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Your Strategy

Whether you are moving into a brand new home with wide open windows, or have lived in a home for years and are looking for a change, before you hang your first window treatment, you have to start with a plan.

Window treatments aren't just for covering a bare window. They add beauty, privacy, provide sun protection, help control energy costs, and so much more.

Your strategy begins with a series of questions. Spend some time with the following questions. Use your answers as you continue through this book, and determine the best solutions for each window, and each room in your home.

Specific Windows and/or Rooms

- What do you like about this window? What don't you like?
- What is your ultimate goal—sun protection, privacy, beauty, etc?
- What impact does this window have on the room?
- Do you like color, texture, or bright décor?
- What types of fabrics/materials do you like?
- Do you like décor to complement each other, or make bold statements?
- How is this room used? Which family members spend the most time here?
- How long do you anticipate keeping this window treatment?

Your Needs

- What budget do you have for this room? For each window? For all windows combined?
- How often will you use this room, and for what purpose? Do you need privacy in the evening, and light during the day? Will you be opening the window for fresh air regularly?
- Who lives in the home—children, pets, adults, elderly? How will a window treatment affect/impact the person most active in this room?
- Will you be installing window treatments yourself, or working with someone else?
- Do you need help measuring for window treatments?

Your Design

- Are you completely redesigning a room?
 What is your design style?
- Do you want to accentuate a window, or deemphasize it?
- Do you want to maintain a view, or ensure privacy?
- What architectural problems may you encounter—window cranks, light switches, radiators, etc?
- What colors do you like best?
- What textures and patterns do you like best?

Maintenance and Protection

- How long will you keep this window treatment? How often will you clean it?
- Do you have animals in your home that will come in contact regularly with this treatment?
- Does this window receive direct sunlight on a regular basis? Is fading and sun damage an issue?
- Do you or someone in your home smoke?
- Is the window in a kitchen or bathroom with regular humidity, grease or other odor issues?
- Do you have a wood burning stove or fireplace?



Shades

Shades have been a part of many homes throughout history. They were originally designed to protect the home from damaging sunlight, and to provide privacy from passerby's.

Shades first appeared as a simple wooden frame with a piece of fabric draped and stretched to cover the window. Later, it was attached to the window, hinged, and progressed to the pull cord system still in use today.

The eighteenth century brought in the roll-up shade as well as the Roman shade, with its unique operating system providing folds of fabric to match and complement any décor.

Today's choices of shades offer you a wide variety of styles, fabrics, colors, sizes and potential.



Honeycomb Shades, or cellular shades, are available in hundreds of styles and colors. They also provide energy efficiency, and are a perfect solution for any window in your home.





Traditional pleated shades come in a standard 1" pleat or the grand 2" pleat. They come in a variety of colors, patterns and styles, including room darkening and other light filtering options.

Blackout roller shades are a popular window treatment for areas where you need control over the light source, such as in bedrooms, media rooms or home theaters.





Sunscreen and solar shades are made of a see through mesh, woven tightly to block heat and UV rays, but open enough to give you a view. Sunscreens come in 1% to 14% openness—the more open, the better the view.





Roman shades offer you a classic look at an affordable price. With hundreds of styles and colors available, the possibilities are endless. Choose from classic flat panel, or classy "tear-drop" styles.









Light filtering roller shades are available in a wide array of colors and materials, and are perfect for matching and bringing out your décor. The perfect density to help with light control, and to offer protection in drafty windows.



Shutters

Throughout time, shutters have been an important part of a home's function and design. Shutters were originally placed on the inside of a window, often replacing expensive glass, and designed to keep weather and intruders out.

Today's shutters offer much more than protection from the elements. Designed to compliment your home's décor, shutters can provide exceptional beauty, insulation from the sun and cold, and provide light control where you need it most.

Shutters are a billion dollar industry, making up around 15 percent of the total window coverings on the market today. And because of their quality and functionality, consumer interest is continuing to grow.

Combine shutters with fabric or draperies to soften their lines. Or leave them open and viewable as the main window treatment. Either way, shutters are an elegant choice for every room in your home.

And once your shutters are in place, care and cleaning is a breeze. Use a feather duster or soft cloth to remove dust from the frame and louvers. For more difficult spots and stains, simply use a soft cloth and mild detergent.

Shutters can be ordered in many styles, sizes, shapes and colors.

And they come in three types: faux wood, composite, and wood.



Faux wood provides you with 100 percent vinyl shutters designed for durability. It can handle water, abuse and warping, and is perfect for high humidity areas such as the kitchen and bath.



Composite shutters are a wood and PVC mix. The look similar to real wood, and take paint well. They are very popular due to their durability, and are less expensive than traditional wooden models.



Timeless wood shutters are handmade with top quality hardwoods, and stained or painted in a popular collection of soft neutral colors. The perfect accompaniment to any room in your home.





Blinds

Blinds add a simple elegance to any room in your home. Whether you choose horizontal or vertical blinds, they can provide the right amount of sophistication with a pull of a cord or twist of a wand.

Blinds are one of the oldest known window coverings, dating back to both Egyptian and ancient Chinese cultures.

In 1841, John Hampson received a US Patent on the method of adjusting the angle of the slats on a Venetian blind.

And by mid-1940s, the process was developed for casting aluminum into strips, making them easier to produce, and thus more in demand for both the home and office communities.

Today's horizontal and vertical blinds still grace interiors throughout the world. With hundreds of colors and styles available, its easy and affordable to change the look and feel of a room at any time.

Wider slats can now give the appearance of shutters, and large panels can give the appearance of elegant draperies. Versatile, uncomplicated and clean, the blinds of today are the perfect choice for the discerning homeowner.



Faux wood blinds give the appearance of real wood blinds at an affordable price. Faux wood blinds come in a 100% PVC or a wood/PVC composite that is both durable and beautiful.



Wood blinds offer you a classic look. They are about 20% lighter than faux wood, and come in a variety of styles, colors and sizes.

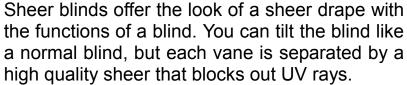


Woven wood blinds give you many options in decorating. With the green movement running strong, the natural look and feel of woven woods can be the perfect standalone window treatment for any room in your home.



For an arched window display, why not try a real wood fixed arch blind? Slats face inward at a 45% angle to block out direct sunlight. Easy to install, a perfect compliment to your other window treatments.



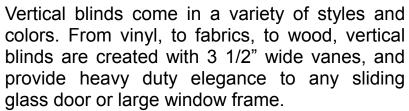




Sheer vertical blinds give you the elegance of sheer draperies with the functionality of vertical blinds. Sheer fabric comes in a variety of colors to compliment any décor.













Panel Track Blinds and Sliding Panel Blinds are quickly becoming a popular alternative to regular vertical blinds for sliding glass doors. They are designed for large openings, walls of glass, or even as a simple room divider.



Motorization

For most shades, shutters or blinds throughout your home, its easy to control them with a twist of a wand or the pull of a cord.

But what if the window is several feet above your normal reach? Or what if you are looking for more convenience from anywhere in the room?

Motorization gives you the possibility of controlling your windows with a push of a button.

For most horizontal blinds, the remote will do nothing more than tilt the slats or vanes. It will not lift the blinds up or down.

For most woven wood or sheer blinds, the remote will lift it up or down.



Most motorized blinds are controlled by a handy remote control that can operate up to five different channels, which is usually enough for your home or office.

There are two types of remote blinds: infrared and radio remote.

Infrared is a point and click operation system where the remote control must be in the line of site of the blind itself.

Radio remote operates on a radio frequency and can be controlled from any location in your home, much like your garage door opener would.

Be sure to look at warranties when considering motorized blinds.



Energy Savings

If you live in a region with cold winters and hot summers, your window coverings may be more than décor—they may provide insulation from the climate as well.

Energy Savings no longer equates with boring window treatments. With many of today's popular choices, functionality means blocking the blazing sun from the interior, or shutting out drafts on a cold, snowy evening.

With so many choices, now is the perfect time to get the look you love, and reduce your energy costs in the process.



Step By Step Planning Worksheet

Step One—Plan

Once you have your decisions made, its time to place the order. Before jumping in, plan out your strategy to make sure you order the right window treatments. Keep in mind these tips as you move through the ordering process.

- Window treatments—shades, shutters and blinds—are ordered by providing width first, height second.
- Window treatments are always stated in inches, not feet and inches.
- Blind measurements are always done to 1/8th inch.
- When measuring for an inside mounted blind or shade, round down to the nearest 1/8, and for an outside mount round up.

- Never assume your windows are the same size. Always measure every window opening.
- Use a measuring worksheet to record your measurements. Be specific with each window and its measurements. This will help you when its time to hang your window treatments. [Measuring worksheet provided on next page.]
- Work as a team. Have one person measure every window, while the other records the measurements. Then switch places and measure again. Check any differences a third time.



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ax:	
-Mail:	

Toll Free Phone 1-800-789-8583

Fax: 303-663-9014

E-mail: support@shadesshuttersblinds.com

The first line is just an example to help you keep your measurement organized. Always measure a room clock wise; start with the first window on your left.

Room/ Wndw	Width	Height	Туре	color	Inside/Outside	special	notes
L-1 =Living rm #1			2° faux-honey comb	Number & name	Type of mount	anything out of ordinary	
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Step Two—Measure

Start with a few tools:

- Metal tape measure
- Pen or pencil
- Measuring worksheet

When measuring, width is first, length is second.

An inside mount is for blinds going on the inside of a window opening. Measure the window opening, and select "inside the window" when ordering—the factory will know what to do.

An outside mount is for blinds going outside the window opening. An outside mount should be measured based on your needs and preferences—the look you achieve is entirely up to you.



Remember, if you have a question, call customer service first. They can walk you through any question or concern you may have.

Step Three—Ordering

When you have your windows measured, and know what products you will be ordering for each window, make your selections online and place your order. Shopping carts make it easy to find the product, choose the size and color, and place your order.

Since your order is custom made to your style, size and color preferences, returns can not be made. Call customer service with any specific questions before you place your order.

Check your order upon receipt. Check for damage and make sure all parts are within the packaging. If something is missing, call customer service immediately.

Step Four—Hang and Enjoy!

To install your new shades, shutters or blinds, you have several options.

Check with the instruction sheet that comes with your new window treatments. Every product will come with specific instructions to help you along the way.

Check the website. We have detailed instructions on each product page. We'll walk you through how to hang each product, as well as provide instruction on correcting mistakes and troubleshooting help along the way.

Hire an installer. If you don't want to attempt installation yourself, hire a professional installer or handyman to help.

About ShadesShuttersBlinds.com

ShadesShuttersBlinds.com has been online since 2001, and is located in the heart of Colorado.

From the White House, national charities, veteran centers, Disney, major universities and schools, and everything in between, you are bound to run into one of our window treatments at some point in time.

The concept is simple:

Easy Ordering of Affordable Blinds

Live phone service during normal business hours—no outsourcing our customer service.

Full Internet security for your shopping convenience.

Straightforward pricing—no tricks or surprises.

Free samples—usually mailed that evening!

