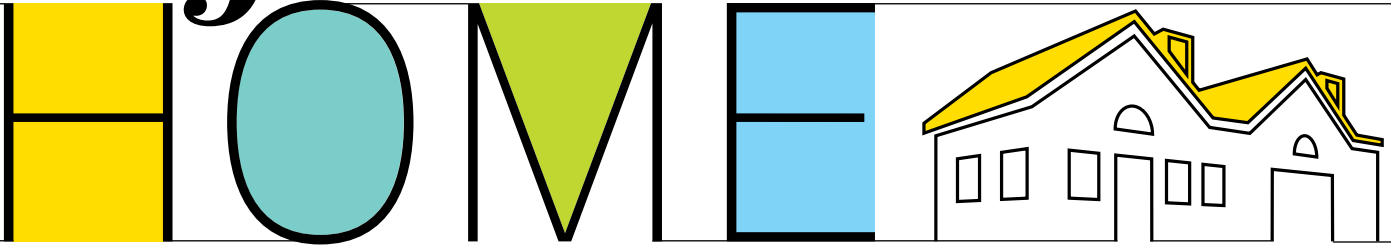


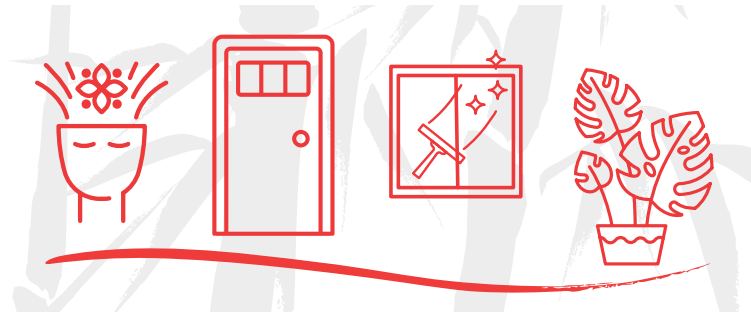
your



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

Creating Good Feng Shui

Feng shui is the practice of creating balance with the natural world by arranging the objects and furnishings in a living space. The words “feng” and “shui” are Chinese and translate to “wind” and “water,” respectively. It’s a philosophy that emerged from an ancient poem that reflects upon the way in which human life is connected and flows with the environment around it. Creating good feng shui in your home will give you more control over the energy that you welcome into your life.



- ▶ **Make more space** — Creating feng shui isn’t just about eliminating clutter. It’s more about letting go of what’s no longer necessary. Once you do that, you will have more room available to welcome what’s beneficial into your life as it comes.
- ▶ **Commanding position** — This is one of the most important principles of feng shui. It’s essential that your bed, desk and stove are in the commanding position, as they represent your life, career and wealth, respectively. These objects should always be facing the entry door, as doors are portals of which energy comes into your life.
- ▶ **Clean and open the windows** — The windows of your home represent the eyes of the adults and voices of the children who live there. Make sure that your windows are cleaned regularly, as that will ensure as much sunlight is let in as possible.
- ▶ **Add plants to your space** — Welcoming more plants into your living space will improve your overall life energy. Plants attract good luck and bring prosperity into your home. Some plants that promote good feng shui are money trees, rubber plants, snake plants, ficuses and hedgehog aloe.

Styles of Countertops

Are your countertops starting to show wear and tear? Maybe they’ve suffered some structural damage. Or maybe there are stubborn stains you’re tired of seeing. Whatever the reason, replacing your countertops is a great way to give your kitchen new life. Here are some countertop styles to consider.



WOOD

Butcher block countertops can often be purchased locally and won’t break the bank. To keep them in the best condition, you will have to seal them regularly—otherwise moisture will cause damage. When sealing your wood countertops, be sure to use mineral oil, butcher block wax, polyurethane or a food-safe penetrating sealer.



QUARTZ

If you’re looking for something beautiful and low maintenance, a quartz countertop may be the best option for you. They are stain-resistant, easy to clean and very durable. Because they have a nonporous surface, they don’t require sealing like some other natural stones.



GRANITE

Granite countertops are a popular choice because they’re eye-catching, affordable and last nearly forever. With the appropriate sealing, they will be moisture-, heat- and stain-resistant.



ONYX

If you’re looking for something that will brighten up your space, you may want to consider investing in onyx countertops. They come in light, pastel color options and can have a variety of patterns. Each onyx countertop is unique, and they have a lifespan of up to 100 years. They can also be cleaned with just soap and warm water, as opposed to other natural stones that require specific kinds of cleaners that can be expensive.

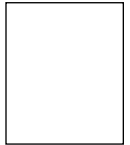


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DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING A HOME? PLEASE MENTION MY NAME.

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Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

Living Room Lighting

Your living room is one area in your home where you spend a lot of time hosting and relaxing with your family and friends. You want this space to be welcoming and cozy. Lighting can help you create the right ambiance for you and your guests. You can incorporate one or a combination of these great lighting styles.



1. Colorful lights

Many people choose to put colored lights behind their mounted TV or around their entertainment centers.

2. Candlelight

Make your living room a relaxing place where you can go to improve your mood by adding some candles. You can

mix assorted styles and scents to add some warmth to the room.

3. Fireplace

A fireplace can be a living room's centerpiece, providing a gorgeous light source and warmth to the space.

4. Recessed lighting

With recessed lighting,

you'll be able to illuminate every bit of the room, as this provides more coverage area. If you don't want to include it for the whole room, you could use recessed lighting just to brighten up a corner or to highlight artwork.

5. Sculptural lighting

Using a lamp that looks

like a sculpture is an easy way to kill two birds with one stone. You'll get a beautiful statement piece that completes the room while providing great lighting for your space.

6. Wall lights

There are an endless amount of wall lights to choose from for your

home. They're durable, long-lasting and usually easy to install.

7. Oversized lamps

An oversized floor or table lamp can be a bold and exciting way to introduce more light into a space. You can play with different lamp shapes, sizes, colors and materials.

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