

Ten Steps to Beautiful Windows.

1. What do you need from a window treatment? Privacy? Light control? Energy efficiency? A decorative element? Knowing your needs will help determine the best way to dress your window. If the window faces the television, glare can be an issue. If your window gets the afternoon sun, heat and fading can be an issue. If your window looks right into your neighbor's window, privacy can be an issue. If your window is the first thing visitors see when they enter your home, style can be an issue. There are lots of products available to deal with your needs.
2. Do you want the window treatment to be a focal point? Do you need to camouflage the view? Making a window stand out or blend in can be accomplished by color choice.
3. What kind of mood do you want to create in the room? Casual? Elegant? Sophisticated? Romantic? Is this a room where the family gathers daily to kick back and relax? Is it a room reserved for occasional entertaining? Is it your quiet retreat at the end of the day? Fabric and style selection to suit the room is key in making the treatment fit the mood. More durable fabrics for the family room make sense while soft and romantic are a good choice for a bedroom.
4. What's your style? You may be unsure of your style but the truth is you probably know it better than you think you do. What catches your eye when you leaf through a magazine? Is it the clean lines of a contemporary loft or the traditional elegance of a French provincial kitchen? Do you covet your neighbor's coastal décor? If you think about the things you are drawn to you'll soon learn your style. Or it may be a mix of styles. Mixing styles is not only common but a great way to add interest to a room.
5. Afraid of color? Don't be. Maybe you want to start small and use color in accent pieces like vases or pillows that are less expensive and easily changed. Once you live with a little color you may be ready to experiment with more color. Color also determines the mood of a room. Softer colors are great for bedrooms. Bolder colors are a good choice for formal rooms.
6. What stands out in your room? Maybe it's the fireplace or a beautiful chandelier. Perhaps it's a stunning piece of artwork. Incorporating something from an architectural detail or other element of the room in your window treatment is a great way to give your room a cohesive look. It could be using decorative drapery hardware in a stain color that matches your mantel or using a finial that mimics the curve in a light fixture. It could be choosing a pattern in an oriental rug as a component in your fabric.

7. What is the scale of your window? A two story great room with a wall of windows demands a large scale treatment. The dimensions of the treatment need to fit the window in order to look their best. Think about the proportions of the room, windows and furniture when determining the scale of the treatment.
8. What is the shape of the window? Arched windows look gorgeous with an arched treatment. Do you have a row of transom windows? Consider leaving them open and mounting your treatment below them. Following the lines of a window gives a unified look to a room.
9. Do you have lots of vertical or horizontal lines in your room? Having details of your window treatment fall along these lines is esthetically pleasing to the eye. Having them fall between lines can be distracting. The eye needs a place to rest.
10. Pattern or solid? Many people believe that you shouldn't mix patterns but actually a mix of patterns is very appealing if you have the right mix. A stripe, large print and a small print of a different style work well together. So don't rule out that elegant stripe fabric just because you have a large print on your sofa.

So how do you go about putting all these things together to get that beautiful window? As your window fashion professional I will:

- a. Bring samples of products and fabric to your home so you can see them with your colors and lighting.
- b. Discuss your needs and offer suggestions for solutions.
- c. Talk about styles and show you examples.
- d. Ask about your lifestyle and your expectations for your window treatments.
- e. Point out features of your room that need to be considered in planning your window treatments.
- f. Give you an estimate on price to help in your decision making process.
- g. Explain the process and timeline once your selections have been made.
- h. Keep you updated on the progress of your treatments.
- i. Professionally install your beautiful new window treatments.