to season it well. I infuse my cuts of lamb with a special spice rub made from rosemary, thyme and garlic. You can add in your favourite herbs into the mix. If you like to take it up a notch, you can poke holes into your lamb cuts and fill them with garlic cloves. Not only will they help remove the smell, they'll keep the lamb tender during the cooking process.

How do you ensure that your lamb cut always turns out perfect?

Jeffrey: All you really need is patience. I give my lamb plenty of time to fully absorb my spice rub before slow-cooking it for another 4 hours in tomato stock (hence, the lamb shanks' reddish hue). One more thing that both novices and veterans often overlook – ensuring that the lamb has enough liquid to fully simmer. Keep extra stock on hand in case your lamb shanks need a top up.

Mashed potatoes are one of those dishes that are easy to prepare, but difficult to master.

Jeffrey: Russet potatoes are really the way to go if you want a mash that is silky and soft. While it is common knowledge that mashed potatoes have to go with a lot of butter, I find that adding cream takes its richness to a whole new level. For an extra kick, I like to add just a smitch of cinnamon powder.





Slow-Cooked Lamb Shanks with Mashed Potatoes

(Happy Cafe)

LAMB SHANKS

1kg Lamb Shanks
 ¼ cup Tomato Paste
 1500ml Pronto Tomato
 (or any Tomato Broth)
 700ml Water
 1 Carrot (sliced)
 2 cups Chopped Onions

Spice Rub:

1 teaspoon Salt
 1 teaspoon Black Pepper
 1 teaspoon Paprika
 1 teaspoon Flour
 2 teaspoons Oil
 2 sprigs Rosemary
 3 Dried Bay Leaves
 5 cloves Garlic

Preparation:

- 1** Mix the condiments and herbs to create a spice rub. Let the lamb shanks rest in the rub for 45 minutes.
- 2** Heat up cooking oil in a large non-stick pan over medium heat. Sear the outer layer of the lamb shank until the skin is golden brown.
- 3** Toss in the vegetables and give a light fry. Add in the tomato paste and mix well.

- 4** Transfer to a large crockpot. Fill the pot with Pronto Tomato base and water and let the contents boil at high heat.

- 5** Once it reaches a boil, add in the lamb shanks and let it simmer over medium heat for 15 minutes. Stir constantly.

- 6** Reduce the heat to low and let the shanks slow-cook for 4 hours.

MASHED POTATOES

1kg Russet Potatoes
 (peeled and cut evenly)
 ¼ cup Cream (optional)
 4 tablespoons Butter
 1 teaspoon Salt
 1 teaspoon Black Pepper

Preparation:

- 1** Add potatoes and water into a large pot and boil over high heat until tender.
- 2** Drain the potatoes, and mash until smooth. Add in butter (and cream if using) gradually.
- 3** Season with salt and black pepper.



HAPPY
CHINESE
New Year



What is it about an abalone dish that screams “Huat ah!”?

Ken: It isn't the abalone dish itself, but rather the Fatt Choy that typically comes with it! Consider Gong Hei Fatt Choy, the greeting that is expressed during Chinese New Year to mean “wishing you prosperity”. How much more auspicious can it be?

Speaking of broths, how do you create a delicious one from scratch?

Ken: Everything we use during our prep, whether it is the water we soured the shiitake mushrooms in or the brine that our chicken bones are boiled in, goes back into the broth. The chicken stock we add in later charges up all these natural ingredients, releasing a natural sweetness and savouriness that makes the broth so rich.

How can home cooks avoid the bane of Chinese New Year – rubbery abalone?

Ken: If you are getting canned abalones, steam the entire can with the lid firmly closed. Many chefs I know drain them, but I have learnt that the packing liquid is actually great as a steaming liquid. The can's compact nature also ensures that the abalone is cooked evenly.

Any simple tips that actually make a huge difference in preparing an abalone dish?

Ken: Get the best kind of condiments there are in the market! Items like soy sauce, oyster sauce, sesame sauce and even abalone sauce have many variants. Read the labels and look out for keywords like “Premium” and “Superior”.



Braised Abalone with Oyster

(Lucky Cuisine)

1 can Abalone
12 Dried Oysters
12 Dried Shiitake Mushrooms
4 cloves Garlic (chopped)
10g Fatt Choy
1 cup Chicken Stock
1 tablespoon Dark Soy Sauce
1 tablespoon Chinese Cooking Wine
2 tablespoons Soy Sauce
2 tablespoons Cooking Oil
4 tablespoons Oyster Sauce

Preparation:

- 1** Soak the dried oysters, fatt choy and shiitake mushrooms in separate bowls of warm water for 1-2 hours. Set aside the rehydrated oysters, fatt choy and mushrooms and save the water.
- 2** Steam the canned abalones (without removing the lid) for 30–45 minutes.
- 3** Heat up cooking oil in a large pan over medium heat and gently fry the chopped garlic.
- 4** Add in shiitake mushrooms and oysters and cook for 4 minutes or until they begin to brown.
- 5** Stir in the soy sauce, dark soy sauce, oyster sauce and Chinese cooking wine and fatt choy. Mix well.
- 6** Transfer the contents into a cooker and add in the steamed abalones, chicken stock and brine. Simmer for 20 minutes.
- 7** Thicken the broth with a cornstarch slurry (1:2 ratio of cornstarch to water) and serve.



For more information or to make a reservation, message +65 9873 4792



Lucky Cuisine and Happy Cafe are located at Gain City Megastore@Sungei Kadut, 71 Sungei Kadut Drive, Singapore 729577.



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*Compared with slow cooking, simmering or braising.

**Tested against hand-cut deep-fried French fries.



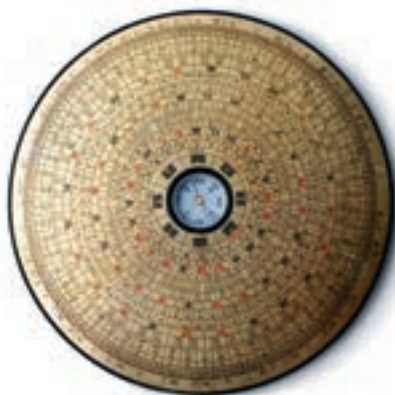
Photo: Yeo Siew Li

Harmony at home with feng shui

86

Expert advice to create a happier, more harmonious and auspicious abode.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales



Photos: iStocks

Whether you have just received the keys to your new home or have been living in your residence for a while now, you may be wondering how feng shui can enhance the energy of the space.

The energy, or Qi, of a home is fundamental to its feng shui, says Master SiewLi, Singapore's leading Metaphysics, Bazi and Feng Shui Master Guide. Master SiewLi (www.siewli.com), who has almost 40 years of practising experience, uniquely integrates the essence of Eastern and Western metaphysics.

"As part of the earth element in the cosmic universe, (a home's feng shui) can significantly influence the energy or luck of the residents."

If you're a new homeowner, Master SiewLi says it's beneficial to engage a feng shui master to audit the house. This can be done either through an on-site visit or a floor plan audit before you consult an interior designer. This ensures the designer doesn't need to redo the work and allows

the feng shui master to provide a design that harmonises with the interior design for optimal results.

If renovation is not an option, you can still enhance the home's luck with the use of symbolic feng shui ornaments, she adds.

Here, Master SiewLi shares six pointers for creating and maintaining a positive and harmonious flow of energy in your home.

Minimise clutter and keep areas clean

A good living space is characterised by the presence of positive Qi. To ensure a harmonious environment, avoid overcrowding your home with items you don't need.

"Keep your wealth areas free of clutter and 'challenging' items like broken furniture, rubbish, vacuum cleaners, bicycles, and ladders. Maintaining cleanliness and organisation in these sectors is crucial for fostering a positive and supportive environment," Master SiewLi says.

Enhance home energy with plants

Living plants, including air plants, can significantly improve the Qi in your home. However, Master SiewLi suggests keeping these pointers in mind to ensure you're fostering a positive and harmonious environment.

Use living plants: This can enhance the flow of positive energy, bringing vitality and life to any space.

Avoid cactus: This plant can disrupt the energy balance of your home.

Avoid artificial plants: These do not generate or support Qi and can accumulate dust, which can lead to negative energy.

Pay attention to mirror placement

"Mirrors in feng shui are associated with the metal element and can be powerful tools for enhancing the energy of your home. However, their placement is crucial to avoid disrupting the natural balance and harmony," says Master SiewLi.

Avoid certain directions: East, southeast, and northeast: Do not place mirrors in these areas as they can disrupt the wood energy, essential for harmony and bonding among family members. This is especially important for maintaining children's health.

Avoid these positionings:

Mirrors should not face the main door, as this can absorb and reflect negative energy into the house. Similarly, mirrors should not face windows to prevent the reflection and absorption of outside negative energy.

Activate water feng shui for wealth

Are you thinking about adding a water feature in your home? Master SiewLi says that placing water elements in the wrong sectors can adversely affect the financial luck of family members.

"A feng shui master will assess your home's unique energy map to determine the best locations for water elements, ensuring that they support and enhance wealth luck," she explains.

"Every home is different, and a feng shui master can provide tailored advice to maximise the benefits of water feng shui."

Harness romantic energy

To activate love and harmony in your home, identify the specific sector in your room that governs these energies before strategically placing certain items in this sector, says Master SiewLi.

Identify the sector: For 2024, the love and harmony sector is located in the southwest part of the room.

Place enhancing items: Place a rose-scented candle or diffuser in the southwest sector to attract love and harmony.



Nine peacock feathers:

Arrange nine peacock feathers in a red vase in this area to enhance positive energy.

Couple photo: Display a photo of your partner and yourself in this sector to strengthen your relationship.

Avoid certain items: Do not place altars or spiritual prayer items in your bedroom, as these can interfere with the romantic and harmonious energy.

Bet on neutral colours

"In feng shui, activating positive energy doesn't always depend on specific colours, as different individuals and sectors may have varying favourable colours and elements," says Master SiewLi.

"I suggest using neutral colours such as white, brown, or beige as a base. Enhance the good energy with paintings or ornaments."

"Alternatively, engage a feng shui practitioner to advise on suitable colours for the walls, tailored to household members and the correct elements and colours for the space."



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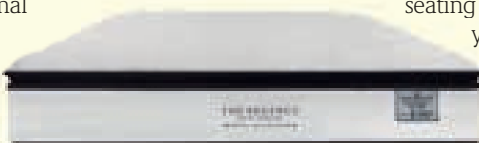
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89

JUST FOR YOU



All your new home needs, under one roof

Gain City's Group Buy and CitySpace events are your one-stop solution for designing, furnishing and outfitting your new flat.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales

Getting the keys to your new apartment is exciting, but when you're faced with having to design it, fit it out and furnish it, it can feel overwhelming.

That's where Gain City's Group Buy and CitySpace events come in. More than a hassle-free way to renovate and design your home and purchase everything you need for it, these events will save you time and money, too.

The best furniture and appliances in one megastore

It's fun to shop for new furniture and home appliances, but travelling from one store to another to get what you need can be tiring and time-consuming. For a total fuss-free experience, the Group Buy programme gives you the chance to purchase everything in one location.

"Our Gain City Megastore @ Sungei Kadut is a one-stop solution for new homeowners, as we have everything under one roof," says Joyce Lim, Digital Marketing Manager, Gain City.

"We also have more than 50 furniture,

appliance and DIY participating brands available weekly so that new homeowners have choices.”

Since the Group Buy programme removes the hassle of dealing with multiple vendors, you'll enjoy peace of mind. Best of all, you'll save money, as you're guaranteed the lowest prices on everything from washers and dryers to refrigerators, air-con systems, dining room sets, bedroom furniture, and more (or you'll receive a refund of up to 350% on the price difference). So the more you buy, the more you save – besides bundle deals, you'll get vouchers for furniture and bedding when you purchase a TV and other large home appliances through the programme.

“The Group Buy programme is designed for new homeowners of BTO and resale flats,

ECs and condos,” says Joyce. “We want to help homeowners furnish and outfit their home at the lowest cost, because furniture, gadgets and appliances are usually their next major purchase after getting a home.”

The programme offers free delivery and installation, zero-installment plans, and up to 12 months of free warehousing in case of delays in construction and renovation. You even have the flexibility to change appliance and furniture models if needed. You only have to pay 10% to lock in the bundle rate and full payment is required when you confirm the delivery date.

To reserve your spot at the next Gain City Group Buy event, or for more information, go to <https://www.gaincity.com/groupbuy>.

To join Gain City's Group Buy programme, scan here



Save thousands on interior design services

For extra convenience and cost savings, Gain City also offers CitySpace, an interior design service event for new owners of BTO and resale flats, ECs and condos.

According to Joyce, “We partner with reputable interior design firms. Their services are similar to those of regular interior designers, but homeowners also get a free quotation plus the opportunity to view showrooms (replicas of HDB flats) so that they can picture how their renovation will turn out.”

How can these designers help you save money? They have in-house carpenters or a direct connection with suppliers, and can therefore provide quality craftsmanship at a lower cost. They will also suggest inexpensive alternatives to various raw materials without compromising on design and material quality.

“White flats” are the talk of the town,

with HDB piloting the new open-concept layout in October. These flats will have contiguous living and bedroom space without beams or partition walls, and buyers may opt into the new layout when invited to book their flat. Over time, you can customise the layout of the flat according to your needs by adding walls, rooms and partitions, for instance.

If you're considering purchasing a white flat, Joyce adds that Gain City's CitySpace interior designers can help you personalise it, too, from recommending the best configuration to suit your living or family situation, to suggesting the best customisable fittings.

To reserve your place at the next Gain City CitySpace event, or for more information, go to <https://www.gaincity.com/cityspaceinteriors>.



Save money, save the planet



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Climate
Vouchers

Best ways to use your \$300 Climate Voucher for a greener earth and cheaper utility bills.

TEXT Wilson Tan

As part of the government's Climate Friendly Households Programme, it was recently announced that every HDB household is eligible to receive \$300 worth of climate vouchers to purchase energy- and water-efficient appliances and fittings.

The vouchers not only save you money, they also help you do your part for environmental sustainability.

Good for the planet, cheaper for you

Household appliances consume energy to run. This contributes to the burning of fossil fuels, a process that creates toxic emissions and other pollutants that can harm the environment and cause climate change. Climate change is a problem that affects everyone, everywhere. It can cause extreme weather events such as heatwaves and

floods, disrupt food systems, increase the prevalence of certain diseases, and trigger mental health issues.

Energy-efficient appliances and fittings consume less energy, thus helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water usage as well as our overall dependence on fossil fuels and other natural resources. You can identify many energy-efficient appliances and fittings by the number

of ticks they have – the more, the better. Since they consume less energy and water, these products lower the cost of your electricity and water bills, too.

Selecting energy-efficient appliances and fittings

You can spend your vouchers at Gain City to purchase the following products:



Refrigerators:

Three or more ticks



Air-conditioners:

Five ticks



LED lights:

Two or more ticks



Direct current fans

Heat pump water heaters

Water closets:

Three ticks



Shower fittings:

Three ticks



Basin taps and mixers:

Three ticks



Sink/bib taps and mixers:

Three ticks



Washing machines:

Four ticks



How to claim and use your vouchers



- 1 Visit go.gov.sg/cv-claim and tap on Climate Vouchers.



- 2 Log in with Singpass. Only one household member needs to do this on behalf of the household.
- 3 You will receive an SMS link to your climate vouchers. Forward the SMS to share the vouchers with other household members.

When paying for your purchases at the retailer, present proof of address with the voucher. Choose the amount you wish to spend, and show the QR code to the cashier.

Tingkat for food, Tingkat for good

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, Gain City reached out to Ren Ci Hospital with the gift of a specially designed minivan.



Above: Kenny Teo (left), MD of Gain City, presents the keys to the minivan to Dr Jamie Mervyn Lim, CEO of Ren Ci Hospital.

Since it began operations 43 years ago, Gain City has been conscientiously finding ways to help the less fortunate among us. Over the years, its annual Charity Events have benefitted organisations like Blue Cross Thong Kheng Home, Loving Hearts Multi-Service Centre, Handicaps Welfare Association, St Luke ElderCare, Sian Chay Medical Institution, Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital and Cheng Hong Welfare Service Society.

Uniquely designed merchandise by Gain City in the past have included the Spongebob Flask, Minivan Hand Sanitiser Holder Set, and recently the airtight tri-colour

Tingkat made of a durable plastic, accompanied by a handy spoon.

Each year, Gain City creates the unique mementoes to help raise awareness of the underprivileged in society, and to remind all that it is a privilege to be able to help those in need. Indeed, the spirit of sharing and giving is one that Gain City has always embraced without reservation.

At a ceremony in 2024, keys to a white-and-yellow minivan were presented by Gain City's Managing Director Mr Kenny Teo to Dr Jamie Mervyn Lim, CEO of Ren Ci Hospital. The minivan is specially equipped with an automatic wheelchair lifter to facilitate Ren Ci Hospital's patient transportation needs.

Another minivan is slated for donation to another worthy charity, the Muslimin Trust Fund Association.





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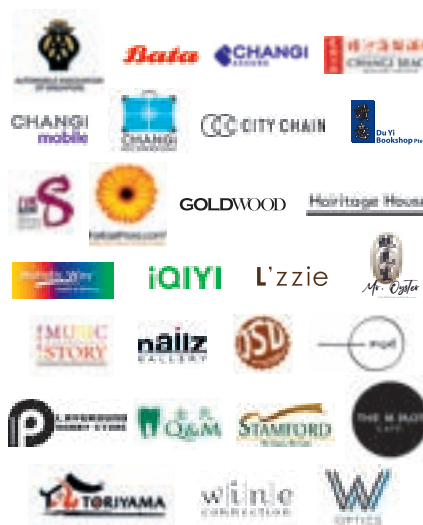
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