

Curtain Making Guild



Where Do I Start?

Set aside style considerations for a moment; function comes first and will limit your curtain choices, in a good way. If you want treatments that provide privacy or total darkness, you need lined curtains. If you're OK with light filtering through or if your curtains are simply decorative, unlined will work. Lined curtain is more expensive but has its advantages: It can shield fabric from sun damage, making curtains last longer. Lining also adds heft, which protects against drafts and helps fabric fall more luxuriously. For maximum durability, light blockage, body, and insulation, you can get curtains with an interlining, too—a layer of flannel-like fabric sewn between the lining and the face fabric.

Does lined curtain really work better than thick coated curtain?

Yes. We need to dress our windows like we dress ourselves, snug-fitting, with layers. Just like we do not spray rubber onto a T-shirt and go for a walk in the middle of winter. You may choose to attach the lining with fabric on a single track or to separate them on different track.

Fabric and Colour

You'll need to decide if you want the curtains to blend with the decor or to pop. For blending, pick curtains that are the same tone as the wall but a few shades darker, or choose a non-dominant subtle colour in the room (a soft shade from the rug, say). A bold colour will work like an exclamation point. Also keep in mind that in a space where the sun shines through unlined curtains, the colour will infuse the room. Blue can be eerie; pink, cheery.

A rule of thumb: If you have patterned furniture or bedding (or a very elaborate rug), stick with solid curtains. If you have solid-colour furniture or bedding, consider patterned curtains. For a subtle hit of style and energy, go for a small, neutral print, like dots or paisley, which reads like texture from afar. A large, graphic print in a colour that relates to the existing decor is daring but can be spectacular.



How Long Should the Curtains Be?

Just Hitting the Floor or Sill

This look is classic and tailored; it makes sense if you'll be opening and closing the curtains a lot. The fabric should just touch the floor or hover half of a finger width above. This is also a great approach for café curtains (short panels that cover only the lower portion of a window and hit the sill), which work well in spots like the kitchen and bathroom, where long drapes aren't practical.

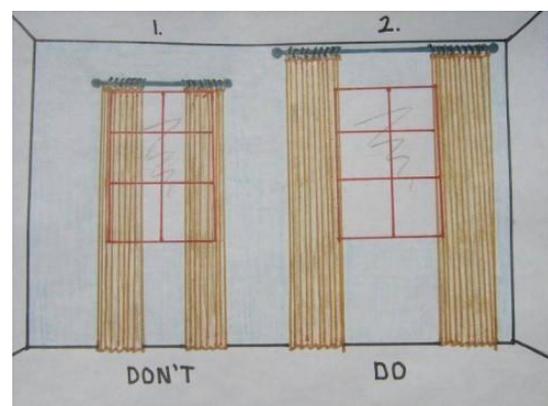


Puddle at the Floor

Panels that extend onto the floor by one to three inches are the most stylish right now. They're more relaxed than those that graze the floor, but they still feel tailored—think of a pair of dress trousers. If you have uneven floors or are worried about precision measuring, this style is more forgiving. In formal rooms, an exaggerated take—six or so inches of fabric pooling on the floor—can look romantic but is also high-maintenance; curtains need re-fluffing every time you vacuum or the cat lies on them.

Where Should Curtain Be Mounted In Relation to the Window?

Generally, hanging curtain brackets on the wall above and outside the window frame looks best; it allows fabric to fall gracefully. If you have detailed window frames you don't want to cover, or there are obstacles on the way, an inside mount can work.



Hang Above the Frame

To create the illusion of a taller window, mount the track 100mm above the window frame (rod need to be 150mm), or halfway between the frame and the ceiling molding. Track/rod mounted on the ceiling also lengthens windows.

Hang Wider Than the Frame

Extending the track/rod 10% of total window width beyond the frame on each side makes a window feel grander and allows extra light to stream in when the curtains are open.

Curtain Top (Heading)

The top hem of a curtain will define the overall look—casual or formal, feminine or sleek—and also play a part in functionality.

Rod-Pocket Heading

A channel along the top holds the rod and creates a casual, gathered effect. A nice choice for curtains that will stay put, because shimmying the fabric back and forth can be difficult. This is also practical for net curtains installed inside of window frame with tension cord.



Pleated Heading

There are many styles, from narrow pencil pleats to wide, flat box pleats. Because they're structured, these panels read more formal than do other types. Pleated curtains generally operate with drapery hooks and rings.



New York pleat: This type of curtain has a single pinch pleat secured at even intervals along the heading, resulting in a clean, contemporary look without much gather. Normally requires 1.5-1.7 times of fabric to form.

Dutch pleat: This type of curtain has a double pinch pleat secured at even intervals along the heading, resulting in a similar look to the New York pleat, but with more fullness. Normally requires 1.8-2 times of fabric to form.

French pleat: This type of curtain has a triple pinch pleat secured at even intervals along the heading, resulting in a very plush, full look. As it requires 2-2.2 times of fabric to form, it is not suitable for heavy bulky fabrics.



Inverted pleat: This type of curtain has a single pleat at the back, sometimes called a box pleat, placed at even intervals along the top. The overall look is beautiful and quite formal.

Pencil pleat: This type of curtain has a tape running across the top with cords running through that are pulled to achieve the desired gather and curtain width so it is highly adjustable. The fullness requirement depends on fabric and its purpose. For normal curtains 2x, for lining curtain at separate track 1.6x, and for net curtain it can be up to 2.5x.



Tab-Top Heading

Flat loops of fabric hang on the rod. This can look relaxed with sheers or buttoned-up with stiffer fabrics. A variation on this theme is tie-tops, with bows instead of flat loops—still casual but more feminine and romantic.



Eyelet Heading

A minimalistic and contemporary styled heading. Metal eyelets are punched into the fabric for a rod to pass through. Eyelet drapes can only be used with rods and cannot be drawn past a bracket. It is recommended to only use the Eyelet heading on a rod with a maximum width of 3,5 meters. Normally requires 1.8-

2 times of fabric to form.



Wave Heading

Wave curtains are a cool, contemporary way of dressing windows, ideal if you want a look that is simple, modern, and elegant. Wave curtains have no gathering, bunching or pleats across the top, just a sinuous curve, falling in fluid folds directly below the track or rod. The curtains stack back neatly, and it's a look that works in both contemporary and traditional interiors.



Do I Need Tiebacks?

If you want to be able to pull curtains to the side for more light or a swoopy, formal look, tiebacks are the answer. They're also a nice way to showcase a view. Mount a curved metal bracket or a peg (known as a rosette) on the wall about two-thirds of the way down the window. Match the room and the rod for style and finish. There are simple fabric tiebacks and fancy ropes with tassels for a grander effect. More casual: tying a curtain in the centre of a window with matching fabric or a wide grosgrain ribbon.



Double Track System

If you want to keep privacy while open up your curtains, double track system will meet your demand. There are mainly two designs.

- Solid curtain at front and sheer curtain (net) at back

Solid curtain gives a good insulation result. Sheer can hang on a smaller sheer track. Normally both tracks are hand drawn.

- Sheer curtain at front and lining curtain at back

Normally in this design the back track uses flat gliding track and it is cord drawn. This allows you to open/close the back curtain via cord without touching the front sheer. Compare to the first design the insulation result may not be as good but the budget will be lower.

