

FENG SHUI

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Important position OF STOVES AND KITCHENS



The kitchen and the stove both suppress and activate the qi of a home

FROM the questions posed to us, I believe most people now understand the importance of the direction of the main door, but not that of the position of the kitchen and the direction of the stove. According to classical feng shui, the kitchen is one of the most important spaces in the home because it symbolises the prosperity and even health of the family. In fact, the position of the kitchen and direction of the stove is the second most important aspect of a home, after that of the main door.

In this part of the world, the kitchen has traditionally been placed at the rear portion of the house. It is only in modern architecture that we now have kitchens positioned at either the front or side of a home.

Why it is important

Why is the positioning of kitchen and stove important? There are two reasons: We take our sustenance from food cooked in our kitchen and, secondly, the fire of the stove can burn away our auspicious qi (energy).

Don't people always say that home-cooked food is always better? When we cook, we need fire. Fire is one of the purest and strongest of the five elements (the other four are Metal, Wood, Water and Earth). Fire can burn everything when given the chance. Imagine a kitchen where the qi of the house is the most auspicious — all the auspicious qi will simply be burnt away! Therefore, the kitchen and “fire” of the stove are generally “used” to suppress the inauspicious qi.

How do we do this? To reiterate, feng shui is about location and direction. The location of

Birth years and their corresponding gua numbers

Year	Male	Female	Year	Male	Female	Year	Male	Female
1900	1	8	1935	2	4	1970	3	3
1901	9	6	1936	1	8	1971	2	4
1902	8	7	1937	9	6	1972	1	8
1903	7	8	1938	8	7	1973	9	6
1904	6	9	1939	7	8	1974	8	7
1905	2	1	1940	6	9	1975	7	8
1906	4	2	1941	2	1	1976	6	9
1907	3	3	1942	4	2	1977	2	1
1908	2	4	1943	3	3	1978	4	2
1909	1	8	1944	2	4	1979	3	3
1910	9	6	1945	1	8	1980	2	4
1911	8	7	1946	9	6	1981	1	8
1912	7	8	1947	8	7	1982	9	6
1913	6	9	1948	7	8	1983	8	7
1914	2	1	1949	6	9	1984	7	8
1915	4	2	1950	2	1	1985	6	9
1916	3	3	1951	4	2	1986	2	1
1917	2	4	1952	3	3	1987	4	2
1918	1	8	1953	2	4	1988	3	3
1919	9	6	1954	1	8	1989	2	4
1920	8	7	1955	9	6	1990	1	8
1921	7	8	1956	8	7	1991	9	6
1922	6	9	1957	7	8	1992	8	7
1923	2	1	1958	6	9	1993	7	8
1924	4	2	1959	2	1	1994	6	9
1925	3	3	1960	4	2	1995	2	1
1926	2	4	1961	3	3	1996	4	2
1927	1	8	1962	2	4	1997	3	3
1928	9	6	1963	1	8	1998	2	4
1929	8	7	1964	9	6	1999	1	8
1930	7	8	1965	8	7	2000	9	6
1931	6	9	1966	7	8	2001	8	7
1932	2	1	1967	6	9	2002	7	8
1933	4	2	1968	2	1	2003	6	9
1934	3	3	1969	4	2	2004	2	1

the kitchen is clear enough. The direction then applies to the kitchen door and the stove.

Activating factors

The kitchen and stove are unique in that they

Gua numbers and their corresponding auspicious directions in 2005

Gua	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9
	坎	坤	震	巽	乾	兌	艮	離
BEST	S	W	SE	S	SW	NE	W	N
	SE	NE	N	E	NE	SW	SW	SE
	E	NW	S	N	W	NW	NW	E
	N	SW	E	SE	NW	W	NE	S
	W	E	SW	SW	SE	N	S	NE
	NE	SE	NW	NW	E	S	N	W
	NW	S	NE	W	N	SE	E	SW
WORST	SW	N	W	NE	S	E	SE	NW

play the dual roles of suppressing and activating the qi of a house. While we want to suppress inauspicious qi, we want to activate auspicious qi at the same time.

To elaborate, we want to receive good qi in the kitchen, but the kitchen should be suppressing an inauspicious sector of the house. To achieve this, the kitchen door must face an auspicious direction. The direction of the stove is also used to collect auspicious qi. What is the direction of the stove, you may ask. The direction is deemed to be the controls of the stove or, as a literal translation of ancient Chinese language, the fire mouth, which is where the flame of the stove is controlled.

Auspicious or otherwise

How do we know our auspicious and inauspicious directions and locations? It is actually quite simple. Based on a person's Life Gua, we have four auspicious directions and four inauspicious directions. For example, a person who is a Kan Gua (No 1 Gua) should ideally locate the kitchen in the SW and the stove controls should point to the SE.

Also, watch out for the directions that should be avoided each year. You will need to be careful when shifting a stove which, in feng shui, is considered a major project. An alternative to moving the stove would be to use a portable stove for that year.

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