

# Red Envelope Tradition

The ritual of red envelopes is rooted in traditional Chinese folk custom and culture. The color red symbolizes good luck and power. The rectangular shape resembles that of ancient shields and symbolizes protection. On special occasions, such as weddings or the Chinese New Year, money is exchanged in this way. For example, if you attend a Chinese wedding, the couple's family will expect a generous donation presented in a red envelope. Sometimes they receive more than the celebration may cost!

When a feng shui expert imparts any sacred wisdom or mystical cures, one or more red "lucky money" envelopes must be presented to the expert. This red envelope ritual operates on a number of levels. Initially, it expresses respect and sincerity toward the expert. By going to the trouble of buying or making red envelopes – any unused red envelope will do – and presenting it to a known expert, you may open your mind to the possibility that the expert can help you. The red envelopes mystically protect the expert's energy from being hurt or weakened for revealing sacred knowledge. After the consultation is completed or information is exchanged, the expert takes the red envelopes home, and blesses them (via the Three Secrets Reinforcement) to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the information shared. This symbolically harnesses the wisdom of the ancients, empowering the specific information shared during the consultation.

As in life, the value you place on something is related to the value you actually receive. The number of red envelopes to be presented varies by the number and type of solutions. Multiples of nine are auspicious. You can place one or more dollars in each envelope and give 9, 18, 27 ... 108 envelopes (or any combination of 9). You can also place one or more coins in each envelope. Coins add weight, which is also auspicious. The intent with which the envelopes are given and the weight that the money represents, adds to the cure. A monetary offering according to your ability and feelings presented in red envelopes is appropriate and appreciated at the conclusion of each feng shui consultation or exchange of information.

According to tradition, the red envelopes:

1. Show the giver's sincere intention, appreciation and respect for the sacred knowledge shared.
2. Protect the teacher from any harm for revealing secret information.
3. Strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the information given.
4. Acknowledges the integrity of the working relationship.

Red envelopes can be purchased online (Amazon, luckycat.com and more) as well as at card stores, often at Staples, in any Chinatown, or you can make them out of red paper or paint/color a white envelope red. In a pinch, use a *new* black pen and write "RED ENVELOPE" on a white envelope.

**Thank you for honoring this ancient tradition.**