



# FENG SHUI CHEAT SHEET

**B**etter Homes and Gardens® Real Estate, in conjunction with the Asian American Real Estate Association of America (AREAA), conducted a study of Chinese-Americans to see how much the practice of feng shui factors into their daily lives and inspires their home buying decisions. The survey found that Chinese-Americans would pay 16% more for a home that follows feng shui principles over one that does not. While the entire home should be considered, feng shui is especially important in the “health trinity”—the kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms. Though not all houses will follow every feng shui principle, sellers should be aware of the key elements many Chinese-American buyers will look for when viewing a potential new home.

**87%** of Chinese-Americans cite at least one essential feng shui element as a “must” in the kitchen:

- Organized and free of clutter (**64%**)
- Colors complement each other (**32%**)
- Stove is not located directly below the master bedroom (**29%**)

**72%** of Chinese-Americans cite at least one essential feng shui element as a “must” for the bedroom:

- The bed does not directly face the door (**41%**)
- Mirrors are placed away from the bed (**34%**)
- Ceiling has a consistent height with no slopes (**25%**)

**62%** of Chinese-Americans cite at least one feng shui element as a “must” for the bathroom:

- Bathroom is located away from the home’s center (**28%**)
- Toilet is in a separate space within the bathroom (**24%**)
- The room features a full-length mirror (**23%**)

Energy flow throughout the home, or “qi flow,” is the guiding principle on which all feng shui concepts are based. See how easily energy flows through your home and, when it doesn't, apply some quick feng shui fixes!

## FIND A HOME'S 'Qi' IQ

- Home is located on a dead-end street
- Home address includes the number 4
- Home does not have a square or rectangular floor plan
- There are slopes or beams in the ceiling of the home
- Home's stairs directly face the front door
- Front and back doors are directly in line with each other
- Bathroom is located in the center of the home
- There are skylights directly over cooking or sleeping areas
- Kitchen is located in the center of the home

If you checked three or more of the above features, the home may **not** be inherently suited for a feng shui-minded buyer. But don't fret—there are lots of ways you can counter some of these characteristics by changing other features within the home.

### Try as many of these quick feng shui fixes as possible when staging a home:

- Clean the outside of the front door, doorknob, buzzer and doormat
- Add a water element, such as a fountain, to the entryway or foyer
- Remove any personal items and photographs from the home
- De-clutter all spaces, especially kitchen and countertops
- Place any small kitchen appliances in cabinets, away from viewing
- Balance the five elements—fire, water, wood, metal, earth
- Use complementary colors in the kitchen—fire colors inspire creativity
- Place a full length mirror in the bathroom
- Use a dark-colored floor mat around the toilet to ground the strong water elements
- Move the bed away from the wall so it's accessible from all sides
- Remove all things stored underneath the bed
- Hide all electronics in the bedroom—if there is a TV, make sure it's behind a screen or cabinet for viewings
- Balance sharp edges on bedroom furniture with live plants