

## Choosing Window Coverings



Your window coverings usually create a background for your entire room setting but unless you start planning your home furnishings selection several months in advance, you may not give your selection enough thought. There is the practical side of the product, such as sun control and privacy, and the designer side of the product. What looks the best versus what is the most practical?

In most new home plans, a combination of both soft and hard window coverings suits the situation very well. You may choose a hard window coverings for your privacy and sun challenges and soft coverings to finish off the look.

When looking for ideas, people will look through window covering magazines. Remember, they are selling window coverings, not good design. It is not their job to determine what is best for you as an overall look and how it connects in your home. For example, it is not good design to install a vertical blind and a horizontal blind next to one another, but it is shown all the time in window covering magazines because it is practical and an easy concept to sell.

Here are some questions to ask and ideas to think about when you are deciding on new window coverings.

### **What is the view from the window?**

Do the windows expose a beautiful backyard environment or do you view a 3- foot-by- 12 foot dog run? If you look out into a beautiful back yard, you want your eyes to continue looking out into the natural environment. Therefore, you want your window coverings to be neutral, most likely blending into the wall color so your eye movement moves forward.

If you want to avoid looking outside you will choose to keep your eye movement inside the home. Contrast the window coverings with the brighter colors so it creates an invisible barrier. Your eye movement will stay within the confines of the room.

### **What are the size and placement of the windows?**

Another important factor to remember is the size and placement of your windows, especially in the back of the home where most actual living is done. Many homes have several different size windows in the same room. As a professional window covering specialist, I try to make the windows look the same size. If there is a sliding glass door and a short window side by side, I will make both window coverings extend to the floor.

### **Is there plenty of wall space on all the sides of the window coverings?**

Can your windows be totally exposed when coverings are opened? This can definitely alter your decision making.

### **How much room is available for inside or outside installation hardware?**

To mount a head rail above the window is considered an outside installation How much room do you have to install an inside installation? Check all windows because measurements may vary from window to window.

**Think twice about shutters**

Shutters usually look great from the outside of the home but installed shutters are very flat and cold looking in many circumstances. Know the difference and where to place them. Once shutters are installed, it is very difficult to add any soft treatments. Use soft window treatments above or on the sides of them if you choose to open your shutters on a regular basis.

**Wall colors**

Think of paint color prior to purchase. Are you going to change the wall color? How will the paint color affect your new window coverings?

**Be informed**

As you can see, there is a lot of thought process that goes into choosing the right window coverings for your home. The selection of window coverings can be very confusing. You need to know the pros and cons of all products and how they affect your everyday living. Window covering professionals can give you the information on all the products. If you do not have the time to do your homework prior to selection, install temporary inexpensive paper shades in your window until you have the time to make a good buying decision.

Just be an informed consumer and know what your options are. You don't replace window covering frequently so a sound decision is important. A good choice or a bad choice cost the same amount of money. Simply make the right choice the first time. I guarantee your home will feel better.