

# Window Treatments

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Windows are treated for many different reasons. The wide variety of treatment possibilities can best be approached by deciding what needs to be accomplished for each window.

- What architectural obstacles will limit the kind of window treatment?
- What limitations does the furniture arrangement create?
- What kind of window treatment hardware can be used? (Check stores.)
  - Is it desirable to be able to see out of the window?
  - Is privacy from the outside desirable? Day privacy? Night privacy?
  - Is it important to have all the light possible from the window?
  - Does too much light or glare create a problem?
  - Does sunlight need to be excluded at certain times?
  - Does the window need to be opened for ventilation? How does window open?
  - Does the window treatment need to provide insulation?
  - Is noise control needed in the room?
  - How much money can be spent?

Alternatives must be considered in relation to the above questions. New materials and new window fashions are constantly enlarging the number of alternatives. There is no "right" way to treat a window, except the way that meets practical requirements and has an attractive appearance.

## Methods of treatment

*Sheer curtains* may be hung inside or outside the window trim. Sheer fabric filters light to reduce glare and provides daytime privacy. The softness of curtains may be preferred to the hard look of glass and window trim.

*Cafe or cottage curtains* may be of sheer or heavier weight fabric. They may cover only part of the window or be hung in tiers. Ventilation, light, and privacy can be controlled by opening or closing different tiers.

*Draw curtains or draperies* may be hung on rings or on traverse rods. The weight of the fabric will determine how much light control and privacy is afforded. Sheer curtains can be used behind heavier outer draperies to solve both day and night problems. Lined draperies provide better insulation, protect fabrics from sun deterioration, help draperies hang well, and provide a uniform appearance from the outside.

*Side curtains or draperies*, which do not draw, can be combined with other curtains or shades, or can be used alone. They are mainly useful for appearance, but can help control noise. They may block some light if hung over the glass.

*Roller shades* can be made or purchased in a wide variety of materials and can be installed to roll up, roll down, or both. They may be cut at an angle to fit high-angle windows. Some porous shade materials let air through. Ventilation can be coordinated with the roll of the shade if windows open from top or bottom. Shade materials run the gamut from a sheer vinyl that controls glare to an opaque fabric that cuts out light completely. Bamboo, wood slats, metal slats, upholstery plastic, stiffened fabric, fabric laminated to vinyl-coated material, and regular shade cloth may be used. Fabrics can be laminated with glue or by ironing to an adhesive-coated shade.

*Roman and Austrian shades* are made of fabric which pulls up rather than rolls up. The Roman shade is pulled up in accordion folds by cords run through rings on the back of the shade. Tape with the rings sewn on can be purchased. A brass rod is used at the bottom of the Roman shade to make it hang properly. Austrian shades usually are made of a sheer material; they are shirred on tapes and can be pulled up by cords run through the shirring tape. These shades have a scalloped bottom edge between the tapes. More light is blocked out at the top of the window with these shades than with roller shades.

*Venetian blinds* have horizontal or vertical slats of different size and materials. More flexibility in control of light, ventilation, and privacy is possible with these blinds than with almost any other window treatment. Cleaning horizontal slats is easier with regular care and the use of a cleaning wax. Vertical blinds can be drawn together at one side of a sliding window to allow for easy opening of the window. Control of privacy is not as easily maintained with vertical blinds when they are open for ventilation.

*Panels* may be made of rigid plastic, perforated hardboard, fabric stretched over a wood frame, fabric or soft plastic weighted by a rod at the bottom, or other material. Various kinds of overhead tracks may be used, with the panels sliding to one side of the window to let in air, light, and view.



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