

Feng Shui

by Master Jodi Brunner

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In traditional Feng Shui, the fate and fortune of a house is calculated by observing the natural environment and using special mathematical formulas. The ideal Feng Shui draws beneficial qi (energy, life force) into your environment for your benefit.

Over the centuries popular myths have emerged, as not everyone can benefit from the advice of a competent Feng Shui practitioner. These sayings became popular as a way of giving general advice to people.

The fact that Feng Shui changes from place to place and from time to time means that these sayings are not always true in every situation.

In many cases they may be true; in other cases they're definitely not!

Feng Shui taboos originate from common sense principles. If something doesn't make sense to you, then it's probably a fallacy.

Beauty is the key. If your environment is beautiful, then you have the makings of happiness, harmony and good Feng Shui.



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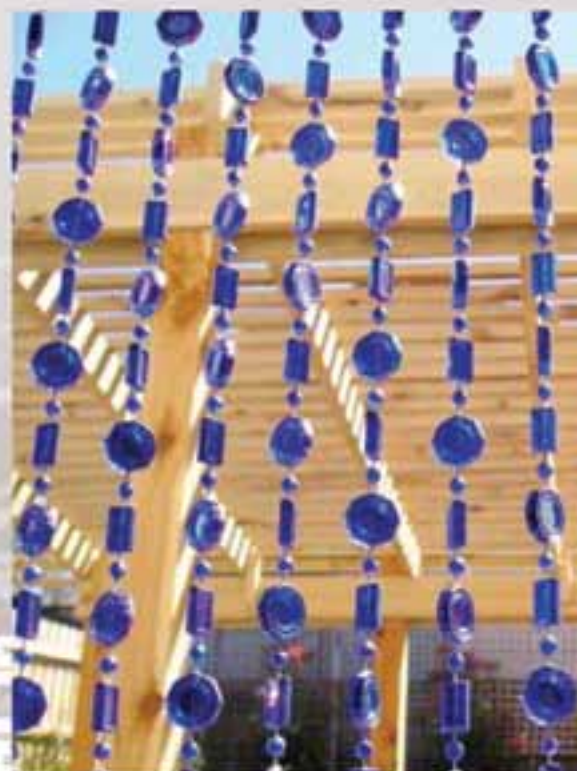
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"It's bad luck to have the front door lined up with the back door."

If the front and back doors are linked by a long, straight corridor then it's not bad luck, it's just not a good design.

There are a number of cures:

1. Don't open both doors at the same time for extended periods time (a couple of days is okay).
2. Place objects or furniture along the corridor between the two doors to re-direct the 'wind'.
3. Hang a beaded curtain or lights along the corridor to slow down the 'wind'.



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2 "The foot of the bed should not face the door in the 'coffin position'."

The 'coffin position' is a superstitious term which is said to be bad. It's not the real reason why your feet shouldn't point out the bedroom door.

From a common sense viewpoint it's not relaxing to see the door directly in front of the bed. The ideal position is diagonally opposite the door.

Hanging a crystal at the foot of the bed will not fix the problem. The best cure is to move the bed, or place a large piece of furniture at the foot of the bed.

Think about how you sleep, if you sleep well, why fix something that's not broken?



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"A Fish tank will bring wealth."

"Place a water fountain in the North for prosperity."

Yes, it's true; a well-placed fish tank or water feature can encourage wealth to be more active and abundant.

However, if moving water is placed in the wrong area, it can activate other types of energies such as extramarital affairs, sickness, accidents and mishaps.

In fact water anywhere inside or outside is important as it comprises half of the words 'Feng Shui' (wind water).

So check where the water is outside and when you place water, be mindful, watch out and see how life progresses.



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"Mirrors should not be placed in the entrance hall, they reflect the good qi away."

Mirrors do not draw bad energy into the house, they only reflect what's out-side into the house. If the environment is beautiful, then beauty is drawn into the house.

In traditional Feng Shui the type of energy that's drawn into a house depends on the calculated Feng Shui formula. That's why it's commonly said, 'don't hang a mirror in your entrance hall,' because without knowing the chart for your house, it's hard to know what type of fortune you have coming through the door.

If it's good fortune coming in then the mirror is fine. If it's bad fortune, the mirror will amplify it. This applies to placement of mirrors in any area.



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"Keep the toilet lid down and the door closed to prevent wealth flowing away."

This is partially true. Your 'wealth' area is not always located in the same place as your toilet. In fact, it's not good Feng Shui if your toilet is in your 'wealth' area, for obvious reasons.

The toilet should be in an area of negative qi according to the Feng Shui of your particular premises. Then you can flush away all you like!

If it happens that the toilet is in your 'wealth' area, then it's advisable to flush with the lid down; but don't close the door or you'll prevent the wealth qi escaping into other areas.

Also, keeping the lid down controls airborne bacteria from your toilet. That's just good common sense.



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6 "Stairs should not face the door, all your good luck will run away and poison arrows will stab you when you enter."

The entrance is a yang area where the qi accumulates. If it's bright and open, that's ideal. If it's small and cramped the qi is not going to distribute throughout the house easily.

Ideally, a front entrance should admit the best kind of qi. Therefore a staircase very close to the front door will block the qi from coming in.

Some say that the stairs themselves emit poison arrows that shoot at you when you enter. This is Feng Shui nonsense. Do not imagine that your world is filled with bad energy or it will manifest into reality.



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"Bonsai plants are bad Feng Shui because their growth is stunted."

This is nonsense.

The Chinese invented the process of creating miniature plants, known as Penjing.

As Feng Shui was also invented in China, would the Chinese invent something that wasn't good Feng Shui?

All living creatures and plants are beautiful and encourage good Feng Shui.



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"A cactus plant is bad Feng Shui, its spiky leaves will cause secret arrows to harm you and cause arguments."

This is also nonsense.

The worst thing about cactus is they sting when they prick you.

The best thing about cactus is they generate negative ions and fresh air in your home or work environment.

When you imagine that secret arrows will harm you, this creates a negative feeling generated from your own mind.



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"A Ba Gua mirror will protect the house from evil spirits."

It is not always true that a mirror can 'protect' your home from, for example, being burgled, bad neighbours or from a straight road pointing to your house.

These mirrors represent perfect harmony in the universe.

Depicted on a Ba Gua mirror are the Trigrams; three-lined figures which are a major component of Feng Shui. There are two sequences of Trigrams; in the Ba Gua mirror sequence the Trigrams form a yin and yang relationship, signifying perfect harmony.

It's always wise to have the house checked if you feel there's negative energy. In the meantime a Ba Gua mirror may be used for protection and harmony.



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"It's bad luck to have a straight path to the front door."

This is usually true so it may or may not be a fallacy.

In certain cases directing the qi in a straight path towards the front door will bring great wealth. This all depends on the calculated Feng Shui formula for your premises.

For other types of qi, if a straight path hits the door, it can bring bad luck and misfortune either according to your Feng Shui chart, or according to annual Feng Shui influences.



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"Do not sit with a bookshelf behind you, the 'poison arrows' will stab you in the back."

"Protruding corners create poison arrows."

Sitting with your back to a bookshelf keeps you closer to knowledge.

Do not imagine that every 90 degree angle is bad energy or you will surround yourself with bad energy emanating from your mind!

If this were true, we would find 'poison arrows' everywhere. Supposedly, 'poison arrows' emanate from the corner of a desk, bookshelf, chair, cupboard, or any other angle. If we believe this we will become very paranoid.

These sayings come from the principle that a large, pointed object in the landscape may cause bad Feng Shui. True, depending on where and how large the object is. Inside a building is a negligible impact from small objects, walls and furniture.

