



# DOMESTIC AID

For expatriates new to Malaysia the topic of domestic aid can be highly intimidating. If you've travelled from a country where maids, nannies or cleaners aren't the norm, the idea of having even a part-time helper—let alone the thought of having someone 'live in' with you—can be alien. Yet many expatriates come round to the idea of domestic help after settling into Malaysia. Homes and gardens here take a lot of cleaning and maintenance, and with domestic aid so affordable it's no wonder so many homes here opt for the services of a live-in maid.

Once you've made the decision to hire domestic aid there are a number of options and considerations facing you. Finding a maid, sorting out visas, getting insurance—all these steps are made simpler by the services of a dedicated maid agency. Companies like FR-Gardens, which specialises in connecting employers in Malaysia with Filipino maids, are experienced at dealing with all stages related to hiring a maid, so whether you're looking for domestic aid for the first time or you need to renew work visas for your maid, a reliable maid agency can prove invaluable.

When it comes to finding a maid, one of the first questions you'll be asked is which nationality of domestic aid you are looking for. A popular choice for expatriates is maids from the Philippines, who can typically speak good English—a key point for internationals living in Malaysia. Once you've made this decision

an agency will be able to present you with a number of suitable candidates.

After you've agreed a contract with the agency, FR-Gardens explain that the first few days and weeks of your maid's employment are an important time for both employer and employee to get to know each other. It is crucial that from day one you make it clear which tasks you require your maid to complete. Setting out a routine or timetable for the first few weeks is a good idea. This will help your maid get familiar with the jobs expected of her and also lets you re-evaluate the timetable and let your maid work out her own routine once you are both more comfortable with each other.

Another consideration at the early stage of employment relates to meals for your maid. While many families like to ask their maid to join them at meal times keep in mind that their home cuisine may be very different from yours. To ensure that she's happy with what she's eating in your home, let her choose her own ingredients and meals from the supermarket while you're out shopping. This also holds true for other personal items such as toiletries.

Though the first few weeks of any new maid's contract are always a nervous time for both parties, try to persevere, get through the hardest stage, let her settle in and you may just find you're welcoming into the home a new member of the family.

For more information on maids and domestic help, seek the advice of a maid agency such as FR-Gardens at [www.filipinomaids.com.my](http://www.filipinomaids.com.my) or 03-7982 1168