

Window Coverings

August 2008



Volume 2, Issue 6

Easy Guidelines For Choosing The Right Window Treatment

Easy and Budget-Friendly

One of the easiest and least expensive ways to dress windows is to start with an inexpensive window treatment and improve on it. Using simple rod pocket panels as a base, and modifying them by adding trims is easy and can be used in so many variations. The more elaborate and upscale your trim selections, the more custom your panel will look.

Clip rings are very popular and simple to do - you can easily fold in pleats and clip them; or you can layer sheer panels over solid or textured panels.

Create tab top panels using flat 2" - 3" braided trim.

Alternatives to Wood Blinds and Shutters Try Woven Wood and Roman Shades.

Shades are a dramatic addition to your design - they also add texture, color, pattern and beauty to a room. You can choose virtually any multipurpose weight fabric to coordinate with the other fabrics in the room.

Woven Woods are available in many styles and finishes. Unlined, they offer a light filtering component; and lining them gives complete privacy and light control. You'll be amazed how rich and elegant they look.

Odd-Shaped or Odd-Sized Windows In dealing with small windows, create the perception of larger windows by hanging side panels over the wall, so that the panels just barely cover the edges of the window.

For two-story tall windows, use side panels just on the outside of the windows, rather than in between or on both sides of multiple windows. Also, it works well to create a dramatic top treatment to draw attention to the top of the windows.

For arches, try hanging side panels at the height of the top of the arch, but at the width of the lower window.

Light Control Issues Sheer panels and cellular shades are excellent solutions for filtering light. There are shades that have internal flaps, similar to blinds that are encased in sheer fabric. With these, you can enjoy varying degrees of light and visibility filtering—from see through to total privacy. Blackout features are available in virtually any style window covering. You can have panels, Roman shades, cellular and Woven Woods lined in Blackout lining.

What If You Already Have Blinds Or Shutters in Place?

If you already have blinds or shutters and don't want to replace them, you can easily add additional treatments that will enhance your room's beauty. Adding toppers and/or side panels is the easiest solution. Another option is to use cornices to make your windows appear bigger than they really are. Just mount side panels on walls rather than the window frame and top with a cornice to create the perception of bigger windows.

French Doors The single best solution for French doors is the Roman Shade. The shade can be mounted so it is flush with the window/door and can be raised during the daytime. This completely eliminates the doorknob problem and gives you the look of a valance/topper during the day. Roller Shades are coming back in style—not the kind you remember, but decorative, stylish window dress-ups. By applying fabric to a roller shade, it becomes a beautiful accent to any room.

Privacy Issues Nothing is more bothersome than having your neighbor's window looking right into yours. We immediately look to products that completely block visibility and light, like blinds, shutters and heavy panels,

it isn't always necessary to resort to those extremes. Traverse rods are decorative, adding to the overall beauty of a room with finials and wood finishes in virtually any color and style. Try adding clip-on or sewn on rings to your panels—the rings glide easily across the rod for opening or closing, this is an easy inexpensive way to get working panels.

Ready-Made Window Treatments Ready-Made window treatments offer you an array of styles, combined with a select number of fabrics to give you an overall cost savings of about 40% - 60% off designer custom window treatments. Some of my favorite places to shop for window treatments:

smithandnoble.com
countrycurtains.com
potterybarn.com
restorationhardware.com
JCPenney.com
overstock.com
thecurtainshop.com
blindsanddrapery.com

Choosing the Right Hardware So many homeowners make the mistake of creating fabulous window treatments, only to choose the wrong hardware. Find a local store that specializes in window treatments; they will have numerous window hardware resources that will give you unlimited selection at all price points -- from budget-friendly to elegant, designer quality hardware. The bottom line is don't scrimp on hardware. Using a 2" rod because it is available, instead of a 3" rod is the difference between using generic brands over name brands—sometimes it doesn't make a difference, but you've got to know when the name brand is necessary to pull it off successfully.

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