

The trend toward open layouts and 'great rooms' has driven the market for big ceiling fans. Pictured is the TwinStar II (\$1,200) by Gulf Coast Fans, which has two, adjustable motors.

COURTESY OF CASABLANCA FANS, GULF COAST FANS

# Move air fashionably

*Don't blow this chance to stay nice and cool*

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER  
The Washington Post

The mark of a quality ceiling fan is often in what you don't see — and don't hear.

It's all about the motor, said Louis Coffee, owner of the Dan's Fan City stores in Maryland. More expensive fans generally have bigger motors and can move more air without making a lot of noise.

Pricier fans also tend to come with longer warranties. The fans Coffee sells, for instance, come with either 50-year or lifetime warranties. Less expensive fans, such as those sold at Home Depot under the Hampton Bay brand, are guaranteed for 15 years.

You'll also want to look at blade length and pitch. Bigger rooms require bigger fans, which need bigger motors to turn them. To make sure you're buying the correct size for your needs, bring the measurements of your room to the showroom. Or if you're going the self-service route, check your room's dimensions against one of the many charts online. The federal government's Energy Star program offers one such guide (go to the Products page at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)).

The more steeply pitched the blades, the more air is moved, but again, a stronger motor is required. A typical blade pitch is 14 to 16 degrees. "Sixteen used to be the cat's meow," said Piers

Hackley, general manager of Fan Fair in Washington, but now many of the pricier fans go higher.

If the fan is for a porch, a bathroom or any other potentially wet or humid location, pick a fan that's rated for damp spaces. You may pay extra for this feature, but it's safer and makes it much less likely that you will have to replace warped blades within a year.

Any indoor fan should run both counterclockwise (to keep you cool in summer) and clockwise (to keep you warmer in winter, by pushing down the rising heat.)

Beyond that, price is driven largely by aesthetics and such conveniences as remote controls. Fans with blades made of solid wood or silk will generally cost more than those made of composites.

Here's a look at what you can get at four budget levels. Alas, none of the options is self-dusting.

### The bargain

At \$20, the flush-mount Littleton by Hampton Bay was the cheapest model on sale at the Home Depot store in Washington last week. It has a 42-inch blade span, runs on three speeds and can reverse direction for winter. No bells and whistles, but it will keep the air moving in a small room.

### The basics

For a simple pull-chain fan, consider the Paramount by Hunter for \$120 to \$130. Hackley said this is one of the most popular models his store stocks. The 54-inch Paramount comes with an Energy Star rat-

ing, which means it is more efficient than most fans its size. Blade pitch is set at 16 degrees. Three speeds.

### The upgrade

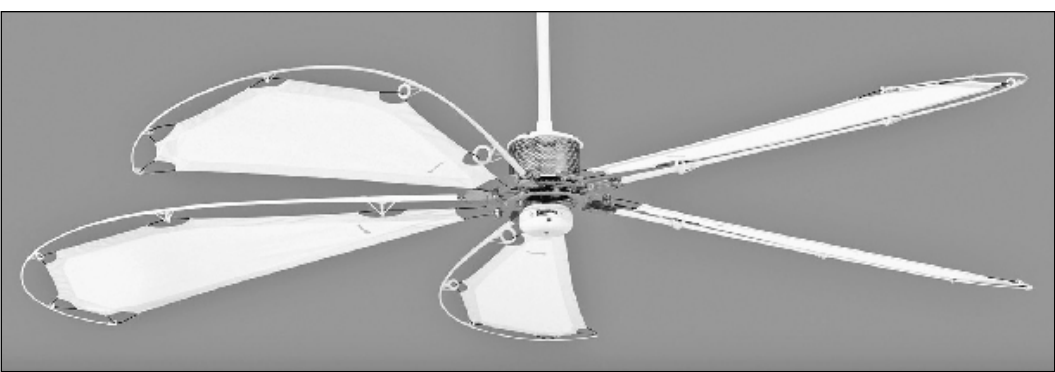
Casablanca's Panama is another popular fan with customers at Fan Fair. The first five-bladed ceiling fan, it has continued to be a favorite. Cost depends on the finishes and blades you choose, but you can expect to pay about \$350. For that, you get a 20-degree blade pitch and an Energy Star-rated motor. Available in 42- and 50-inch blade spans. Four speeds.

### The splurge

The trend toward open layouts and "great rooms" has driven the market for an entirely different kind of fan. To move air in a room that big, you need a big fan. And because they are often in expensive homes, the owners frequently want the fan to be a showpiece. Enter the Malibu Star by Casablanca. For \$1,800, you get an 84-inch blade span, a bicycle sprocket for a hub, and silk fabric blades tensioned by fiberglass fishing rods. Blade pitch is set at 15 degrees.

Another option for the great room is the TwinStar II made by Gulf Coast Fans. That \$1,200 model works on the premise that two fans are better than one. Its motors are even adjustable and can operate in three positions: 90 degrees vertically like two standard ceiling fans, 0 degrees horizontally in a straight line, or at a 45-degree angle. Blade pitch is set at 22 degrees.

The Malibu Star (\$1,800) by Casablanca has an 84-inch blade span and a bicycle sprocket for a hub.



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# Going for hard shell

*Designers dive into the sea to find inspiration*

By OLIVIA BARKER  
Gannett News Service

Just as the nautical look has seeped into fashion (think navy-and-white striped shirts and anchor charms), interiors are jumping ship — only the maritime motif is animate.

Crustaceans are crawling over pillows as graphic prints, such as on Nordstrom's crab cushion, and across mantels and end tables as chic-but-cheeky sculpture, like Steuben's crystal lobster. Then there's the claw-shaped oven mitt from Sur La Table.

Crabs and company are nudging aside that other ocean creature-cum-wallpaper pattern, orange branch coral. "We're just a little tired of it," says Rebecca Robertson, senior home editor at Blueprint magazine. But the trick to tricking out your space with skittering critters? Do like Salvador Dali and his iconic Lobster Telephone. "Always make sure you add the wink," she says. "Then it's a million times more fun."



This crab pillow is available for \$58 at Nordstrom.com.

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

# Resorting to comfort

*Luxe furniture styles showing up outdoors*

By BONNIE BRITTON  
The Associated Press

Outdoor furniture once meant woven plastic folding chairs with hollow aluminum frames.

Or wooden picnic tables. Or white stackable resin chairs.

These days, the trend is to extend a home's living space outside with furniture fit for Cleopatra — or Hollywood's elite.

It's the resort-spa-luxury look brought home to deck, patio or pool.

Richard Frinier talks about it in a column posted on the High Point International Home Furnishings Market Web site, [www.highpointmarket.org](http://www.highpointmarket.org). He writes of what he calls "Resort-at-Home" trends, "bringing the essence of world travel to our own backyards."

Whether it's a double chaise with canopy from Restoration Hardware's Antibes collection or a Plantation Siesta and Canopy sofa from Gloster, the new furniture is designed to make you forget about folding furniture and plastic Adirondack chairs stacked high at supermarkets.

Taking their place: Deep-seating sofas and chairs with plump cushions, poly-resin bases with the look of wicker and adjustable lounges. You can also find outdoor furniture of carved wood, wicker, cast aluminum and wrought iron that's barely distinguishable from indoor designs being sold at high-end markets and big box stores.

La-Z-Boy, best known for making Grandpa's comfy recliner, is getting into the outdoor furniture business for the first time, partnering with furniture stalwart Brown Jordan International. The La-Z-Boy outdoor line, introduced earlier this year, is sold exclusively at Sam's Club.

Naturally, one of the items in the line is a recliner, made of all-weather resin weave on an all-aluminum frame. The recliner has three positions, a built-in footrest and cushions covered in bold red quick-drying, colorfast fabric.

"As consumers have continued to understand that the outdoors ... is another room in the house, they're spending more dollars, and that's allowing manufacturers like ourselves to reinvest in technology," says Chris Carmicle, president of Brown Jordan.

The new outdoor furni-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Laneventure's outdoor living collection includes a kitchen with a grill, side burner, refrigerator and built-in speakers. The teak table (\$1,050) extends from a 48-inch round to an oval.

### ONLINE

Long a favorite wood of shipbuilders because of its strength and durability, and prized by vintage furniture collectors, teak is becoming a favorite of outdoor furniture manufacturers. Its high-oil-content and ability to withstand insect attacks and adverse weather conditions draw many fans. Some teak furniture resources:

[www.kingsleybate.com](http://www.kingsleybate.com), Kingsley-Bate, click on "locate dealers" to find sellers in your state.

[www.westminsterteak.com/wt/index.php](http://www.westminsterteak.com/wt/index.php), Westminster Teak; click on "about teak" for tips on purchase and care.

[www.rockwoodteak.com/index.html](http://www.rockwoodteak.com/index.html); RockWood casual furniture, click on "dealer info" to find sellers in your state.

[www.brownjordan.com](http://www.brownjordan.com); Brown Jordan; click on "collections" to find the teak furniture line

— The Associated Press

ture takes what resembles an indoor room and pushes it outdoors, he says. "It's the only room in your house your neighbors can see without being invited inside. It's finally time people start thinking about what's on the back of their house."

Carmicle cites an all-weather La-Z-Boy oval double chaise with adjustable tables, umbrella and seat as "a really fun item." It retails for about \$888.

Dave Heslar, manager of Leland's in Indianapolis, says "there are new permutations of old ideas" in the outdoor furnishings industry. Glass tabletops have not disappeared, but cast aluminum, faux stone and

synthetics are moving in.

As for wood, teak is the "it" material this season.

"It's the only one we have a great deal of faith in," says Heslar. "It weathers well, is very, very sturdy and very minimal in terms of care."

And unlike the low-end, old-style furniture that often was tossed out or repaired when the webbing broke or the frame rusted, today's best outdoor furniture is warranted for as long as 15 years, while cushions should last six to eight years without replacement.

"It used to be that the norm was, 'We'll come in and get a table and four chairs and we'll eat out there.' Most people are finding out there are bugs out there."

Now, Heslar says, people are doing more than just eating.

"It's a great place to sit and read the newspaper, read a book or socialize. They're tailoring the furniture more to those types of uses."