

# Feng Shui and the Decluttered Home

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*Keeping homes, especially the master bedroom, clutter-free can enhance Qi, or the flow of good energy.*

*Photos provided*

There is no better time to say adios, au revoir, and goodbye to stagnant unhealthy clutter that makes us feel stuck and otherwise overwhelmed than at the start of a new year.

Don't we all accumulate and attach ourselves to too much "stuff" and then our "stuff" makes us feel weighed down? Visualize your home with a declutter facelift – tidy, relieved of the burden of too much stuff crammed in too little a space. If you clench your fist tightly around something your hand remains un-open and unable to receive any additional gifts. When you let go of the unnecessary and unwanted, you make more room for the blessings you are meant to receive.

Feng shui addresses a person's life holistically; dieting, exercising, meditating, attending workshops, and pursuing work you love are only part of the picture for a healthy and prosperous life. The homes and offices we spend our lives in have as much to do with our

path for health, prosperity, wellness, and resilience as anything else, and if they are clogged with clutter we are undermining our wishes for sustainable health.

In feng shui we call clutter "sha" Qi or "killing" Qi and the reason why is that clutter is devoid of life and represents dead energy. Since feng shui is based on the ancient Chinese philosophy of the Tao (pronounced Dao) which, since ancient times, has asserted that we are connected to our environment and our environment is connected to us, it stands to reason that the energy of our spaces have an influence on our health and, subsequently, many areas of our lives.

Clutter is unhealthy on many levels: First, it creates real chaos, especially when we cannot find what we need or what we are looking for; second, it is not cost effective to continually accumulate "stuff" we already have and do not need more of; and third, clutter is not sustainable, and since we cannot live in ever

smaller areas when clutter takes over, we need to make the choice to pare it down to a manageable level.

Clutter can snowball and overwhelm our spaces and lives, and create that depressing stuck Qi that holds us back from experiencing the ideal shifts in our destiny.

Where to start the decluttering process? The garage.

1. Schedule a pick up day with the Salvation Army or other nonprofit. Try to pick a bright sunny day to start, firmly schedule two to four hours to begin, get a good night's sleep, make sure you have your tools ready to go (e.g. large black garbage bags, storage bins, non-toxic cleanser and cloths).
2. Begin in the garage to create the extra storage for some of the household items you may store later.
3. Begin with a mental intention to work happily. Change your perspective from the "drudgery of cleaning" to the act of "space clearing" – use orange cleanser for abundance. Be mindful that you are getting rid of what's weighing you down and holding you back, and are making room for new opportunities, new growth, and a fresh start. Feel the shift.
4. Try your best to get to the bottom of boxes and to the back of shelves. Pull everything out so you can really eyeball what you have since you may have forgotten all that's there.
5. Organize multiples of items together or donate them.
6. Make one pile for donations, one pile for storage and a third pile for garbage. Complete the process by tying up the bags, placing them immediately on the curb for garbage or donation pick up, or in your car for donation drop off or for your storage unit, and acknowledge and admire your organized space.

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