

# **Panasonic**



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<sup>TM</sup> X technology which effectively inhibits up to 99.7% of Novel Coronavirus in 24 hours\*. nanoe<sup>TM</sup> 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.





# QUALITY AIR FOR LIFE

# **Panasonic**

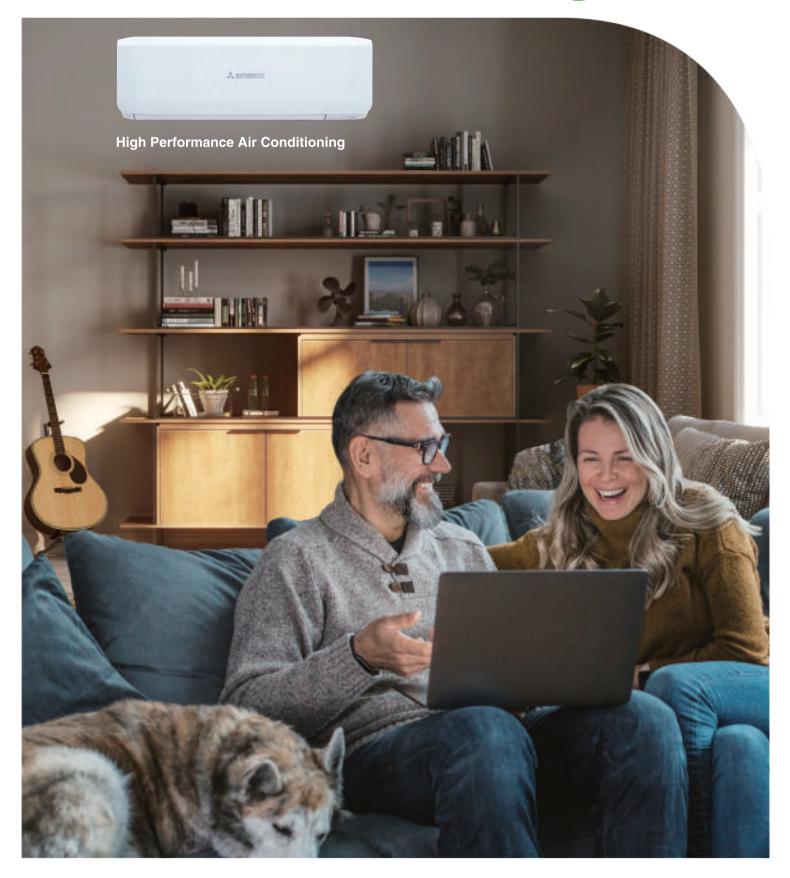
\*1 Tested by Panasonic. The effect differs depending on operating conditions, and the type, condition and amount of food stored
\*2 Tested by Kitatso Research Center for Environmental Science











**BESPOKE Home** 

#### SAMSUNG





Home is not just a place, it's what you make of it.

Whether it's lush botanical to show off your plant babies, or making a bold monochromatic statement. Let your style take charge with versatile and customisable Bespoke home appliances. Make every part of your home an expression of your taste. Now available at your nearest Gain City retail outlet.

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Game on!



VOL 6 • 2022 THE COVER



Lim Wei Qin's new home is a lesson in airy, spacious comfort.

**PHOTOGRAPHY**Wong Wei Liang

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Sign up for the Gain **City Family Card** 

Editor's choice



# living.com.sg

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Make Your Life Cool with LG Artcool



Plasmaster<sup>™</sup> Ionizer<sup>†</sup>
Ocean Black Fin
Auto Cleaning
LG ThinQ<sup>™</sup>





# Ultimate Closeness.

# Ultimate Comfort.

NEW Philips Shaver S9000 Prestige with SkinIQ Technology



\*Source: Euromonitor International Limited. Retail value RSP, per body shavers category definition. 2021 data, research conducted in December 2021.



# CITYLIVING Gifting Ideas Show some love to your favourite people this season.



The best buys for all your favourite people, including yourself, of course.

Go on and splurge this coming new year!

TEXT Su-Ying Chen

ome appliances and lifestyle products make great gifts, so treat your nearest and dearest to these items, which have a range of unique features and innovations to help make their lives easier.







#### Total clean-up

For your sister
Karcher Wet & Dry
Vacuum 1000W WD2
PLUS V-12/4/18/C

Super powerful and energy efficient, this compact vacuum cleaner can be used wet or dry and even picks up fine and coarse dirt. With a 4m-long cable, a 1.8m-long suction hose and a blower function, it's handy for use in hard-to-reach spots and areas that are far from a power point. The fleece filter bag is triple-layered and highly tear-resistant, for longer-lasting suction power and high dust-retention capacity. The appliance also includes a secure storage shelf for the accessories.

#### **Sweet slumber**

For mum

Maxcoil FORREST

Gems Amethyst VI

Customisable Mattress

This mattress will reduce mum's aches and pains and provide a better night's rest, thanks to its naturally therapeutic Amethyst fabric, which has anti-static and anti-stress properties to eliminate negative energy and relieve fatigue. She will also love the plush latex and foam layers, designed to support her spine and reduce motion transfer. Swiss Sanitized Antimicrobial Protection ensures a more hygienic sleeping environment.



### BEST NEW FINDS



#### **Chilled out**



For dad
Tecno Wine Chiller
TWC52CDN

Keep dad's precious wine collection fresh and ready to serve at any time. This wine chiller holds up to 16 bottles, and features an adjustable temperature setting; removable metal racks; a quiet, energy-saving compressor; double-tinted tempered glass doors; and a stainless-steel handle for a sleek, minimalist look.



#### Healthy meals in a flash



For your best friend

Tefal Air Fryer 4.2L EY5058



If your bestie is a home cook or a foodie, he/she will have loads of fun experimenting with this nifty air fryer. With a 4.2-litre capacity, it's big enough to prepare a family feast, plus it has easy-to-use controls and convenient automatic programmes (such as Fries, Nuggets, Roasted

Chicken, Pizza, Meat, Fish, Vegetables and Dessert). The Extra Crisp technology delivers an optimal balance of temperature and hot air flow for crispy food with little to no oil added. And the Easy Fry 2-in-1 design ensures the food is cooked with minimal waiting time and less energy.

#### One for all

For your uncle
Europace Steamboat
W Grill 3L ESB7310W



This multi-function hotpot does a lot – use it to make a hotpot meal, grill meats and veggies, or make takoyaki (Japanese ball-shaped snacks) using the special takoyaki pan. Easy to maintain, it has a non-stick plate and a 3D heating element that heats up in just five minutes.

<del>-</del>12



#### The cook's choice

For your brother
De Dietrich Allure Duo
HoriZones Induction &
Integrated Hood

For the multi-tasking home cook, this flexible and high-performing induction hob offers the best of both worlds. It features two modular HoriZone cooking spaces with a power of 4000w per zone and accommodates a variety of cookware shapes and types without restrictions on placement. In addition, it boasts a high-performance integrated hood with a powerful yet silent brushless motor and an A++ energy class rating for ultimate comfort and culinary performance.

As well as being easy to clean and operate, this induction hob includes 20 power levels, four direct access modes, timers and Boost function, so your bro can cook with confidence.

#### Power of steam



This washer will get your aunt's clothes clean and smelling amazing without the need for harsh detergents. It uses a unique technology called Hybrid Steam Oxycare, which incorporates both steam and oxygen for deep cleaning without chemicals to eliminate 99.9% of bacteria. She can also choose from over 20 sterilisation combinations,



depending on her cleaning requirements.

The washer's Air Refresh programme and Hybrid option sanitises and sterilises clothes in addition to removing odours and wrinkles, and its Allergy Care feature heats laundry up to 90°C to eliminate allergens and dust mites. Best of all, the machine operates silently and doesn't vibrate as much as other washers.



#### Cold call

For yourself
LG GS-X5982MC
Side-by-Side Refrigerator

Reward yourself with this stylish appliance, which has a freezer on the left and a fridge on the right, and an InstaView Door-in-Door so you can immediately tell what's in the fridge without opening it. It also has features designed to retain coolness and maintain the freshness and quality of its contents, including Hygiene Fresh+, Linear Cooling, Door Cooling+, UV Nano and Metal Fresh.

## **BEST NEW FINDS**



Braun Silk-Epil 7 **Epilator SES7700** 

Used wet or dry, this nifty device boasts close-grip technology, four interchangeable heads and a highfrequency massage system. Best of all, it removes hairs as short as 0.5mm, quickly and smoothly. Plus, it includes a skin contact cap for greater hair removal with every stroke.



7000 S7783/50

Three-day-old beard? No problem. This shaver glides smoothly over skin, cutting each hair close. It's gentle on skin, too, as it's designed to reduce friction to minimise irritation.

Equipped with advanced SkinIQ technology, it also senses, adapts and guides on the correct motion, for better skin protection.



# Something to smile about

Philips Electric Toothbrush HX9992/21-Sonicare

This advanced toothbrush features SenselQ technology, which senses intensity if you brush too hard and then adapts accordingly. Its All-in-One brush head has angled bristles to help remove plaque, while the triangular tips remove stains and the longer bristles deep-clean gums. Get personalised care via the Al-powered Sonicare app.



# Photos: IStock

### Turn heads

Philips Hair Styling Set 1600w BHP398/03

Achieve your perfect style with this set, which includes a compact, foldable hairdryer with three preselected speed/heat combinations and a straightener that protects your hair with its keratininfused plates. Create curls, bouncy waves or a sleek 'do – it's up to you.



This battery-operated ionic styling brush is great for grooming on the go. It smooths down frizz, leaves a beautiful shine and keeps your style neat, thanks to the ioniser, which generates negative ions to neutralise static. Gentle on your scalp, it features an optimally designed bristle cushion for comfort.



## BEST NEW FINDS

# Saving face Braun Facial Care Trimmer SE912

It's a facial epilation, cleansing and skin toning device in one. Gently remove facial hair by the root with the epilator attachment for longlasting smooth skin. The sensitive facial cleansing brush removes impurities, oil and makeup, and the MicroVibration head delivers 25 micro vibrations per second to tone your skin. Great for use with your favourite serum or cream.





#### A-head of the pack

Dyson Airwrap Complete HS05 Complete Nickel/ Fuchsia

Designed for short- to medium-length hair, this appliance includes 30mm and 40mm Airwrap barrels to curl and wave in both directions.

The brushes control and shape, and the multi-functional Coanda smoothing dryer dries, smooths and hides pesky fly-aways.



# Personal care made easy

Flossing and shaving are a breeze with these nifty Philips devices.

ith these devices, Philips has made mundane tasks more enjoyable.

#### **GONE IN 60 SECONDS**

Unlike string floss, the Philips Sonicare Cordless Power Flosser



3000 Oral Irrigator removes up to 99.9% of plaque in treated areas in just 60 seconds. Its unique X-shaped Quad Stream tip dispenses water jets four different ways, delivering a deeper clean between the teeth and along the gum line. It also has Pulse Wave technology to guide you from tooth to tooth in Deep Clean mode and includes a single-stream standard tip for spot cleaning and to remove food debris.

The easy-to-fill reservoir holds 250ml of water, enough for a recommended 60-second clean. Charge it using a USB-C cable (a single charge lasts about 14 days).

Models: HX3806/31 and HX3806/33. Available in white and black.



SP9873/15

#### **SUPERIOR SHAVING**

The Philips Shaver S9000 Prestige SP9873/15 features SkinIQ shaving technology that senses and adapts to you, plus UltraFlex Suspension that reaches every contour of your face. The device tames even seven-day growths with its extra strong NanoTech dual precision blades that boast 165,000 cutting actions per minute, while the Hydro SkinGlide coating minimises skin irritation by 50%.

be used wet or dry. It comes with nose trimmer and smartclick precision trimmer for moustache



HX3806/33

#### SP9873/15



Scan here to find out more



Scan here to find

# Picture perfect

The Philips MiniLED TV brings your favourite movies and games to life.



hilips' new 4K UHD MiniLED 9500 series (PML9506 model) Android TV renders astoundingly vivid images, whether you're watching movies or gaming.

#### THE MINILED DIFFERENCE

The display's new MiniLED and Quantum dot technology brings you better contrast and greater colour, thanks to the major HDR formats supported, including HLG, HDR10, HDR10+ and Dolby Vision.

MiniLED is a new backlight technology that uses a significantly smaller type of light-emitting diode. More of them can be crammed into the average screen, so MiniLED TVs tend to have more individual dimming zones and improved contrast.



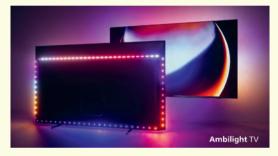
It also features over a thousand intelligent backlight zones that are independently dimmed or brightened to enable pin-sharp contrast and real depth. The new Android TV is available in a 65" or 75" sized screen.

#### **4-SIDED AMBILIGHT**

Another impressive feature is the 4-sided Ambilight – intelligent LED array around the side of the TV that responds to the onscreen action and emits an immersive glow. This certainly takes viewing experience to the next level.

## PICTURE AND SOUND TECHNOLOGY

The 4K UHD HDR display's Philips P5 processor with AI guarantee lifelike pictures, and Dolby's



premium sound and video formats, Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos, can help your HDR content look and sound glorious.

Additional enhancements include the built-in DTS Play-Fi wireless audio streaming technology, which allows you to control all your DTS Play-Fienabled products via Wi-Fi and stream music simultaneously; and Mimi Sound Personalization, which lets you personalise your TV audio to your unique hearing profile.

#### **READY FOR GAMING**

If you're a gamer, you'll be delighted to know that the Philips MiniLED series features a 120Hz native display panel and supports technologies such as Variable Refresh Rate (VRR). It comes with AMD FreeSync Premium Pro technology and boasts HDMI 2.1 connectivity and Automatic Low Latency Mode (ALLM) which automatically switches to ultra-low latency settings when you start gaming, to support high speed action games.

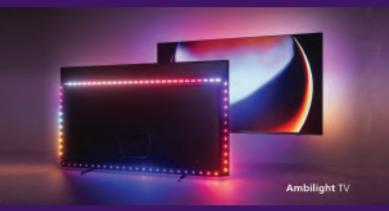




Scan here to find



#### Ambilight, light and shadow for a gorgeous atmosphere





Philips ambient light source upgrade, a global exclusive



Ambisleep and Sunrise wake-up function













































# Living room theatre

From soundbars and speakers to TVs, here's what to get to enhance your viewing and audio experience.

TEXT Andrew Y



#### Soundbar set-up

Forget the tiny speakers we used to stash in front of the TV. Today's soundbars do a far better job at delivering quality sound, and they look cooler, too. Plus, they only need one cable to connect to the TV.

For the best surround sound, it's useful to get a ready-to-use home theatre package, which, along with a soundbar, includes satellite speakers and a subwoofer.

#### Satellite speakers

Satellite speakers are ideal for creating immersive surround sound in a small- to medium-size room. You can place them behind or on the side of the listening area. A subwoofer is a loudspeaker that handles the lower frequencies (or bass). It's best described as helping you to "feel" sound.



#### **TVS**

If you don't have much space to work with or don't want to buy a projector, a large-screen TV is your most practical choice to getting the biggest images. For an excellent theatre-like effect, choose a TV with a 65-inch (or bigger) display panel and make sure it supports 4K resolution (whatever you're watching will just look sharper and appear more detailed). Do also look out for a TV with HDR, or High Dynamic Range, which most of today's TVs already have. HDR makes compatible content look richer in colour and more realistic, vastly improving the viewing experience. There are three HDR content standards, namely, Dolby Vision, HDR10 and HLG.

Check out these TVs to help you build a home theatre system your family will love.



#### LG 65" QNED 4K TV 65QNED86SQA.ATC

Includes Quantum Dot and NanoCell technology for more vivid and enriched colours. Images look sharper, brighter and more detailed as well, thanks to the thousands of tiny backlights that fill the screen. You'll also enjoy personalised settings and content from the biggest streaming platforms.



#### SAMSUNG 75" UHD 4K SMART TV UA75BU8000KXXS

Samsung's slimmest-profile TV offers vivid crystal colour and stunning detail for the most lifelike visuals. Sleek and stylish, it blends seamlessly into the wall. It also includes the brand's new SmartHub, which puts your favourite movies, shows and other content in one place so you spend less time searching.

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#### SONY 65" 4K OLED GOOGLE TV XR-65A80K

Enjoy next-generation picture and sound, exceptional colour and pure black contrast. Other cool features and innovations include Acoustic Surface Audio+, which uses special actuators to turn the screen into a multichannel speaker, and intelligent motion processing for smooth, fast-moving action.



# PHILIPS 70" 4K UHD ANDROID LED TV 70PUT8516/98

This TV includes Philips Ambilight, which responds to the one-screen action and emits a captivating glow for a more immersive viewing experience. Its P5 Perfect Picture Engine delivers brilliant picture with vivid colours, crisper details and smoother motion.

# SHARP 70" 4K UHD ANDROID TV 4T-C70DL1X

Among its many advanced features are the Deep Chroma Display, with one billion colours for a more realistic picture and a three-dimensional effect; and the Sound Reflector, which sends out sound forward rather than downward, so you can enjoy clear sound even from a distance.







#### More than a TV – a work of art

The unique easel-inspired design turns your TV into a work of art and transforms your space. Creating an artistic mood, the never-before-seen design is a statement piece that makes your living room, complete.

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





Easel

# A work of art

LG's new lifestyle TV from its **OLED Objet Collection is nothing** short of a masterpiece.

reated for the modern home, the Easel (Model: 65Art90) **J** from the LG OLED Objet Collection features a sleek and elegant design you'll want to show off.

#### A MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY

As the name suggests, the TV resembles an easel used for painting or displaying art, perfect for showcasing the colours and contrast of LG's self-lit display technology. Leaning or Zero Gap installation sets an artistic mood.

It also includes a moveable cover, designed by Danish textile company Kvadrat, which you can control with the TV's remote. Choose Line View and the cover slides up, reducing the amount of screen that's visible and giving you access to useful features and modes. Full View turns the Easel into a work of multimedia art

#### **ULTIMATE VIEWING EXPERIENCE**

Enjoy lifelike images, superior clarity, and an immersive, cinematic viewing experience with LG's OLED evo technology.

The TV also provides rich, powerful audio with an 80W, 4.2-channel sound system.







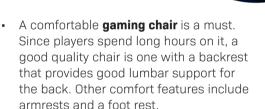
## BEST NEW FINDS

# Game on!

Get started on your own gaming room. Here's what you need.

TEXT Sol E Solomon

o you've been clamouring to have a sanctuary of your own to set up your perfect gaming station.
We've got some tips to help you fit out your space.



- Look for a computer that meets the following criteria:
  - Clear frames

The graphics card is what one should be most mindful of. It processes the frame rates for the gaming software's visuals. Faster video cards create higher resolutions so the games' visuals flow better. A card that churns out frame rates of at least 60 frames per second is good.

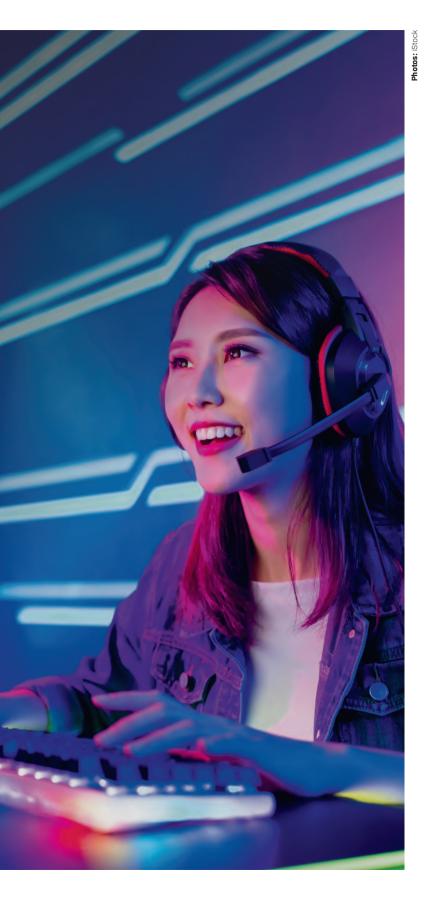
#### - Processor

Also known as the CPU, the processor is the PC's brain. It instructs how the computer and software work. Intel's i5 or AMD's Ryzen 5 processors are the minimum for today's games.

#### - Memory issue

Have at least 16Gb of RAM for the latest games.

- Your room space determines the gaming desk's size and shape – a large rectangular table in a wide area, or L-shaped for the corner. It should have enough space for the monitor, keyboard and mouse.
- When it comes to starting a PC and loading game software, a solid-state drive (SSD) does the job twice as fast as a hard disk drive. Today's entrylevel 512Gb SSD should be enough for current games.
- For optimum Web access, keep your PC gaming station near to your Wi-Fi router or mesh. Better still, connect your PC directly to the Internet using the PCs Ethernet port if possible. All these reduce lagging.





- Align the gaming
   monitor for comfort.
   Use a monitor stand
   to place the screen at
   eye level. For the large
   screen experience,
   connect a projector
   to the gaming system
   so it can project the
   gameplay onto a white
   wall or large white
   screen.
- A good surround sound speaker best immerses players into a game, thus making gaming more fun. A surround sound gaming headset does just as well.
   Whether wired or wireless, the headset must be comfortable, gives out clear sound and takes in voice clearly.
- A comfortable **gaming mouse** lets players
  better control their
  game. So choose a
  mouse based on the
  size and weight that is
  most comfortable in
  the gamer's hands.

- An LED backlit **RGB keyboard** projects
  combinations of red,
  green and blue light
  to generate custom
  colours on the keys.
  RGB keyboard software
  lets gamers program
  desired colours for
  various keys, or for
  different groups of keys
  for special sequences.
- Check the **light source**. If a desk is placed across a window, outside light can reflect on the screen and shine into the player's eyes, making gaming uncomfortable. But if the room dictates that the gaming system can only be placed along the window's light path, get blinds or drapes to cover the windows.
- Pause for breaks in between long hours of gaming. Here's where a mini fridge provides much-needed refreshments for all players.

#### Plasma Quad Connect

# A clean slate

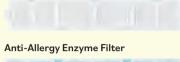
Mitsubishi Electric Plasma Quad Connect significantly improves indoor air quaiity by inhibiting six key indoor pollutants.

e spend most of our time indoors, where the level of pollutants can be two to five times higher than what's outdoors. These pollutants can endanger our respiratory health, trigger skin allergies and affect our energy level, which is why it's important to ensure that the air in our home is as clean as possible.

Your air-con unit may filter the air, but why not go one step further and invest in a powerful air-purifying device?

#### **FILTER OPTIONS**

Mitsubishi Electric Starmex airconditioners are equipped with various filter types to purify the air in your home. These include: Microparticle Catching Filter



- Nano Platinum Filter: A standard in all wall-mounted units, this air filtration system uses nanotechnology to absorb pollutants, allergens and odours.
- Microparticle Catching Filter: Effectively eliminates PM2.5 particles and is especially useful on hazy days. It's standard in all wallmounted indoor units.
- Anti-Allergy Enzyme Filter: Catches dead dust mites and their droppings, pollen and other allergens and decomposes them with artificial enzymes. This optional filter replaces the Microparticle Catching Filter when required.

Nano Platinum Filter





#### **ADVANCED FILTRATION SYSTEM**

A bolt-on air-purifying device, Mitsubishi Electric's new Plasma Quad Connect comprises the Plasma Quad Plus Filtration System. It features two-stage high-performance plasma technology that utilises an electric discharge to catch and neutralise microscopically small particles such as PM 2.5 particles that are present in the air. It's also been shown to dramatically reduce or inhibit bacteria, allergens, mould and viruses indoors – even SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.





Scan here to find



# GET SMART



# Go with sturdy, quality hardwood

Frames can be made of metal, furniture-grade plywood, engineered hardwood or solid wood.

Ronald says that solid wood frames are ideal as they help maintain the sofa's shape and structure. Furnituregrade plywood frames are cheaper to produce but lack the strength of hardwood or metal, while engineered hardwood frames are not as strong as solid wood ones but are definitely stronger than plywood. They are also cheaper than solid wood.

Metal frames, Ronald adds, are sturdy, but they are vulnerable to oxidation in our humid climate.

# Choose premium cushion fillings

Most cushions are filled with premium high-density foam, feathers or polyester fibre, or a combination of two or all of these materials.

"High-density foam offers great support and retains its shape for longer," Ronald explains.

"Feather fillings - usually composed of down feathers - are softer, but they can clump up and need regular "plumping". Polyester fibre is robust and adaptable but doesn't automatically return to its original shape after pressure is applied, plus they need to be plumped up often. And they might feel soft at first because there's air trapped between their fibres, but they compress easily as the air is forced out."



## GET SMART

#### Seat suspension: Check it for comfort

Coiled spring units, serpentine springs and Elasbelt webbing offer the right level of resistance for maximum comfort. These must be combined with the correct cushion filling for ultimate comfort.

How do these seat suspension systems measure up in the comfort department?

**Coiled spring units**: If used with the correct cushion filling, these offer soft cushion comfort.

Serpentine or no-sag springs: Also called zigzag springs, these are made up of individual metal wires arranged in a zigzag fashion to create a spring. They can be combined with various cushion fillings for different comfort levels, depending on the design of the sofa.

Elasbelt webbing: Uses a durable and extendable suspension belt to provide an even suspension unit. This system is widely used in combination with resilient foam seat cushion fillers. Webbing that's placed too far apart or constructed with inferior materials may result in it becoming loose and the seat being sunken.

Not sure which seat suspension system is right for you? The only way to tell is to test the sofa for yourself, says Ronald.





#### Select quality upholstery fabric

Ronald suggests choosing high-quality fabric that looks and feels luxurious, but do consider your lifestyle, budget and household needs, too. For example, if you have small children and pets, silk and velvet are tricky to clean. Leather when cared for can last for decades, but must be regularly maintained and nourished with conditioner or it may split or become brittle after a while.

Other options include PVC (polyvinyl chloride, or vinyl for short), polyester and ravon. A recent addition to the fabric collection is Lanzii, an Italian innovation which allows stains and spills to be wiped off easily with just a cloth and water. "In Singapore, we love a combination of linen or cotton with polyester," says Ronald. "While a little too hot for our climate, this fabric combination lasts longer, keeps its shape and is easy to upkeep."

Nazario, a Gain City in-house sofa brand, uses only premium leather and fabric for its sofas. The designs are inspired by the latest trends and developed in collaboration with various partners.

# Shop at a reputable retailer

A reputable retailer runs quality checks on their sofas before selling them. Ronald says that websites and small showrooms may have cheaper sofas, but they usually lack these all-important quality checks.



# Check out the new Nazario collection

Developed for the Singapore home, Nazario offers a range of beautiful sofas. New collections are launched every March and September; the current range features durable and luxurious leather-upholstered designs.



Scan here to find out more

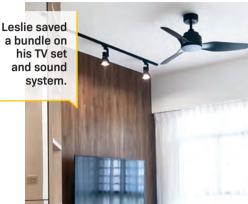




hopping for appliances for your new home is fun, but when you're pressed for time and have to buy several products at once, it helps to have everything you're looking for, under one roof.

Gain City has taken its one-stop shopping experience to the next level with its Group Buy programme. With Group Buy, you not only have access to a variety of quality home appliances, you can purchase them at low prices, too.

If you're a new homeowner, here are five reasons to sign up for Gain City's Group Buy service today.



# It's time-saving and convenient

Instead of going to many different stores or searching countless websites to find what you need, Gain City's Group Buy programme makes the shopping experience faster and easier.

"Our Sungei Kadut Megastore is Singapore's largest consumer electronics store with the widest range of products, making it a one-stop shop for home essentials," says Chen Yu Cheng, Assistant Showroom Manager.

Thanks to this convenience, you don't have to spend time shopping for different products at different locations.

Leslie's new air-con unit was a bargain.



Leslie's kitchen picks, purchased through Group Buy.

#### Enjoy peace of mind across a range of quality products

Gain City stocks appliances from more than 50 well-known and trusted brands, so you know you're getting only the best money can buy. You also enjoy aftersales service and the highest-quality installation services, guaranteeing you peace of mind for your purchases.

## GET SMART



Gain City customer Leslie (back) saved almost \$3,000 on his purchases.



# You receive exclusive deals

Generally, products are about 15 per cent cheaper than if you were to purchase them outside of the Group Buy programme.

How does Gain City manage to offer its customers such amazing deals? "We're always negotiating with our suppliers in order to score the best discounts," says Yu Cheng.

Leslie Koh, 33, a development manager, has been a Gain City customer for five years. Through the Group Buy programme, he saved almost \$3,000.

"Being part of a bulk buy arrangement means I ended up spending less money, and I got some excellent products, too, like an air-con unit, a TV set, a washing machine, an oven, a sound system, a vacuum cleaner and a hair dryer, from top brands like LG, Mitsubishi, Sony and Dyson." Another loyal Gain City customer, educator Hana Cheong, 59, saved about \$800 on the refrigerator, dishwasher, air-con unit and rice cooker that she purchased for her five-room flat. She says that the discounts were "amazing".

Lower prices aside, Group Buy customers also enjoy special deals with purchase. For instance, if you buy an aircon unit, you'll receive vouchers valued at up to \$350, which can be used to buy large home appliances, TV sets and soundbars. If you purchase appliances and TV sets at Gain City, you'll receive additional discounts on furniture and bedding. All these discounts are on top of existing Group Buy promotions, so you'll save a bundle.

"Best of all, there's no limit to the number of products you can buy," Yu Cheng adds. "In fact, the more you buy, the more you save."



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Hana purchased an air-con unit for her five-room flat.



Satisfied **Group Buy** customers. Hana Cheong and her husband.

You get professional advice and excellent customer service

If you need advice and recommendations, the knowledgeable Gain City staff are there to help.

"Being Singapore's biggest air-con retailer, Gain City also provides quality air-con installation using premium materials, plus, our staff can advise you on the best configuration for your floor plan and usage patterns," says Yu Cheng.

Leslie appreciated the help he received from the sales staff.

"I told them that I wanted products that were lowmaintenance and that didn't break down after a couple of years, so they showed me what was available and gave me their best recommendations. Deciding what to buy was

Hana found out about Group Buy through a Gain City salesperson. The staff helped her register for the programme and talked her through the purchasing process, which she says was simple and straightforward.

easy, thanks to them."

### You'll love the amazing savings

Gain City has an 8-Day Lowest Price Guarantee Policy. If you discover that the item you purchased is cheaper elsewhere, simply return to Gain City within eight days with proof of the cheaper item, and Gain City will refund you the price difference. If you only paid a deposit and Gain City cannot match the lower price, they will refund your deposit plus 3.5 times the price difference.



### How to sign up for Group Buy

Sign up on www.gaincity. com/groupbuy and indicate your estimated key collection month.

Gain City staff will then contact you to schedule an appointment at the store. On the day of the appointment, simply register at the registration counter. A Gain City staff member will tell you how Group Buy works, before directing you to a salesperson who will help you start your Group Buy journey.

The Group Buy programme is open to all new homeowners regardless of whether or not they are Gain City members. The service is available year-round, usually on weekends.



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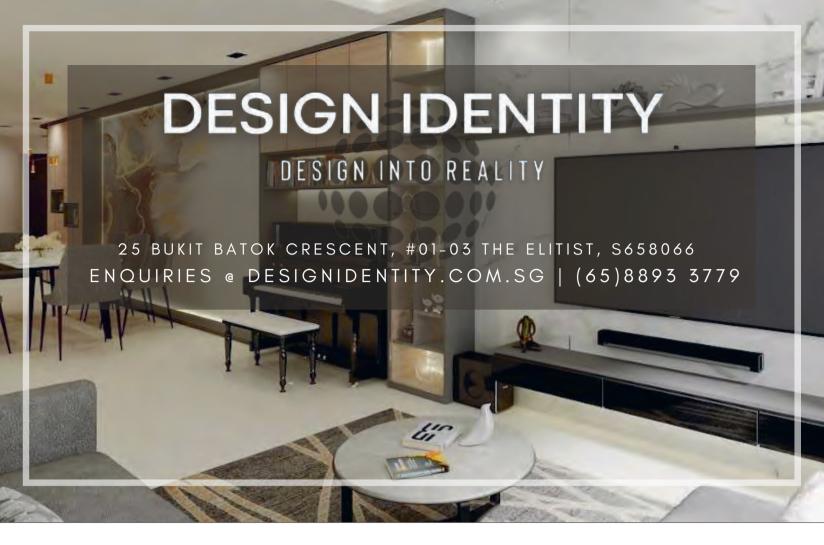




### New Homeowners Group Buy

Register and shop for great discount on home appliances and home furnishing for your new BTO, Resale, EC and Private Property.





### A home of your own

Let this local interior design company help you find your "design identity".

ive your home the personal touch with help from interior design company Design Identity. Run by experienced interior designers, Design Identity appreciates the importance of creating unique spaces that tell interesting stories and reflect the personality, lifestyle and preferences of their residents.

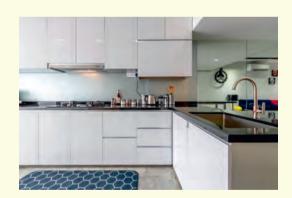
#### **CUSTOMISED DESIGN SOLUTIONS**

The professionals at Design Identity are committed to understanding the needs and dreams of their clients in order to design bespoke homes. As stated in their company motto, they believe that "Every

home has its own Design Identity", meaning that every space has a unique story to tell.

### PERSONALISED, DEDICATED SERVICE

Design Identity knows that people want homes that are practical and comfortable, as well as beautiful and liveable. The design process is important to them, which is why they take pride in their customer service and only accept a limited number of projects a year. By collaborating closely with their clients, they aim to deliver compelling and minimal, yet functional design solutions.

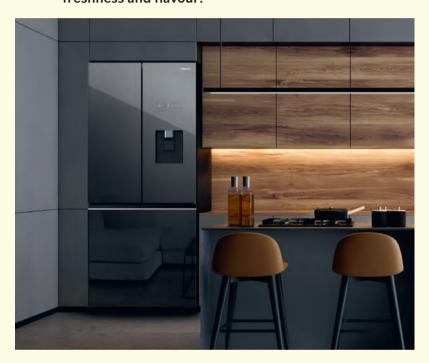






### Start Fresh

The Panasonic PRIME+ Edition refrigerators lock in your food's nutrients, freshness and flavour.



hen it comes to food, fresh is usually best, for our well-being and our taste buds. The fresher the produce, the healthier the meal, and the new Panasonic refrigerators keep fish, meat, fruit and vegetables in their most nutritious state for longer.

Here's what you can expect from the spacious and stylish PRIME+ Edition Refrigerators from Panasonic.

#### FREEZES FOOD PERFECTLY

Freeze your food in 30 minutes instead of 150 minutes (as with other refrigerators), thanks to PRIME FREEZE. This feature reduces cell wall damage in food, minimising deterioration when the food is frozen. You can be sure those pre-prepped meals look and taste as good as the day you cooked them, their texture, colour and flavour retained when you heat them up.

The PRIME FRESH feature preserves your food in a soft-frozen state. This prevents the water inside the food from expanding and causing cell damage, and stops the fat in food from oxidising, resulting in fresher, more nutritious and more flavourful ingredients.



### HYGIENIC FOOD STORAGE WITH nanoe™X

Bite into a fruit or vegetable without worrying about pesticides − nanoe™X lifts residual pesticides from the surface of fruit and veggies, making them easier to rinse off with just water.

nanoe™X also deodorises and eliminates bacteria. This means safe-to-eat raw fish and no unpleasant odours from strongsmelling foods. Your food stays fresh for up to 30 days.





Scan here to find

### All in one

The Panasonic X-Premium Inverter R32 series of airconditioner units does more than cool your home.

eep your indoor spaces comfortable and the air clean with Panasonic's latest X-Premium Inverter R32 Series of air-conditioner units.

### ECO-FRIENDLY COOLING AND AIR PURIFICATION

Like all Panasonic air-conditioners, the X-Premium Inverter R32 series uses R32 refrigerant, which efficiently carries heat, leading to greater energy- and cost-effectiveness with lower environmental impact.

The nanoe™X air purification system is good news for families who care about the air quality in their home. Activate nanoe™X all day long for cleaner air, 24/7. nanoe™X effectively inhibits the novel coronavirus and various types of pollutants like mould, pollen and allergens, as well as reduces unpleasant odours and moisturises skin and hair.









### QUIET AND CONVENIENT, EASY TO CONTROL

Install one outdoor unit and cool up to four rooms, each with independent operational control via the Panasonic Comfort Cloud app, which connects to the units' built-in Wi-Fi. Use the app on your mobile device to turn on nanoe™ X when you're away from home, schedule the timer according to your lifestyle needs, or monitor energy consumption from wherever you are.

In addition, the series is compatible for voice control with Google Assistant-enabled devices.

For a peaceful night's sleep, switch the air-con unit to Quiet Mode, which ensures low noise levels. If the room is too hot and you need to cool it down quickly, select Powerful Mode, which cools the room faster by decreasing the setting temperature by 2°C and operating the indoor fan at a higher speed to create powerful instant cooling during start-up.







Scan here to find

### GET **SMART**



Owners of landed properties can install a power source that's green and lets them save money at the same time.

TEXT Sol E Solomon

he race is on to introduce sustainable living into every aspect of our lifestyle, and the government has taken the lead with solar panels on HDB and industrial rooftops. Landed property owners have also seen the light and since 2015, the installed solar capacity among landed homes has grown about four-fold, according to Energy Market Authority (EMA).

#### **HOW IT WORKS**

Harnessing the power of the sun using photovoltaic (PV) panels happens when PV cells absorb energy from sunlight, thereby creating an electrical charge within the cells and causing electricity to flow.



Owners of landed residential properties in Singapore can install solar panels on their roofs to take advantage of this alternative power source that is environmentally friendly, carbon-free and cheaper to use. Installation typically takes one to two weeks. It costs between \$10,000 and \$50,000, depending on the number of solar panels being installed, the material and orientation of the roof, and the installation process.

Installation starts with setting up the structures, such as bolts and rails, on which the solar panels will be mounted on the roof. Then the panels are lifted to the roof where they are securely attached to those structures.



Maintenance, which is recommended once every one or two years, costs from \$300 to \$500 each time.

Households do not pay for the electricity that they use, which is generated by their solar panels. But if they require additional power from the national electricity grid, they must pay for that extra energy. However, it is most likely that these homes pay less for their electricity since they are likely to consume less electricity from the grid.

It takes between four and seven years to recoup the cost of the solar panels through energy savings. This depends on the size of the solar system and the household's electricity use patterns.

Following this, they are wired so that they can generate electricity. The solar inverter converts direct current, or DC, electricity generated by the solar panel to alternating current, or AC, electricity to power homes. The solar inverter is then connected to the electrical grid, which receives the electricity, and is turned on to start the solar panel system.

#### **HOW LONG DO THEY LAST?**

Solar panels usually have a warranty period of 25 to 30 years. Inverters have a lifespan of five to 12 years and must be replaced at least once during the lifetime of a solar panel.



### **Sell the excess**

EMA makes it easy for landed homeowners to sell their excess solar energy. Its Simplified Credit Treatment Scheme allows consumers to register with SP Group and be paid directly through their monthly bill. The excess energy will be exported to the grid and converted to credits for use to offset the household's following month's PUB and refuse removal bills.

Beyond bill savings, solar panels also offer double-layered protection for common roof types, so homes with solar panels are cooler as the panels absorb heat.

However, one disadvantage of solar technology is that it can be weather-dependent. Furthermore, not all roofs are feasible for installing solar panels.

#### **HELP FROM THE BANKS**

The main disadvantage is the relatively high upfront cost. So at least two banks in Singapore now provide some buffer for this.

OCBC's solar panel consumer loan provides landed home owners a termfinancing option designed to defray the upfront costs. UOB has its U-Solar Programme to help home owners buy and install solar panels on their property by letting them use the bank's credit card for this.

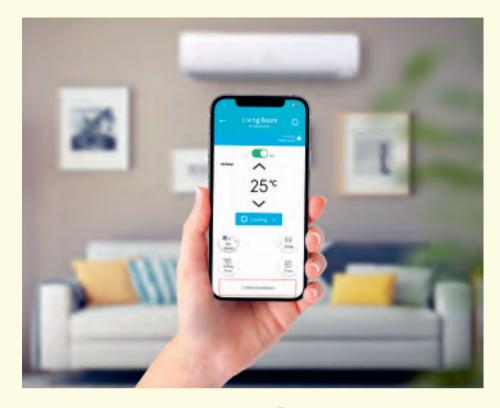
## Breathe easy

Hitachi's self-cleaning airconditioners are designed to remove indoor air pollutants that can affect your health.

Indoor air quality is just as important as the air outdoors. It's not uncommon to find gaseous air pollutants such as compounds from paints, aerosol sprays, disinfectants, air fresheners, dry-cleaned items and even some furnishings, as well as dust and bacterial spores, in the average home. When breathed in, these pollutants can trigger allergies and other health issues, affecting your family's ability to focus, learn and work.

#### **SELF-CLEANING TECHNOLOGY**

Hitachi FrostWash® Air Conditioners include self-cleaning technology to reduce the amount of dust, mould and bacteria in your air-conditioner, thus helping to purify the air in your home.







Tested by Kitasato Research Centre for Environment Science, Japan. Test no. 2020\_0386: Suppress Virus effect observation test by operating FrostWash®. Tested by Kitasato Research Centre for Environment Science, Japan. Test no. 2017\_40194: Antibacterial and anti-mold effects when operating Frostwash® four times. \*\*\* Tested by Hitachi Environmental Test Laboratory. Test method: Both "PM2.5 Wasabi Air Purifying Filter" and "Stainless Pre-filter" applied on an indoor unit. Operation mode is set at high fan speed cooling mode with thermo off on RAS-VJ24CLT in a room with size of 25m<sup>3</sup> for continuous operation of 5 hours.

Air Purifying Filter

First, it freezes moisture that collects around the heat exchanger to trap dust and bacteria in a thick layer of frost. This frost is later melted and flushed away by the unit, resulting in only fresh and clean air circulating throughout your indoor space. This technology is proven to successfully remove 99.9%\* of viruses and 93%\*\* of mould and bacteria.

#### **FILTERING THE AIR**

The PM2.5 Wasabi Air Purifying Filter effectively removes 99%\*\*\* of microscopic 2.5m particles. This filter was proven to be antibacterial, antifungal, anti-allergenic and has deodorising properties, which in combination with the stainless prefilter, gives the room quality, clean air for better health. The intuitive Smart Wi-Fi app, airCloud Home, is designed for convenience and ease of use. Its userfriendly interface lets your control your air-conditioners anywhere.



Scan here to find

### Time for your loved ones with an air conditioner that cleans itself

**HITACHI** 

The care and comfort of your home thanks to the energy-efficient Hitachi 5 Ticks Inverter Multi-Split Systems with FrostWash® self-cleaning technology that removes 99.9%\* viruses.

www.hitachiaircon.com/sg





airCloud Home app\*\*



- Control your AC from anywhere
  Automatically adjusts the temperature as you arrive home or leave the house
- Monitor energy costs







Note: Product features may differ according to model.

\*Tested by Kitasato Research Centre for Enviromental Sciene. Test No. 2020\_0386. Surpress Virus effect observation test by operating FrostWash®. Used model: RAK-35RPE / RAC-35WPE.

\*\*airCloud compatibility of wifi adapter varies depending on air conditioner models. The installation of an airCloud Adapter might be required (available as an accessory). Router shall be able to support 2.4GHz band.

## Clear the air

This Mitsubishi airconditioner with MHI Filter cools your home while purifying the air in it.



SRK10/13/18/24YVS-W7

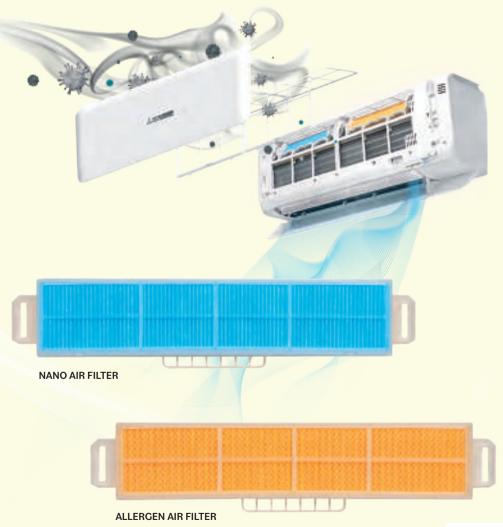
itsubishi SR series air-conditioners are known for being reliable, energy-efficient, high-performing, easy to operate and maintain, and cost-effective. But in addition to cooling your home quickly and silently, they also do an excellent job of improving the air quality in your indoor space.

This is thanks to their MHI Multi-Target Filter, which cleans indoor air in a number of ways. Each unit boasts an Allergen Clear Filter, which detects household allergens like pollen, dust mites, pet hair, dander, mould, bacteria and viruses. This filter, which uses enzyme-urea technology, has also been shown to inactivate 99.998% of SARS-Cov-2 particles.

### NANO FOR BIG RESULTS

The unit's Nano Air Filter also captures and removes up to 99% of fine particulate matter (PM) – even those as small as PM 2.5. These pollutants are a health threat to humans and a major cause of asthma and respiratory diseases.

Another feature of the air-conditioner is the Anti-Allergen Filter and Activated Carbon Filer, which traps and holds allergens, while at the same time absorbs harmful gases and consequently purifies the air. And the 24-Hour Ion Sheet generates negative ions without stopping, even when the air-conditioner is turned off.





Scan here to find







Il air-conditioners come with refrigerant, also known as coolant. This chemical compound is contained within the system's coils, and their job is to absorb environmental heat and provide refrigeration to the air-con unit.

As it travels through the air-con system's compressors and evaporators, the refrigerant continuously shifts between liquid and gaseous states, chilling the indoor air in the process.

Among the many refrigerants, the R32, which is part of the HCFC (hydrofluorocarbon)

family, has a number of benefits. For one, this organic gas has a lower global warming potential as it does not contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer. It's also easier to reuse and recycle and has a high energy efficiency, thus reducing your energy bills.

For these reasons, air-con manufacturers prefer to use R32 in their units.

And these new-generation inverter air-con models are our pick of the crop for keeping our homes cool while being kind to the environment.



### LG R32 REFRIGERANT AIR-CON

The compact design is perfect for HDB homes. Among its features are Plasmaster Ionizer+ (ARTCOOL MIRROR model), comprising a special sterilisation and deodorisation system. This system sterilises the air passing through the unit with over three million ions, thus removing unpleasant odours and protecting users from harmful particles that can negatively impact their health. Climate-friendly, it has a five-tick energy efficiency rating, and it integrates ThinQ so you can control and monitor it remotely, anytime, using your smartphone.

### PANASONIC X-PREMIUM INVERTER R32 SERIES

This series of airconditioners boasts nanoeX air purification technology, which has been shown to effectively inhibit the novel coronavirus and various types of pollutants like mould, pollen and allergens; reduce unpleasant odours; and moisturise skin and hair. Plus, it has a five-tick energy efficiency rating from the NEA (National Environment Agency). It also includes built-in Wi-Fi so you can control the units anywhere, anytime; the new Aerowings, which provides airflow as far as 15m away; and iAutoX for faster cooling.



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### **COOL** STUFF



#### MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC'S **STARMEX GP SERIES**

features to purify the air in your home, including Nano Platinum Filter to absorb allergens, pollutants and odours, and the Microparticle Catching Filter, which effectively eliminates PM2.5 particles and is especially useful on hazy days. In addition, it has a

Includes a host of brilliant five-tick energy efficiency rating from the NEA.





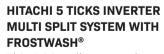
To check

out the full

range of air-

conditioners available,

scan here



This R32 wall-mounted inverter series includes Hitachi's patented FrostWash® technology for clean and healthy air. It is also designed for use in our tropical climate and comes equipped with Hitachi's DC compressor, which offers efficient performance during periods of extended operation.



## A cool change

The LG R32 Refrigerant Aircon enhances indoor air quality while being energy-efficient and climate-friendly.

oday's air-conditioning units do more than just cool the air. Take LG's R32 Refrigerant Aircon (Z3UQ18GFA0 / Z3UQ26GFA0 / Z4UQ28GFA0), for instance. Perfect for HDB apartments, this compact air-con unit comes with a selection of impressive features that make it an essential appliance for your home.

#### **BETTER AIR QUALITY**

One of its best features is the Plasmaster Ionizer+ (ARTCOOL MIRROR model), made up of a special sterilisation and deodorisation system. This system infuses the air passing through the unit with over three million ions, thereby removing unpleasant odours and protecting you and your family from harmful particles\* that can negatively impact your health.

















U18\_Z3UQ18GFA0

U24A\_Z3UQ26GFA0

U24A\_Z4UQ28GFA0











Ion Cluster Generation

Surrounding Harmful Substances H- and O- bond to harmful particles

OH Radical Production
OH radicles inactivate

OH radicles bond with H

H<sub>2</sub>O molecules ar

#### **FOR SMART HOMES**

The R32 Refrigerant Aircon also integrates LG ThinQ, which lets you control and monitor it from one place using your Android- or iOS-based smartphone. If you're out and want to get back to a cool home, all you have to do is access your airconditioner from wherever you are, using your Wi-Fi-equipped device

and LG's exclusive control app, LG ThinQ. The app can be downloaded from the Google Playstore and Apple Appstore.

In addition, the unit is climatefriendly and scores five ticks for energy efficiency, making it ideal for today's busy and healthconscious family.

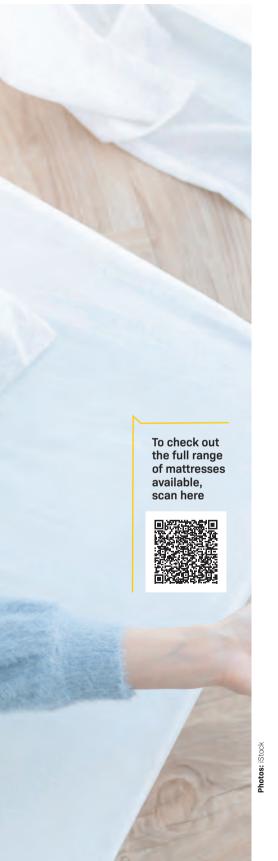


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Detailed disclaimers apply. Please refer to www.lg.com/sg/air-solutions for more details.









### Firmness and support

Firmness is important, whether you sleep on your side, back or stomach. Generally, a mattress with a coil system provides sturdier support and prevents you from sinking into it.

"The mattress should give you even support, meaning that it supports your body evenly and doesn't dip in certain areas because it's too soft or lacks structure. A lack of support can increase your risk of back or neck pain. In addition, the mattress should have adequate padding so that it's comfortable enough to sleep on throughout the night."

Princebed Beauty
Rest Mattress,
which has an individual
pocketed coil spring
system, a pillow top and
knitted fabric. Or opt for
KingKoil Natural Response
Mattress, with supportive
features such as Auto
Response HD Gold Coil,
Auto Body Zoning System
with Honeycomb Format
and Duratech-Fiber Coil
Cover.

Material type
Does it make a difference
whether the mattress is an
innerspring or made from
foam or latex? Yes, says
Dr Rai, but it depends on
your individual needs and
budget, too.

"Foam mattresses are ideal if you have difficulty falling asleep or suffer from body aches, as the foam conforms to your body and thus offers cushioning and comfort. An innerspring mattress is fine as well, especially if affordability is an issue. But I would say that in most cases, a good-quality latex mattress is probably the best pick, as it provides superior comfort and support. It's also resistant to mould."

MaxCoil Avice, which features a natural latex pillow top and an Individual Barrel Pocketed Spring System that prevents motion transfer.



### COOL



Make sure the mattress is made from high-quality materials, as this means it has better supportive and pressure-relieving properties, Dr Rai points out. If the mattress is not durable, it may sag over time, preventing your back and neck from getting the support they need and affecting your sleep quality.

Kingkoil Spinal Pedic Premiere Mattress, featuring a 5-Zone pocketed spring system and knitted fabric. **Temperature** regulation and cooling

Size and thickness Thickness matters if the mattress is under 10 inches, it's probably not durable or supportive

and might feel

uncomfortable.

And of course, size is important. Dr Rai says the mattress should fit your bed frame perfectly and accommodate the full

length of your body.

uncomfortable, especially if you're on the heavier side. A mattress that's between 10 and 14 inches in height might suit the average person, but test it out beforehand to make sure it's not too firm to the point of being

In our tropical climate, it helps to have a mattress made from moisturewicking or stay-cool fabrics. Air cell or open-cell foam is breathable and doesn't trap heat, and gel infusions provide a cooler sleeping surface.

MaxCoil Ellington III Mattress, featuring individual barrel pocket springs, a latex plush pillow top, orthopaedic properties, and bamboo ticking fabric. There's also Princebed Beauty Dream Mattress, which boasts a 3-Zone Individual Pocketed Coil Spring System, NXG Memory Quilting Mattress Top and knitted fabric.









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### **Keep your mattress** clean and fresh

Regular cleaning extends the life of your mattress and ensures a more hygienic sleeping environment.

Professional cleaning helps eliminate dust, dust mites (as well as their eggs and faeces), mould and fungal spores, dead skin cells, perspiration, body oil, stains and food residue. It also reduces your risk of skin allergies and other reactions, such as sneezing, runny nose, itchy or watery eyes, coughing, asthma, a scratchy throat and sinus issues.



Gain City's professional mattress cleaning service is carried out by experienced staff and uses quality cleaning equipment and methods. The service includes vacuuming, to remove dust mites, allergens and contaminants; shampooing, to remove dirt and unpleasant odours; and repeat vacuuming to remove residual shampoo.











Instead of starting your toddler out with a small mattress and bed and upsizing both when he's older, it's wise to invest in a good-quality single mattress and bed that he can grow into, from the time he's three or four until he's about 12 or 13. Then, you can replace the mattress and bed once he enters his teens, when he may prefer a bigger double bed.

In Singapore, most single-bed frames measure 90cm by 190cm. Children grow quickly, so if you invest in a single mattress when they're little, they should grow into it quite comfortably over the next several years.

### Choose the best support

Supportive mattress varieties include pocketspring, memory foam and latex. Each of these feels different - with a pocket-spring, each spring is individually wrapped and works in isolation, reacting only to the pressure applied to that area (tip: the higher the spring count, the more supportive the mattress, and the lower the coil gauge numbers, the firmer the mattress). A memoryfoam mattress is dense and conforms to the body, and might be suitable for restless children who wake up often during the night. A latex mattress has a bouncier feel, is low-maintenance, durable. and resistant to dust. mites and mould. It's also recommended for warmer climates like ours as it prevents overheating.



According to Norway-based chiropractor
Dr Havard Bergby, an innerspring mattress is a better choice than a foam or latex mattress because it offers greater support. A child's body is constantly changing and an innerspring mattress is more accommodating and provides better support as the child grows.

The difference between an innerspring mattress and a pocket-spring one is that the former offers more generalised support and is interlocked rather than individually encased, but both are firm, which helps promote the natural development of a child's spine.

### COOL STUFF



### Don't forget about thickness

Many parents don't consider thickness when buying a mattress for their child, but thickness is important because as kids get heavier, they'll need a mattress that will support their weight and ensure a proper sleep posture.

The best way to tell if a mattress is going to be thick and comfortable enough for your child is to let him try it for himself.



### Is Junior a bedwetter?

If your little one still wets his bed during the night, you may want to consider a waterproof mattress. This prevents the urine from seeping deep into the mattress fibres, where it can cause stains and lead to mould growth and other health-damaging problems. With a waterproof mattress, you simply clean the urine off the surface with a paper towel.

### The best picks for asthma and allergy sufferers

Latex and memory foam are popular material choices for hypoallergenic mattresses. This is because they are dense, and leave very little room for bacteria to grow. Plus, they tend to be resilient to common allergens like dust, mildew and pet dander.



### Sleep soundly

King Koil's chiropractic-endorsed mattress ensures you wake up refreshed and relaxed.

e spend about one-third of our lives sleeping, so it makes sense that our mattress should deliver unparalleled comfort and support. King Koil's Chiro Enhance Frimas II, available exclusively at Gain City, promises this, and more.

#### **GOOD FOR YOUR BACK**

King Koil is the only mattress brand endorsed by the International Chiropractor's Association. Each mattress features the signature 5-zone, individual pocketed barrel spring, which offers optimal lumbar support for quality, undisturbed sleep every night. The Excellent



Edge Foam Encasement provides a firm seating edge and helps you maximise the sleeping surface.

#### **COOL AND COMFORTABLE**

The Chiro Enhance Frimas II is upholstered in iCool mattress covers. Boasting exceptional thermal conductivity features, it creates the optimal sleeping environment.

King Koil mattresses are crafted from layers of Made in Korea Micro-Gel, 100% Natural Latex and Deep Visco Memory Foam, giving them a luxurious feel. Plus, its European-design mattress covers are treated with Ultrafresh to inhibit the growth of bacteria, mildew, and dust mites.

King Koil mattresses are made to order in Singapore just before delivery.



can here to find





our bedroom should be where you enjoy spending time, whether it's to get a good night's sleep or to decompress after a long and tiring day. No matter its size or layout, it's not hard to transform it into a tranquil retreat. Here are some ideas to get you started.

### Choose a soothing colour palette

Colour can have a powerful impact on your state of mind, inducing calm and helping you wind down. To promote restful sleep, Jason Pan, **Senior Creative Lead** at interior design firm Design Identity, suggests going with one or a combination of soothing colours. Good choices include neutral earth tones, white, soft blues, and pastel colours like lavender. If you like bright colours, try sage green. Colour swatches can help you work out an overall colour scheme. Play around with different shades in the same colour family to see what works for you. Don't forget to extend this colour palette to your bedlinen, too.

Another option to take your bedroom style to the next level: Apply textured or printed wallpaper to just one wall to make it stand out.





Warm lighting is best for bedrooms, Jason says. It creates a relaxing ambience and is soothing to the eye. On the other hand, bright white lighting can appear harsh and affect your ability to

fully relax.

A combination of portable and installed lighting can help you set the perfect mood. Think well-positioned table or floor lamps, recessed lighting fixtures controlled by a dimmer, wall sconces and pendant lights.

Jason likes LED cove lights, which he says can add to the serene atmosphere. He advises against installing lighting directly above your bed.

He also recommends day and night curtains, so you can block out light (and heat) or let it stream in, depending on your needs and activities.

### Dress up your bed

A well-dressed bed doesn't just look inviting; it can also affect your sleep quality.

In addition to a supportive mattress and pillows, invest in comfortable bedlinen. Choose a thread count of between 200 and 800 – the higher the thread count, the softer the sheet and the more durable the material. Fabrics like

bamboo, linen and polyester-cotton are breathable and have sweat-wicking abilities to keep you cool throughout the night.

Select colours that are easy on the eye and that complement your bedroom colour scheme.

Textures can also make your bed look more appealing. Add small cushions or a bed runner, for instance, or mix bedlinen fabrics.





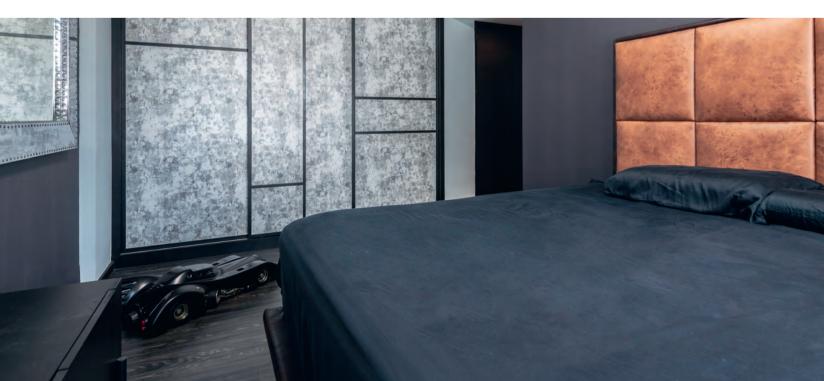
## Add storage to minimise clutter

Clutter is an eyesore. It can also be anxiety-inducing, contributing to sleep deprivation.

If you need extra storage, invest in a cabinet, dresser or even stackable storage boxes. If your bedroom is too small to accommodate these items, consult an interior designer about customised storage options, such as a built-in closet or bookcase or floating shelves.

### Don't forget the extras

Accessories can be functional and add a personal touch. Some examples include aroma diffusers, scented candles, sleek charging docks for your phone and tablet, sculptural or decorative pieces like vases and bowls, framed photographs and pictures, and indoor plants and flowers.





# A business built on comfort

Princebed takes mattressmaking seriously, which is why the homegrown company has such a remarkable history.

Since its establishment in 1981, local mattress company Princebed has made a name for itself as a specialist in polyurethane (PU) flexible foam and spring mattresses. Its products, such as the Individual Pocketed Coil System, Duracoil Spring, Bonnell Spring, Micro Cooling-gel NXG Viscoelastic Memory Foam Mattress, Latex Mattress and High-Density Foam













Mattress, take pride of place in many Singapore homes and furniture showrooms and stores today.

#### **HUMBLE BEGINNINGS**

Tay Boon Teng, director of Tah Li Thong Foam Industry, began making PU foam at his first factory on Old Tampines Road. He later progressed to making mattresses and Princebed was born.

#### **HANDCRAFTED QUALITY**

Currently located in Tuas, the Princebed factory produces a wide range of mattresses by hand, using innovative technologies. Among its offerings are the Health-Enhancing series, which uses internationally renowned mattress ticking designed to improve sleep quality and create a more comfortable and hygienic sleep environment.



Scan here to find



## Comfort you can customise

The new one-of-its-kind MaxCoil customisable mattress allows you to find the perfect sleep comfort feel.

an't decide on which mattress to buy at the store? It is easy to get overwhelmed with the plethora of mattress options in the market, so picking the right mattress may not be a straightforward decision.

#### FIND THE RIGHT SLEEP COMFORT

Experts recommend spending at least 10 to 15 minutes lying on any mattress that you are seriously considering at the showroom, and it takes about 30 days to break in and fully adjust to any new mattress.

MaxCoil's Forrest™ Gems
Amethyst VI Customisable Mattress
suits anyone seeking optimal
mattress comfort, as it comes with
the flexibility to alter the comfort,
firmness and height of the mattress
over time and in the comfort of your
own home.

The Amethyst VI 15.5 inch euro pillow top pocketed spring mattress is crafted with Belgium latexco® natural latex foam and memory foam encased in a detachable gusset on top, and latex foam as a supporting base layer.

Depending on your preferences,



you can interchange the layers to achieve a softer, cushioning feel or for firmer, contouring support.

It is available in medium-soft, medium-firm or firm comfort feel based on different permutations.

#### WAKE UP FEELING REJUVENATED

Amethyst VI comes with the Amethyst fabric that helps to reduce fatigue and replenish energy during sleep by spreading negative ions into the sleep environment.

This mattress also boasts Swiss Sanitized Antimicrobial Protection for a more hygienic and comfortable rest.



Scan here to find



## The perfect brew

De'Longhi introduces a trio of coffee machines to help you recreate that barista experience at home.



ECAM250.33.TB



EC9355.M



EC685.R

othing's better than that morning cuppa or midafternoon coffee break. Skip your favourite café and make delicious beverages at home instead with these De'Longhi coffee machines.

GREAT-TASTING COFFEE, FAST De'Longhi Automatic Coffee Maker Magnifica S Smart (ECAM250.33.TB)

Make espresso, double espresso, coffee and long black at the touch of a button. Customise the aroma and quantity to suit your taste. Want to add a layer of creamy

foam? The Advanced Cappuccino System delivers. With its titanium and black glossy body, this machine looks great on your kitchen counter.

#### HAND-CRAFTED BARISTA-QUALITY DRINKS

De'Longhi Manual Espresso Maker La Specialista Prestigio (EC9355.M) For a refined brew, this machine lets you control the grind, dose and temperature to extract the optimum flavours from your beans. Features Sensor Grinding Technology to ensure a consistent grind, a smart tamping station, and MyLatte Art steam wand for a silky-smooth foam layer and latte art creations.

### EXQUISITE ITALIAN-STYLE COFFEE

#### De'Longhi Manual Espresso Maker Dedica (EC685.R)

Bring the style of an Italian coffee bar to your home with this sleek model. Enjoy a rich, smooth espresso with perfect crema using your favourite blend or pod. Thermoblock technology crafts your espresso at the perfect temperature. Available in Red, Black, Silver and White.



Scan here to find



### AT HOME WITH...

## Airy, comfy modern home

Light and airy timber accents and a pop of colour brighten this multi-generational home.

TEXT Tan Ru Ching PHOTOGRAPHY Wong Wei Liang

enior Manager Lim Wei Qin and his wife Yuki recently moved into their chic abode in Fernvale Glade.

Three years into their marriage, they are building a new home with their firstborn and Wei Qin's parents. The tranquil new estate is very different from the mature Bishan Toa Payoh estate where Wei Qin grew up in. However, with links to highways, Wei Qin can zip to his workplace in minutes. In addition, Wei Qin and Yuki are happy with nearby amenities such as a childcare centre located in the multi-storey carpark beside his block and the integrated Fernvale community club.





# Group Buy offers a one-stop solution for new homeowners.

### Shop for big-ticket items first

Like many BTO
homeowners, Wei
Qin needed to shop
for big-ticket home
appliances such as the
air-conditioner, water
heater, ceiling fans, hood,
hob and oven as it was
a priority to settle those
appliances that required
installation before the rest
of the renovation. Their
first move? The BTO Group
Buy at Gain City Megastore
@ Sungei Kadut.

"The Gain City BTO Group Buy offers a onestop solution for new homeowners where we can have the best discounts across many product categories and a wide array of choices."

Wei Qin is also glad he installed a digital lock to put his mind at ease. "Smart locks provide enhanced door security, and they also send notifications to your phone if the exterior door is left open or when someone opens the door."

Wei Qin and Yuki worked with an interior design firm to create the home of their dreams. They opted for a modern look that will stay fresh for years to come.

The ID firm proposed a contemporary theme for their new home that suited their fuss-free lifestyle – simplicity, subtle sophistication, deliberate use of texture, and clean lines accentuated with bright and bold colours.

### AT HOME WITH...

### **Bright and airy**

The 113-sqm 5-room flat has a sensible design layout, with a spacious hall on one side while the bedrooms and kitchen share the other side of the house. The first room is for Grandpa and Grandma, the second room is reserved for the toddler, and the master bedroom is at the end of the corridor.

Guests entering the Lim family's abode are charmed by its spaciousness and expansive window views.

White walls with recessed lights, a mirrored feature wall, and built-in cabinets create a clutter-free and spacious living space.

White walls work best in a naturally bright room, where the light flowing in seems to build on itself by bouncing all around. However, an all-white living room may appear flat. With careful spatial planning, a well-chosen colour palette and accessories, the Lim family's new flat looks bright and airy with comfy vibes.

Blue hues are deployed as accents on the carpentry in the living room, the kitchen, and the master bedroom. The classic



The study area is placed close to the window, which immediately opens up the space and enables the working individual to enjoy both scenery and natural light.



white-blue colour combination is gentle on the senses and makes everything look brighter and cleaner.

### Space to breathe

A comfy sectional with plenty of space to relax and spread out on movie night characterises the family room. Instead of chunky sofa sets, an L-Shaped recliner sofa from Nazario and a trendy massage sofa anchor the look of the shared space. Yuki explained that they chose the massage sofa instead of the traditional-looking massage chair as it looks trendier. In

addition, the massage sofa comes with a plaid cushion that adds visual interest.

The white timber cabinet with glass doors houses knick-knacks that reflect the Lim family's vision of harmony and family bliss.

In the dining area, a ceiling-to-floor mirrored wall creates an optical illusion of a larger space.

A stunning three-ring crystal chandelier pendant light provides ambient lighting and a magnificent focal point for the room.

The rectangular dining table is easily adjusted to open up to become a bigger round table. This quickly goes from seating four to six guests.

### Framing the greenery

The row of windows across two adjacent panels of walls overlooking greenery provides a comforting visual connection to the natural world. Daylight coming through the window allows the family to stay in positive spirits. Naturally, it is an obvious choice as the study area.

A long, bold blue study desk is placed close to the window, which immediately opens the space and enables one to enjoy the view and the natural light. It serves as a workstation for Wei Qin and Yuki, but in time to come, it will also be the ideal spot for the youngest Lim member to catch up on his studies.

The initial design was to build a platform area with a study desk. However, the Lims modified the design, keeping the toddler in the house in mind.

To manage the blinding sunlight at certain times of the day, the large windows are adorned with Combi Blinds. Also known as Korean blinds, Rainbow Blinds or Zebra Blinds, they allow users to alternate between sheer and blackout fabric layers. The fabrics may be altered to let in as much natural light as one chooses.



### **Quiet sanctuary**

There's nothing better than a cosy, inviting bed after a long day.

The master bedroom with ensuite bathroom is where the young family of three spend most of their evenings.

A darker coloured material for the master bedroom's blinds was chosen to recreate a blackout effect.

The Smart TV provides family bonding and infotainment in the comfortable air-conditioned room. "I used to read messages and watch drama shows on my mobile device a lot. These days, I can relax and catch news and entertainment with my wife and baby on the TV in our little den," said Wei Qin.

### Beautiful blue kitchen

The well-organised kitchen provides good storage and functional needs.

Navy cabinetry pairs beautifully with the white tabletop, the elegant black Brandt hob and hood, and the white Mitsubishi fridge. Well-coordinated white and the neutral tile stove backsplash add character to the kitchen.

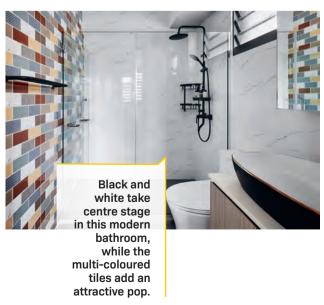
Sliding glass doors are installed to separate the kitchen from the rest of the living room without obscuring the light.





I used to read messages and watch drama shows on my mobile device a lot. These days, I can relax and catch news and entertainment with my wife and baby on the TV in our little den.





### Five tips for creating airy, open spaces

1 White is bright

The reason rooms with white paint look so bright and fresh is that the light in those rooms reflects off the walls and bounces around the room.

- 2 Let the sunlight in
  If you have a lot of
  windows, cut down on
  drapery to let the natural
  light flow through.
- 3 Avoid chunky furniture
  Simple, light furniture can
  add a softness to your
  room.
- 4 "Reflect" the room
  Placing mirrors
  strategically extends a
  room.
- 5 "Float" furniture

Position furniture two to four inches away from the walls to create additional space. Leaving space creates the illusion that the wall behind the piece, such as a sofa, is further away than it is, which makes the room appear larger.



### **BRING BACK THE WOW WITH FULL** STEAM AHEAD.

#### More WOW with just water and heat.

With the Kärcher steam cleaner range, you can be sure that up to 99.999% of coronaviruses and bacteria\* in your home will be removed without any chemicals. Simply choose your steam cleaner and discover all its possible applications at karcher.com.sg.

\* Tests have shown that with spot cleaning of 30 secs at max. steam level and direct contact to the cleaning surface with the Kärcher steam cleaner 99.999% of enveloped viruses such as coronavirus or influenza (excluding the Hepatitis-B virus) can be re - moved on common smooth household hard surfaces (test-germ:

### Clean & chemical-free

The SC 2 Upright EasyFix steam mop by Karcher eliminates bacteria and stubborn dirt without the need for harsh detergents.

ith the Karcher SC 2 Upright EasyFix steam mop, you can now clean your tiled and sealed floors like parquet and laminate, quickly and thoroughly without chemicals.

#### **PURE STEAM POWER**

Light, with a rotatable joint and a slim design, this easy-to-manoeuvre appliance uses steam to eliminate up to 99.999% of coronaviruses and 99.99% of all common household bacteria on common hard surfaces. The floor nozzle distributes the steam evenly for a thorough but

gentle clean – even stubborn dirt is no match for the SC 2. Best of all, the appliance gets into hard-toaccess areas and offers two stages of steam flow, depending on the type of floor you're cleaning.

#### **FAST-WORKING, EASY TO HANDLE**

The SC 2 operates with tap water and integrates a descaling cartridge. Heat it up and it's ready to use in just 30 seconds. For uninterrupted cleaning, the water tank can be filled while the appliance is in use. Included is a machine washable microfibre cloth for the floor nozzle.









#### A Game Changer for Home Entertainers

Upscale, craft drinks at home are no longer just for the weekend. Serve up better tasting drinks with LG's slow-melting. round ice-Craft Ice™



#### **LG** InstaView<sup>™</sup>





### It's an all-new view

Upgraded with larger and fully tinted panels, the new LG InstaView™ flagship refrigerator lets you view more of its contents at a glance.

■ he latest addition to the LG InstaView $^{\text{TM}}$  range is the talk of the town, thanks to its innovative features and impeccably sleek interior. Designed for form and function, this InstaView™ Refrigerator (GX-X5982MC) makes a welcome addition to any home kitchen.

#### **BUILT-IN UV LED**

Designed to revolve around the consumer's needs, LG InstaView™ is equipped with UVnano technology that automatically reduces up to 99.99%\* of bacteria from the water dispenser tap with UV light. This means that users can effortlessly maintain a hygienic and germ-free water dispenser tap for peace of mind.

#### **PARTY IT UP, FROM HOME**

Fancy a night in with some friends? LG exclusive Craft Ice™ Maker produces round ice balls automatically and effortlessly. Take happy hour up a notch with the slow-melting Craft Ice™.

#### PRESERVE FRESHNESS EASILY

By reducing temperature fluctuations with features such as Linear Cooling™ and Door Cooling™, the GS-X5982MC maintains peak freshness for its contents for a longer period of time.

The introduction of Hygiene Fresh™ also acts as an air purifier for the refrigerator and removes up to 99.999%\* of bacteria and odour to prevent any contamination.



#### STAY COOL WITH LG **INSTAVIEW**<sup>TM</sup>

Loved by consumers around the world for its ability to enhance convenience, the LG InstaView<sup>TM</sup> is an impeccable fit for the modern kitchen.

Despite the slim fit, it has a large storage capacity that can accommodate your long grocery list easily. In addition, LG ThinQ™ also allows you to control and diagnose your refrigerator remotely from your mobile phone for added convenience.

\* Disclaimers apply





### The personal touch

Do as these Asian celebs do - let your home reflect who you are.

TEXT Leslie Ong



#### Carina Lau

ho doesn't love peeking into celebrity homes?

The Hong Kong-Canadian actress/singer is known for her glamorous looks, both on and off the red carpet so it's no surprise that she's transposed her elegant style to her multimilliondollar Hong Kong abode. Her Victorian-style home is. in a word, luxurious: Think floral prints, rich colours, lush fabrics like velvet and brocade, elaborate chandeliers, plush carpets and intricate ornaments. Despite the moody vibe, the place exudes warmth, cosiness and comfort.





#### Laureen Uy

The Filipina fashion blogger, influencer and entrepreneur certainly has an eye for detail. Her chic vintage-style condo in the Philippines is filled with beautiful artworks, framed prints and photographs, and eye-catching ornaments and accessories picked up from her travels and shopping sprees. As packed as her living room is, it looks neat and puttogether, which is not surprising since Laureen is keen on home organising. Forget boring white walls and beige furniture grev and teal make her artworks pop, and the bright orange sofa gives the space a visual lift.







#### **Sandara Park**

Born in South Korea, Sandara made a name for herself in the Philippine talent show Star Circle Quest in 2004. After returning to her homeland a few years later, she enjoyed even greater success as a member of the female K-pop group 2NE1. About a year ago, the 37-year-old star revealed that she'd only recently started living alone. Like its owner, Sandara's new pad is quirky and colourful. The sneaker aficionado's walk-in closet features glass cabinets and racks designed just for her precious kicks (she calls it her shoe room), and her collection of Bearbrick figurines takes pride of place on industrial-style shelves.



otos: @daraxx

### AT HOME WITH...



for homeowners

Follow this fengshui cheat-sheet to pick an auspicious property or tweak your existing one for better wealth, health and relationships.

TEXT Annie Tan

ost of us have heard of fengshui, but not many understand it. "Many think it's about buying expensive ornaments or good luck objects to display in the house, turning it into a Chinese temple. These are 'psychological cures'," says fengshui Master David Tong, founder of Chinese Metaphysics Global Consulting.

Fengshui is so much more than that. This form of Chinese Astrology relies on statistics and patterns compiled by ancient scholars who observed the stars and constellations to understand how a house's location, direction and external environment affect its occupants.

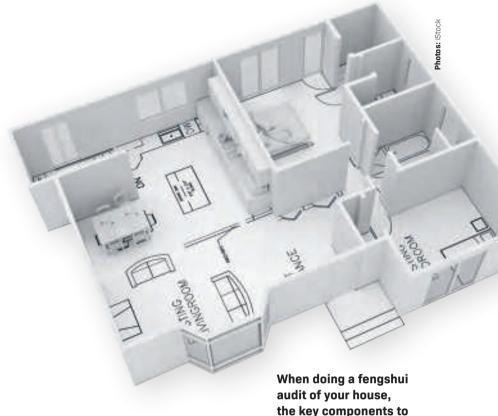
"The first thing a fengshui master does is check the surrounding environment for any sha qi (negative energy) that may possibly affect the property. External features that may affect your house's fengshui include swimming pools, water features, rivers, lakes, canals, flyovers, MRT and LRT tracks, expressway, roads and sharp corners from other buildings," says Master Tong.

"Next, he assesses key components within the house, such as the main door, stove positioning, location of the bedroom, bed positioning, as well as any water features such as fish tanks or water fountains that may affect occupants. Based on this, he prescribes solutions to harness qi from the environment as well as inside the property to support the wealth, health and positive relationships," he adds.

After spending years learning from famous masters worldwide, Master Tong has won numerous awards including The Wedding Accolade 2013 Award as Best Wedding Geomancer, the Asia Excellence Award 2013, and the Singapore Outstanding Enterprise Award 2014. He has also been featured in major newspapers and magazines including *The Straits Times, Lianhe Zaobao*, AsiaOne and CNN International, and helped countless people avoid costly fengshui mistakes and turn their luck around. He shares his top tips here.

66 Choose a bright house with lots of natural sunlight.

A perpetually dark house can harbour spiritual activities and lead to family disharmony.



When buying a house, avoid... properties that directly face electrical substations, fire stations, hospitals, places of worship and rubbish chutes, as these are believed to have sha qi and be detrimental to your health. Another big no-no are houses facing an empty plot of land which may be slated for construction in the near future, which may also trigger sha qi. Even if you don't believe in fengshui, bear in mind that these factors may affect the future resale value of the property, especially if you are selling it to fengshui enthusiasts.

One big tip to grow your wealth is... to pay attention to the main door. The immediate area outside the main door is known as your "Bright Hall" and "Wealth Pot" where qi gathers to go into your house. Ensure that your main door looks out to a wide open space and is not blocked by a wall so that it can receive wealth gi. Also ensure that the inside and outside of your main door is free of clutter.

look out for are... the

locations that may be

door, stove, bed or room

receiving inauspicious qi.

### AT HOME WITH...

### Two common mistakes that could affect the entire family's health are...

the position of the stove and bed. Install your stove against a wall instead of on an open concept island kitchen where it will be subject to wind on all sides. Also avoid installing the stove and sink directly opposite each other as this may lead to a clash of fire and water. When it comes to the bed, avoid placing it under beams or protruding false ceilings which may 'press' or 'cut' across the bed. Also avoid what is known as the "coffin position", where the head or leg of the bed face the room door directly as this will allow qi to attack one's head or leg chakras.

#### For a happy family...

choose a bright house with lots of natural sunlight. A perpetually dark house can harbour spiritual activities and lead to family disharmony.



#### In 2023, expect...

turbulence in the financial market and a high possibility of recession because this is a transition phase in fengshui. Be prudent with investments, take calculated risks. and manage expenses to prepare for the rough road ahead. Since this is also one of the four peach blossom years where the romance star exerts a dominant influence, be vigilant to avoid extramarital affairs, breakups and divorce. Singles however may have a higher chance of finding their soulmate this year and should join more social activities to increase their odds.

Two simple tricks to turn your luck around in 2023

are to... use a compass to find the southwest sector of your house and place a small water fountain there, and work or spend more time there to enhance your nobleman luck, and improve your relationship with your boss. If you are in sales or running your own business, place a water feature in the south sector, or place a speaker there and turn up the music for a few hours a day to activate your wealth luck.

# **TOSHIBA**

# Deuble Up Happiness



Combo Washer Dryer series available in 9.5kg/7kg, 10.5kg/7kg and 12.5kg/8kg

### A fresh load

Have greater control over your laundry with the Toshiba Combo Washer Dryer series.

et your laundry cleaner and fresher than ever with the latest Toshiba Combo Washer Dryer series (TWD-BM105GF4S / TWD-BM115GF4S / TWD-BM135GF4S).

#### A TOTAL CLEAN

The two-in-one appliance boasts several advanced features. First, it uses Ultra Fine Bubbles, a technology that pushes bubbles deep into clothes fibres to deep clean, reduce stains and remove 6% more sebum and dirt than regular washing. It also has a Steam Wash function, which raises the inner

drum temperature to scald and effectively sterilise your clothes up to 99.99%.

#### **SMART, QUIET, ENERGY-SAVING**

The GreatWaves feature protects and preserves your clothes' original vibrant colours with cold water.

And, thanks to the Origin Inverter, the machine is 10% quieter than a conventional one, and it saves energy compared to a machine that uses a universal motor.

Don't bother getting up from your couch to dry your clothes. With the TSmartLife app, you can control the appliance using your smart devices.



TWD-BM105GF4S





### Fast & safe to cook

This innovative Brandt induction hob saves you time at the stove.

hen you're in a hurry but want to prepare a full meal, the Brandt Made in France Ultraboost Induction Hob cuts down on cooking time. It features UltraBoost technology, which heats up 35% faster than the classic function. This technology allows the induction hob to generate heat exclusively in contact with cookware, instantly raising its temperature so that the heat transfers to the food. Now, you can boil two litres of water in just fourand-a-half minutes compared to six or seven minutes.

Both the BPI164HUX (60cm) and BPI184HUB (80cm) models accommodate all shapes and

sizes of cookware. They also have electronic, touch-sensitive controls for effortless use and precise heating levels to help you create perfect dishes every time.

#### **ALL ABOUT SAFETY**

All Brandt induction hobs come with 10 safety measures, such as Residual Heat Indicator, which alerts you when areas are still hot after intensive use; an antioverflow feature that switches the hob off when overflow spills onto the control panel or when a damp towel is placed over the buttons; and Automatic Saucepan Detection, which ensures the cooking zone only operates when in contact with induction-compatible cookware.



BPI164HUX (60cm)



**BPI184HUB (80cm)** 





Scan here to find

BPI184HUB (80cm)



Scan here to find



### Cook with ease

Unleash your culinary creativity and cook in comfort with De Dietrich's 2-in-1 hob.

hen you have a few dishes cooking at the same time, it helps to have a flexible and high-performing induction hob. De Dietrich's 80cm Allure Duo HoriZone Induction with Integrated Hood offers the best of both worlds. It features two modular HoriZone cooking spaces with a power of 4000w per zone and accommodates a variety of cookware shapes and types without restrictions on placement.

#### **SILENT PERFORMER**

In addition, it boasts a highperformance integrated hood with a powerful yet silent brushless motor and an A++ energy class rating for ultimate comfort and culinary performance.

Easy to operate, the appliance includes 20 power levels, four direct access modes, timers and Boost function, so you can cook with confidence. Whatever the dish, you can be sure of perfect results every time.

The appliance is also easy to clean, with dishwasher-friendly grease filters.





DPI7888BH



Scan here to find

### AT HOME WITH...



hef Eric Teo has certainly earned his place as a Singapore culinary icon. Since his initiation into the F&B industry – as a waiter after leaving secondary school – he's worked hard to get to the top, heading some of our finest dining establishments along the way.

He's also celebrated for his knowledge and expertise. Between 2005 and 2013, he was President of the Singapore Chefs' Association (the first Singaporean appointed to the position). Over the decades, he's also represented Singapore in international culinary competitions, like the IKA Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany in 2000 and the Culinary World Cup in Expogast, Luxembourg in 2002. And since 2016, he's been a culinary

# Whip up a festive feast with Chef Eric Teo

The celebrity chef loves cooking for his loved ones during Chinese New Year. Try your hand at one of his favourite holiday recipes: succulent tiger prawns with walnuts and honey mandarin oranges.

**TEXT Sasha Gonzales** 

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Wong Wei Liang

consultant for SATS Catering as well as a Master Mentor with the Asian Culinary Institute in Singapore.

You may have also seen Chef Eric on TV – he's a familiar face on cooking shows like *King of Culinary* on Mediacorp Channel 8, and in 2015 he was a guest chef on Episode 5 of *Masterchef Asia*.

At almost 60 years old, the veteran chef is still pushing ahead. For the last 11 years, he's been running his own culinary consultancy business, and in 2019 he set up a catering company, 3 Embers Culinary Craft, which offers sophisticated menus for private and corporate events.

Here, Chef Eric reflects on his successful career and reveals his must-have dishes and cooking appliances for Chinese New Year. He also shares a special prawn recipe that's bursting with citrusy flavour – he hopes you'll make it for your guests as you celebrate the Year of the Rabbit.



66 Plan ahead and buy the freshest ingredients you can afford. It's also important to buy enough ingredients, so you don't run out of anything, and to choose dishes that are easy to cook.

#### When did you start in the F&B business?

I started when I was a teenager back in 1979, when I got a job as a waiter. After a stint in the military between 1981 and 1985, I waited on tables again, at the then-Hyatt Regency (now Grand Hyatt Singapore). In 1986, the hotel sponsored my studies at SHATEC (the Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre), where I trained in Food Preparation (Culinary). For the next two years I did my apprenticeship at the Hyatt and slowly worked my way up. I've been a chef for more than three decades now.

#### Where did you train?

I got most of my training and experience from working in different hotels and with countless local and international chefs. In 1992, I began representing Singapore in various culinary competitions around the world. These competitions were also a good training ground for me.

#### Who were your culinary mentors over the years?

There've been so many, but one of the earliest was Chef Andreas Stalder, who gave me my apprenticeship at the Hyatt in 1986. I'm also grateful to Chef Daniel Koh, who taught me all about fusion cuisine, and Chef Peter Knipp, who helped me refine my skills as a chef. Chef Otto Weibel gave me the training I needed to become the president of the Singapore Chefs' Association and a good culinary judge.

### AT HOME WITH...

### What awards have you received throughout your career?

I was honoured to be named the World Gourmet Summit (WGS) Executive Chef in 2006, 2008 and 2009, which got me a spot in the Awards of Excellence Hall of Fame in 2010.

In 2010, I was also named Best Western Cuisine Chef at the Hospitality Asia Platinum Awards, and at the WGS Awards of Excellence 2017, I picked up the Lifetime Achievement award.

Also in 2017, I received SkillsFuture's Adult Education Fellow award (from the Institute of Adult Learning) for my work as a mentor and trainer to young chefs.

My catering company, 3 Embers Culinary Craft Pte Ltd, was awarded Best Caterer of the Year in 2020 and 2022 at the prestigious World Gourmet Awards.



# Food plays a central role in Singaporeans' Chinese New Year celebrations. What are some of your must-have dishes for the festive season?

I love yu sheng (traditional raw fish salad), ngoh hiang (fried beancurd skin rolls), steamed pomfret, pen cai (a potpourri of delicacies like abalone and fish maw braised with vegetables), ee fu noodles (stir-fried "long life" noodles) and king prawns. Try my delicious prawn recipe. It has honey mandarin oranges and walnuts.

#### How do you celebrate Chinese New Year?

It's a time of renewal, so I always start the day by putting on new clothes. I also cook all my favourite festive dishes.

### What are some of your favourite cooking appliances for Chinese New Year?

I love Tefal products, like the non-stick Ultimate Wok, which is perfect for cooking Chinese dishes, and the Home Chef Smart Pro IH Multicooker, which is a great time-saver. And of course, I must have a good rice cooker.





#### Fragrant Tiger Prawns with Honey Mandarin Oranges

Serves 8-10

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1kg Fresh tiger king prawns, shellon, trimmed, and lightly dusted with cornflour
- ■100g Walnuts, roasted
- Small honey mandarin oranges, peeled and segmented
- Cooking oil for deep-frying

#### **VEGETABLES**

- Yellow bell pepper, roughly cut
- 40g Celery, cut into 3cm pieces
- 60g Red onion, roughly cut
- •30g Carrot, sliced
- 15g Ginger, sliced
- •10g Garlic, sliced

#### SAUCE

- •20g HP sauce
- 20g Oyster sauce
- •20g Light soy sauce
- ■15g Sesame oil
- •30g Sunquick concentrated orange juice
- •1 Chilli padi, mashed
- •30g Plum sauce
- •30g Tomato ketchup
- ■100ml Water



#### **METHOD**

- 1 In a wok, heat the oil over high heat and flash-fry the prawns. Remove the prawns and set aside. Strain the oil.
- 2 Using the same wok, fry the vegetables in a small amount of oil until fragrant. Remove from the wok and set aside.
- 3 Add the sauce ingredients to the wok and bring to a boil.
  Add the prawns and braise until the sauce has thickened and the prawns are nicely glazed. Add the cooked vegetables, walnuts and orange segments. Toss well and serve.

## Your cooking companions

Preparing a family feast has never been easier with these Tefal kitchen appliances.

reate a variety of dishes your family will love with help from two kitchen counterfriendly appliances from Tefal.

#### **ENDLESS MEAL OPTIONS**

The 3-in-one Easy Fry Grill & Steam FW2018 combines an air-fryer, grill and steamer in one convenient appliance. In air-fryer mode, it creates golden fried treats that require little to no oil. In steam mode, foods like fish and veggies stay succulent with all their nutrients intact. Or use the grill mode to prepare juicy, tender meats.

To save time, choose from seven automated programmes like Desserts and Nuggets. No preheating is necessary. Includes a digital recipe book with up to 30 chef-created recipes.

#### FOR TASTY, FLUFFY RICE

Cook all types of rice, from brown and white to glutinous and basmati, as well as congee and even desserts. Delirice Plus Rice Cooker RK776B makes the job hassle-free every time, thanks to the combination of Tefal's thickest spherical pot and AI Smart cooking technology. The removable pot is durable and easy to clean – thanks to its anti-scratch ceramic coating.

The 12H Keep Warm function keeps the pot warm for up to 12 hours so you can enjoy rice anytime.



Tefal Easy Fry Grill & Steam FW2018



Tefal Delirice Plus Rice Cooker RK776B

FW2018



Scan here to find out more

RK776B



Scan here to find out more

# 60cm Induction Hob SCHOTT With 2 Flexi Zones

### In the zone

F's latest 60cm Induction Hob constitutes 4 Induction or 2 Flexi Zones. Enjoy flexibility by combining two cooking zones to fit larger cookware or for teppanyaki. The hob features German Schott Ceran® Glass with Fine Print finishing, along with a scratch-resistant surface. A flexible power management system allows the hob to adapt to 13/16/25/32amp power.



can here to find





Whether you are decorating from scratch or simply want to refresh your space, let these expert ideas be your guide.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales
PHOTOS Design Identity

hen it comes to choosing an interior style there's always a lot to consider, from how much money you're willing to spend to the colours and materials to go with.

Planning the space and deciding on a look or theme are good places to start. From there, it's about adding your personal touches, finding ways to stretch your budget, and taking the chance to try something bold (or not). We asked Jason Pan, Senior Creative Lead at local interior design firm Design Identity (www.designidentity.com.sg), for tips to help bring an interior project to life.

### Find your unique decorating style

Home decorating is just like dressing up. Everyone has their own idea of what's stylish and visually appealing, so be true to your individual preferences and don't feel like you have to follow the trend. To determine your style and get ideas on what would work in your space, Jason suggests looking through magazines and websites, like Pinterest. If you see something you like, think about ways to make it your own.



# Use visual tools to guide your decorating journey

Get vour imagination going with a mood or vision board. Collect images of furniture, accessories and other items that inspire you, and arrange them on a large board so that you have a clearer idea of the vibe vou're after (vou can also use a mood board app). Jason says that a vision board helps you see if the colours and styles work. It will also quide you when you renovate or go shopping for furniture.

### Put samples and swatches to good use

Whether they're fabric, wallpaper, flooring or paint, samples and swatches can help you make better decisions when it comes to renovating and decorating.

"You still need that 'touch and feel' element," says Jason. "Playing around with swatches and samples also helps you see what a certain colour or material looks like, in person, in natural light and at different angles, as opposed to just viewing the product online. Plus, you can mix and match before settling on a final combination."







#### Do and spend less, get more

If you want an upscale look without having to spend too much money, Jason says to choose your materials wisely.

"Marble and gold convey that luxe vibe, and yes, they're expensive, but if you go with marble lookalike tiles or gold strips, for instance, you won't break the bank."

Other ways to make your home look sophisticated: Accents, in the form of an accent wall, embossed wallpaper and statement lighting and accessories.

"Accents are like art; there's no right way to incorporate them. My advice is to pick what you love and make it a feature in a specific area of your home," Jason points out.

### JUST FOR YOU

# 5

#### Think twice before committing to a trend

Want to try something bold, gimmicky or unusual, like an animal-print theme, two-tone walls or gold everything?

Jason encourages you to go wild (it's your house, after all). But he suggests asking yourself if you can live with that style for as long as you'll be living in your home. If not, it's best to choose a design that's classic and timeless, so you don't have any big regrets down the road.



# 7

### Don't be afraid of the dark

Dark colours can sometimes make a home look small and gloomy, but that doesn't mean you should avoid them. Go ahead and paint your walls black, chocolate brown or navy blue. To offset these sombre tones, Jason says to purchase accessories in softer, lighter or contrasting shades. Your dark walls will stand out, but they won't make the space look smaller.



#### Avoid costly decorating and renovation mistakes

Plan your space wisely, Jason advises.

"It would be costly if you had to redo your renovation. Many people only think about style, design, colours and so on, but they don't realise that the single most important aspect of designing is actually space planning. Some questions to ask yourself: Will I be able to open my fridge door fully? Will the top cabinet drawer only open a little because the hood is in the way? You don't want to have to fork out extra money because you failed to plan the space properly."



# 8

#### Build hidden storage zones

Can't fit another cupboard or cabinet in your small home? Get a good carpenter to design custom-made pieces with built-in storage, Jason suggests. Think a simple bench or platform bed with tons of storage space underneath.



1 Tested by CHEARI, based on GB 21551.5-2010. Removes up to 99.99% Escherichia coli,

Staphylococcus aureus, Dust mite with Mixed program add on Hybrid Steam option.





### Breakthrough technology Hybrid Steam OxyCare for hygienic clean laundry

hirlpool introduces its NEW Washing Machine – Supreme OxyCare 10.5kg Washer (FWMD10502GM). It harnesses the power of breakthrough technology Hybrid Steam OxyCare to thoroughly clean and disinfect your everyday laundry using the natural power of steam and oxygen without the use of chemicals.

#### **BACTERIA-BUSTING TECHNOLOGY**

The Supreme OxyCare washer offers an enhanced hygienic experience with over 20 different sterilisation combinations, eliminates up to 99.99% of bacteria and allergens without the use of chemicals. With our unique Air Refresh program and OxyCare option, it disinfects your personal belongings such as bags or wallets without using steam, water, and tumbling.

#### **QUIET PERFORMER**

Keep noise at bay with the ZEN Direct Drive Inverter, a high-performance, big-capacity, direct drive motor that rotates the drum directly to reduce unnecessary machine vibrations, so you can run the washing machine in Silent



Washing at any time without any noise disturbance. With Whirlpool's 6th Sense intuitive technology that uses intelligent sensors to ensure a more precise set of drum movements during operations, it delivers quiet yet outstanding performance.



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### JUST FOR YOU



s a family-oriented company that has been in the home appliance market for some 41 years, Gain City recognises that we owe much of our success to the Singapore community.

Paying it forward has always been part of our CSR philosophy, and this we have done through signature charity events like "Home Improvement" - working with partners and employees to fit out and refurbish the homes of old

folks under the North-West CDC.

In addition, for the last six years, we have been raising funds to acquire vans for charity organisations. The specially fitted vans – complete with automatic wheelchair lifters – have provided essential transport for these organisations in moving their clients to and from hospitals or rehabilitation centres.

Organisations that have benefitted over

the years include Loving Heart Multi-Service Centre, Blue Cross Thong Kheng Home, St. Luke's ElderCare, Handicaps Welfare Association, Sian Chay Medical Institution and Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital.

This year's beneficiary is Cheng Hong Welfare Service Society, which will be receiving its signature bright yellow van from Gain City.

As a corporate

citizen, Gain City is passionate about giving back to the community, and we hope that by doing so we will motivate other organisations and Singaporeans in general to reach out and bring hope to the less privileged.



# Dishwashers with a difference

These latest Samsung offerings do a whole lot more than just clean your dishes.



Smart Freestanding Dishwasher DW60A8050FB/SP



Freestanding Dishwasher DW60A6092FS/SP

eave the tedious task of dishwashing to Samsung, whose newly launched Freestanding Dishwashers ensure a hygienic, convenient and efficient clean every time.

#### **HYGIENICALLY CLEAN DISHES**

With Hygiene Care, you can count on extended hygienic rinsing that eliminates 99.999% of bacteria¹ with 70°C-temperature water, ensuring that the dishes are clean and safe for your family's use.

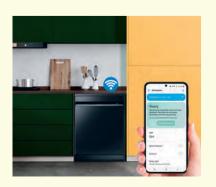
#### **DESIGNED FOR AN EFFICIENT CLEAN**

With the Auto Open feature, the door automatically opens 10cm at the end of the washing cycle, allowing steam to escape for better drying results.

Need to wash dishes in a hurry? The Speed Booster function<sup>2</sup> completes the process much faster, no matter the cycle type or load size.

#### **DISHWASHING WITH LESS EFFORT**

The interior of the Dishwashers has



also been specially designed to help users better manage their dishwashing load, making it less of a chore. Auto Adjust lets you quickly move the upper rack up or down to fit bulky and tall dishes; a Convertible Metal 3rd Rack allows for extra space to load all kinds of kitchenware and cutlery; Soft Railing helps you to slide the racks in and out smoothly; while Flex Load comes with 3 adjustable settings and folding tines to fit different tableware and cookware.

#### WATER-SAVING FEATURE

The Samsung Dishwasher not only thoroughly cleans, it also saves water and costs in the long run as it is able to run smaller loads<sup>3</sup>, and

is also certified as 3 Ticks under the Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS).

#### A SMARTER WAY TO CLEAN

The SmartThings App<sup>4</sup> allows the user to remotely start the cleaning cycle and monitor the status using their smartphone. Users can also personalise their cleaning experience thanks to four additional specialist programs: Extra Silence, Pots and Pans, Plastic Kitchenware and Baby Care. These options allow users to optimise their dishwasher to suit their various cleaning loads.

With the new Samsung Dishwasher, you can spend less time doing mundane chores, and more time doing the things you love with the family.

1 Based on testing by Intertek: removes 99.999% of certain bacteria. 2 Feature only applicable to the Smart Dishwasher, DW60A8050FB/SP. 3 Applicable for the Half Load function. 4 Requires installation of SmartThings App on compatible



Scan here to find

DW6046092FS/SF



Android or iOS device, with Android 6.0 and higher or iOS 10.0 and higher, and Wi-Fi connectivity to the mobile device.

A Wi-Fi connection and a Samsung account are required.

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NK HAIRWORKS 20% off hair services.

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