

House Move-in Ritual

1. An auspicious date and time is chosen. If the auspicious timing is not practical; for e.g. auspicious time is like 2am or 3am, then select either 8.38am or 8.39am or 9.38am or 9.39am. (As these are considered generally as nice Chinese sounding timing).

2. On the auspicious day, these are some of the common Chinese practices:

2.1 After opening the main door. Say "Ping Ann Fa Chai !"; then throw in a pineapple.

2.2 Proceed to turn on all lights in the home. If you choose to turn on the air-conditioner; then leave the windows closed. If you are not turning the air-conditioner then; open all windows in the home.

2.3 For those who intend to bring in a god or goddess figurine &/or ancestor tablet; when you are outside your home; at the main entrance, utter the words "Welcome to your new home! At number ____ name of road or Block __ Apartment # _____. Wishing you can bring us Health. Wealth and Happiness!"

2.4 Next bring into the living room; a packet of SALT, RICE, SUGAR, A BOTTLE OF COOKING OIL & A BOTTLE OF VINEGAR. (Later, all these items can be kept within the kitchen area or kitchen cabinet/store-room.) All the items can be consumed at a later date.

2.5 Boil water either in an electric or on a gas flame kettle. Later, after the water is lukewarm, get all family members to drink it. Optional light-up of a charcoal stove as an alternative to boiling water at the kitchen stove.

Optional CHARCOAL STOVE:-

- A red charcoal stove (Optional)
- A charcoal (representing gold) wrapped in Red paper. One can bring this in and need not light it up. But if one wants to light up, then do it before the auspicious time. And bring in the red charcoal stove into the house. In this option, the stove has to be kept permanently in the house e.g. kitchen cabinet and must not throw it away.(Optional)

An alternative is to light up the charcoal red-hot and when it is time, transfer the charcoal from the outside of the house to the kitchen stove-top.

- A `huat' quay or self-raising cake (symbolic of a `raise') & or longevity bread (apricot bread). See picture 1: below.

RED PACKETS

Red Hong Bao packets are also placed e.g. on the kitchen stove and keep a Red Hong Bao in each bedroom's cupboard drawer. The money should be even numbers. For example, it can be 6 cents. For the Hokkien, 6 sounds like luck. For the Cantonese, they may use 8 cents for luck.

Picture 1: Showing some of the items on the day of symbolic move:-

- A red container with charcoal (representing gold)
- A packet of sweets
- A `self-raising' cake or `Huat Quay'
- A pineapple with it's flower intact
- A red packet on top of charcoal wrapped



in red paper on top of a red stove.