

Trends in Japan

Lifestyle

This section covers the latest developments in a wide variety of fields and products in which Japanese innovations often spread to other countries, such as health, leisure, and communication.

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Cutting-Edge Skills and Services at Japanese Hair Salons



Many hair salons in Japan offer customers tea and a choice of magazines to read while waiting during a haircut or perm. (C)KINGDOM, (C)Photo:Ono Nobuhiko

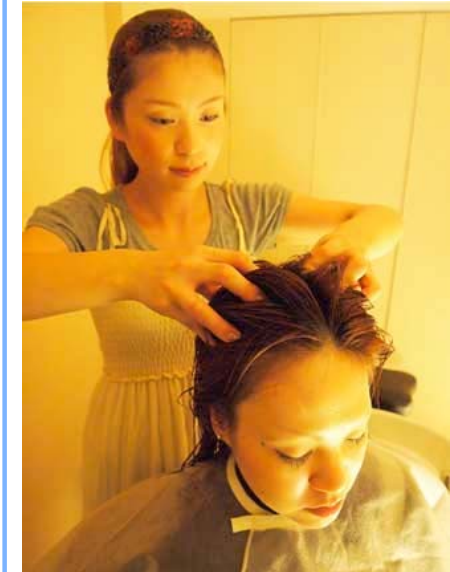


Japanese salons keep careful records of customers' hair types, preferred styles, perms, etc. (C)KINGDOM, (C)Photo:Ono Nobuhiko

Japanese hair salons today offer the most advanced techniques and the highest levels of service to be found anywhere in the world. Salons throughout Japan offer an unparalleled range of services that go far beyond a simple haircut. Hair salons epitomize the Japanese pursuit of comfort and beauty.



Applying steam through a cap placed on the head opens the pores and soothes the scalp, cleansing the skin and improving the health of the hair. (C)KINGDOM



Head spa treatments are popular for their rejuvenating health benefits. (C)KINGDOM

Japanese Bathrooms: Much More Than Just a Place to Get Clean



Many baths in Japan today are equipped with a function to automatically set the exact water level and temperature. (C) TOKYO GAS CO.,Ltd.

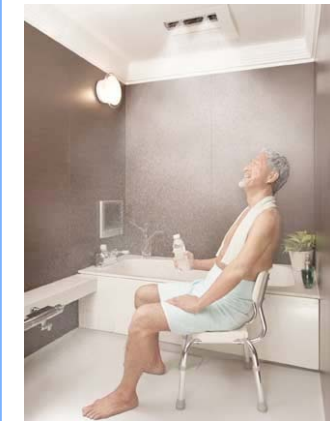


Japanese household bathrooms have separate areas for washing and soaking. (C) TOKYO GAS CO.,Ltd.

Bathing has always been an important part of Japanese culture. In recent years, high-tech innovations have turned the Japanese bathroom into a showcase for Japan's unparalleled levels of comfort and convenience.



Modern devices can heat the bathroom, keep it moisture-free, and dry laundry. (C) TOKYO GAS CO.,Ltd.



The popular mist-sauna function offers a range of health, beauty, and relaxation benefits. (C) TOKYO GAS CO.,Ltd.

Constantly Evolving Tools Driving Japanese Office Efficiency



Alisy: This hole-puncher uses a double lever and requires very little pressure. (Alisy is on the bottom half of the photo.)



Kirinuq: The springs inside the device maintain the pressure of the blade at a constant level, so that the blade cuts at a given thickness, regardless of how much pressure is applied. Ideal for cutting a single piece out from a newspaper or magazine. (Kirinuq is on the bottom half of the photo.)



Harinacs: This staple-less stapler works by clipping a small incision into a piece of paper and twisting to form a bond. The papers can later be easily separated again simply by pulling the pages apart.



Pencut: This nifty gadget looks more like a pen than a blade, and fits easily into a pencil case.

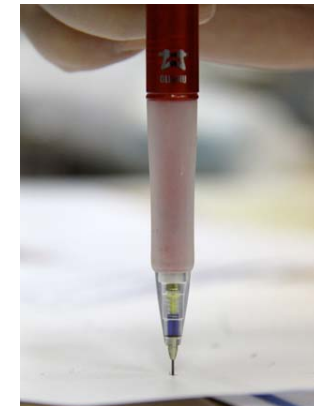


Milli Keshi: Different sized eraser edges make precise corrections easy.

Revolutionary new Japanese stationery appliances have dramatically boosted the efficiency of routine office tasks. New products embodying Japan's distinctive traditions of innovative craftsmanship have captured the imaginations of people around the world.



Friction: The revolutionary ballpoint pen uses a special ink that can be erased using the rubber provided.



OLEeNU: The leads in this mechanical pencil can withstand heavy writing pressure.

The Japanese Chairs With the Magic Touch

Relaxing in Style with Japanese Massage Chairs



The foot panels on this fashionable *Ken Okuyama* model can be folded away when not in use, allowing the chair to blend in with a household interior. (C) FUJIIRYOKI CO., LTD.



This Panasonic massage chair matches its living room setting perfectly. (C) Panasonic Corporation

"Massage chairs" providing soothing massages for tired muscles are now available in a new range of stylish, sophisticated hi-tech models suitable for use in the home.



A massage chair in action. (C) FUJIIRYOKI CO., LTD.



A high-specification massage chair. (C) FUJIIRYOKI CO., LTD.



The introduction of air bags allows more complex stretching and twisting operations to the repertoire, providing a much more thorough massage. (C) FUJIIRYOKI CO., LTD.