

Lifts are becoming more common in modern homes.

Modern way to lift your home



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Over the last few weeks Home Base Expo has been buzzing with construction activity, installing one of my favourite new toys, a residential lift from Lift Shop.

Although I often feel claustrophobic when it comes to small spaces, I took a ride in our new display model and was amazed by the lift's technology and practical applications.

Having a lift installed in your new home may have once seemed excessive, but what was a novelty is now a common addition to many higher-end builds.

People building multi-storey homes can now benefit from technology that was until recently expensive and limited to hotels and office buildings.

John Wigley and Nathan Heaney from Lift Shop say there are two main reasons why people choose to install a lift. It is either used as a major architectural centrepiece for your home to impress your guests, or simply as a way to transport people and belongings between floors.

Mr Wigley says a current trend in home design is to have the kitchen upstairs, which makes carting shopping from the car to the kitchen time-consuming.

A lift can be an easier and safer way to get the groceries upstairs, and allow you to design your new home without worrying about access.

Mr Wigley says if you are building a multi-storey home that you intend to live in for many years, consider how you will feel using the stairs in 10 or 20 years time.

He says even if you don't want to install a lift straight away, a lift shaft can be included in your build.

A lift can be added to your home even after you have finished building, but it is cheaper if it can be factored into the design stage and installed when your home is being built.

By telling your building designer or architect what you want as soon as possible they can make sure the builder includes a shallow lift pit in the ground floor ready for the lift installers, who will arrive near

the lock-up stage of the build. Depending on the model, the installation will take two to three weeks. A residential lift can comfortably carry two or three people (up to seven in some models) and can be operated with an electric motor drive or a roped hydraulic system.

There are unlimited options when it comes to the design of your lift.

The glass can be clear, frosted or even tinted and the lift floor can be made of timber, tiles, quantum quartz or even match the carpet you already have in the hallway.

You can customise your lift to stand out and act as a feature in the home or blend in and simply look like a door to a room.

The safety aspects of the Lift Shop products are extensive.

All lifts are fitted with an internal telephone that is connected to the home

As well as a battery back-up system in case of power failures, the unit also features a 'self rescue' system.

phone system and capable of dialling an outside number.

The lifts are also fitted with an alarm system which, when activated, alerts everyone in the home that there is a problem. Electronic safety beams mean there is no risk children will get their fingers caught in the lift.

As well as a battery back-up system in case of power failures, the unit also features a "self rescue" system, which is activated during a power failure.

Once initiated, the lift automatically descends and the occupants can safely exit.

This is a particularly important feature because the lift occupant can operate it without any outside assistance.

To try Lift Shop's lift, visit Home Base Expo, 55 Salvado Road, Subiaco. Open seven days.