

stevenson vestal

Industry Terms & Tips

An illustrated glossary of common industry terms,
+ Ordering tips for product design & fabric selection

Tab 4

Terms: An Illustrated Glossary.....	2
Tips: Avoiding Unpleasant Surprises.....	6



Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog for helpful videos illustrating common industry Terms & Tips.

Terms: An Illustrated Glossary

When it comes to the design and fabrication of custom soft goods, communication is key! Keep in mind the following terms & tips for your next order with us.

Allowance: Artisans require additional inches of fabric to finish the edges of custom window and bed coverings, commonly known as an allowance. The fabric inside seams, headings and hems all require an allowance. An allowance can also take into account a projection or overlap on a drapery. Yardage calculations always involve multiplying by a fullness and adding an allowance.

Bar tack and spot tack: Our drapery artisans bar tack and spot tack pinch pleated draperies. Bar tacking vertically through all thicknesses of fabric, lining and crinoline defines the pleat and spacing between the pleats. Spot tacking holds in place the three fingers or prongs of the pleat.

Bead trim: We place this challenging trim in its own category for pricing purposes. Compare to **trims with a decorative lip or no lip** and **trims with a plain lip**.

Bobbined fabric: Fabrics with thickly bunched rows of loose threads on the back side, sometimes referred to as “bobbined fabric”, can prove inappropriate for use on certain custom window coverings. Take care to avoid using this type of fabric in windows with strong lighting conditions. You can minimize the shadowing effects of bobbined fabric by using flannel interlining or blackout lining.



Loose threads can create shadowing on a window.

Buckram: Also called crinoline. Stiff fabric used at top of drapery to stiffen pleats, most often 4” wide.

Complete product name: Use the complete name for products as listed in this price list. In addition, for **bedding and headboards**, include bed size: **Twin, Full, Queen, King, California King, or Euro** (Euro only for Pillow Shams). For example: *Twin Throw Coverlet*. For some products such as Draperies, include **Lined** or **Unlined**. For example: *Lined Goblet Pleated Draperies*.

Cotton or cotton blend drapery fabrics and other conventional drapery fabrics are ideal to handle and sew. These differ from the extremely moldable quality of silk fabric, the springy characteristics of silk-like fabrics and the loose threads and heavy hand of upholstery fabric. Compare and contrast to **silk and silk-like fabrics**.



Cotton blend fabric does not mold or spring back.

Crinkle sheer fabric: An especially difficult-to-sew type of sheer fabric.

Cuts: All custom window and bed covering yardage calculations involve a certain **number of cuts** of fabric multiplied by the **cut length**.

Cut length: The finished length of a product, multiplied by the length fullness, plus the length allowance and rounded up to the nearest multiple of the vertical pattern repeat.

Decorative rope trim: A running length of pre-made trim, usually in a braid or twist of strands. Sometimes called “decorative cord.” Please avoid the use of the word “cord” by itself. Compare to **welt**.

Double hem: A hem turned twice to eliminate shadows and raw edges. For example, our draperies have double 1.75” side hems and a double 4” bottom hem. Our artisans can single out a hem in order to solve a fabric shortage, often with a heavy fabric, for example resulting in only a minimal compromise to quality. A single hem has a single fold of fabric plus a small half-inch edge turned into the seam.

Drifting pattern: A manufacturing error where the pattern appears to fall off the perpendicular an inch or two across the width of a fabric. Drifts of greater than 1.5 inches becomes challenging for products with visible seams or wide face widths.

Dropping pattern: An intentional design in a fabric such that the pattern does not match at points directly across from each other at the selvages. One side matches at a different point on the other. Can create shortages and special design challenges.

Drop: The depth or vertical dimension at the center of a valance, often contrasted to a longer **finished length** at either side. For valances and cornices, we also use the terms mid point and short point to distinguish various points along the central portion of the product. Also: the vertical dimension of a bedding product such as a dust ruffle or bedspread.

Face width: For board mounted products, face width equals the outside board width. For pole mounted products, face width means the area of the pole covered by the swags and cascades or valance. We add an extra 1” to your face width on each side of the pole to accommodate brackets and finials. For rod mounted products, face width equals the bracket to bracket rod width. For bedspreads, coverlets, duvets, dust ruffles and headboards the face width equals the bed width.

Finished length: For window coverings & headboards, finished length equals the vertical measurement from the highest to the lowest point of the treatment. For bedspreads, coverlets, duvets and dust ruffles, finished length equals the bed length.

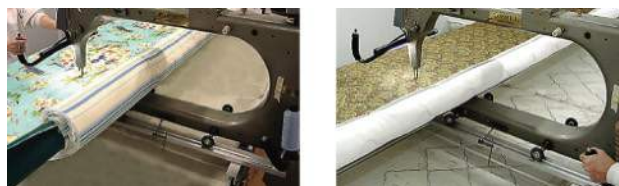
Front load option: An optional feature for roman shades in which the artisan mounts a 6” valance in front of the shade mechanism and mounts the shade off the back of the board. Appropriate for minimizing light gaps because the shade falls flat against the mounting surface. (stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/shade-mounting-options)

Fullness: Artisans gather or pleat fabric on most draperies and window coverings by an amount known as the fullness. For example, a Lined Pinch Pleated Drapery has a 2.5x **width fullness** and a Soft Fold Roman Shade has a 2.5x **length fullness**. A 1x width or length fullness means that the fabric lays or hangs flat in that direction.

Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/drapery-widths for more width fullness illustrations!



Hand-guided quilting: At Stevenson Vestal our hand-guided quilting machine enables us to fabricate fine custom quilted bedspreads and coverlets for your customers. We produce both outline quilting and quilting by a pattern, depending on your needs.



Hand-guided outline versus pattern quilting.

Terms: An Illustrated Glossary

Number of cuts / number of widths: The number of pieces of (usually 54" wide) drapery fabric that are required for a particular product.

Overlap: The distance from the inside edge to the first pleat in drapery heading. The installer attaches the 3.5" wide overlaps to the master carriers of a traverse rod. For a pair of draperies, these areas of the heading draw together and overlap each other to make a neat closing.

Pair vs. panel: In draperies we must distinguish between a pair or a single panel of draperies. The word **panel** refers to one or more widths of fabric sewn together for a drapery. For some face widths, draperies will have a **half width** of fabric added to one side of each panel. Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/custom-draperies-pairs-or-panels to learn more.

Pattern repeat: Most matching of patterns involves the **vertical pattern repeat**, which you can determine by measuring along the selvage or side edge of the fabric from one point on a pattern to the same point further up the length of the fabric.

Pre-pin vs. hand-sewn rings: Pleated draperies come with drapery pin hooks to provide a conventional means of attaching the drapery to various drapery rods. Pins may be used in drapery headings with buckram. For draperies without buckram, we can hand sew your decorative rings. To learn more about drapery pins, visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/what-is-a-drapery-pin



Pins in a drapery with buckram and hand-sewn rings in a drapery without buckram.

Product quantity (# of products): The quantity of products you require. For **draperies**, state **pair(s)** or **panel(s)**. For example, *2 pairs*. Remember to use separate forms for each different product or identical group of products. (stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/custom-draperies-pairs-or-panels)

Projection: The distance from the outside edge to the last pleat in a drapery heading. (stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/what-is-the-projection-on-a-pair-of-draperies) Also, for board mounted valances, projection means the board projection. For cornices and lambrequins, we always mean the *inside* projection.

Railroad: To turn a fabric and use its width for the finished length of a cornice, valance or seamless drapery. Typically, some sheer fabric comes in 118" width, intended for railroading. Upholstery fabric also often comes with the pattern railroaded because many couches or sofas require a wide expanse of fabric without seams. For this reason, take extra care with pattern direction when choosing an upholstery fabric for a drapery. Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/what-is-railroaded-fabric to find out more.

Sheer fabric: See-through fabric; any very light-weight fabric (e.g. chiffon, voile, crepe). Usually has an open weave, very thin; diaphanous. Filters light and controls glare. Usually used unlined.

Shirr: To gather. The installer shirrs rod pocket draperies onto a rod or pole.

Side panels: Decorative panels are draperies that hang on each side of a window (not intended to meet or cover the entire window). When ordering side panels you may omit the face width and simply specify the number of widths of fabric in each panel. We will pleat appropriately. (stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/drapery-widths)

Terms: An Illustrated Glossary

Silk fabric: You can identify silk fabric by doing the scrunch test. **Genuine silk fabric** will hold its shape almost as if you have molded it into place.



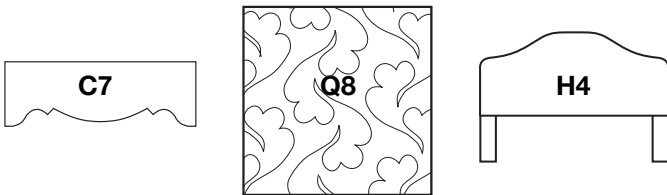
Silk fabric will stay put as if molded.

Silk-like fabrics look like genuine silk but have a high percentage of artificial fibers such as acetate or polyester. Unlike genuine silk, they tend to spring back to a flat, unwrinkled appearance after you scrunch them.



Silk-like fabric springs back to its original shape.

Style code: A letter-number combination we use for **Cornices, Quilted bedding and Headboards**. Don't forget this important specification on your work order. For example:



Discover trending cornice & headboard styles linked with their products code on our blog!

- stevensonvestal.com/blog-upholstery/top-10-upholstered-cornice-trends
- stevensonvestal.com/blog-upholstery/8-headboard-ideas-for-your-next-bedroom-makeover

Suede fabric: A difficult-to-sew **upholstery fabric**.

Trims with a decorative lip or no lip: We either hand-sew or machine-sew these trims onto the face to allow the whole trim to show. We hand-sew these trims to the face of Draperies, Valance tails, Cascades and pelmets, and Quilted Bedding. Elsewhere we machine-sew. These trims include 1) Various tassel trims: "tassel fringe", "ball fringe." 2) Flat trims: "flat braid", "flat band trim". 3) Decorative rope trims without a lip. 4) Some bullion fringes that do have a decorative lip.

Trims with a plain lip: We machine-sew these trims into the seam to hide the plain lip. They include: 1) Decorative rope trims with lips. 2) Brush fringe. 3) Bullion fringe (Note: some bullion fringes do have a decorative lip, see **trims with a decorative lip or no lip**).

Upholstery: A difficult-to-sew fabric intended for furniture upholstery. Most appropriate for cornices and headboards since the artisan upholsters (staples) the fabric in place on these products. Especially difficult to sew as drapery products when heavy, thick or with loose threads on the reverse side. Take care with the railroad direction of patterns on some upholstery fabrics.

Vinyl fabric: A difficult-to-sew **upholstery fabric**.

Welt: Cotton cord wrapped and sewn together with fabric strips, usually cut on the bias; used in the seam of a drapery or bedding product. Note that historically we used the term *cord* instead of *welt*, but in order to avoid confusion with *decorative cord* and to align ourselves with industry standards, we have adopted the term *welt*. Compare to **decorative rope trim** and **flat welt**. (stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/cord-vs-welt-whats-the-difference)

Tips: Avoiding Unpleasant Surprises

GENERAL TIPS

Quotes

We are happy to provide a labor and yardage quote for any project. Send us your quote request and we will return your quote quickly, usually on the same day or the following morning.

Duplicating an existing product

When duplicating a special product, send the original product! (Even if the original was recently made.) There are many variables in custom work and we must have the original in order to duplicate the original.

Specify the Product, not the Site Conditions

Please send just the information we need to make your product. Avoid sending extraneous information about window and wall measurements and obstructions. Instead, simply specify the product itself and we will get it right every time!

Hardware in the Workroom

Please send us only the hardware we need to complete your product. For example, don't send finials or brackets with your pole for us to mount a Pole Windsor. This will avoid the possibility of misplaced hardware.

PRODUCT TIPS

Bedspreads and Coverlets

- We finish bedspreads and coverlets (except Reversible) with a turned up hem on the reverse side. This hem makes these products non-reversible.

Shams

- Interlining a pillow sham sometimes becomes necessary for light and see-through fabrics and some silks.

Valances and Swags

- Watch out for color bleed-through when lining in contrasting fabric.

Visit us online at stevensonvestal.com/blog for videos highlighting terms & tips in our customer guide & more!



Cornices

- Take care when expanding a non-repeating pattern for wide windows.
- Interlining a cornice between the foam and the face fabric becomes necessary when you choose a white or light fabric.

Draperies

- Take care when choosing fabrics with horizontal stripes or plaids. Even a very slight and normally acceptable degree of print bias may stand out severely.
- For slightly bias patterns our artisans will re-square the fabric and hem along the pattern.
- We do not normally regulate pleat spacing among multiple pairs (or panels) with different face widths. This does not normally pose a problem, even with draperies for the same room.

Shades

- Expect a “planetarium” effect on blackout-lined shades, especially Flat Roman Shades. The insertion points for the loops that draw up functional shades will show pinpricks of light through the blackout lining.

Tips: Avoiding Unpleasant Surprises

FABRIC TIPS

Choose fabrics wisely!

Probably the most important variable that affects the success of a product is the choice of fabric. Different fabrics have different characteristics and will therefore perform better in certain products. The following tips are provided to improve the chances of our success together in making one-of-a-kind custom products.

Soft fabrics drape better

Soft-finished fabrics tend to drape better than hard-finished fabrics and will form into swags, draperies and other treatments that tend to require smooth draping. Of course this does not preclude using hard finished fabrics in treatments that are draped, but they will have a more crisp, less smooth look.

Silk fabric

Silk fabric does not “like” steam, but luckily it hand-dresses well in most cases. Remember to interline silk fabric to give it the appropriate body.

Linens & hard-finished chintzes

Linens and hard-finished chintzes tend towards wrinkling more than most fabrics. Steaming and dressing down does not help this situation noticeably.

Upholstery fabrics

Upholstery fabrics tend toward stiffness and a heavy weight. They will upholster well (products such as headboards and cornices), but depending on the heaviness of the fabric, they may not make into draping-type products as well.

Casement and Moire

Loose weave casement fabric and humidity sensitive moire both pose problems. The unstable nature of these fabrics means we can not guarantee that the length will remain as finished.

New products made from old products

Please appreciate the extra labor and the limitations involved in this process. In order for us to make use of old fabrics or products, we need clean fabric in workable condition. If we have to tear apart old treatments, press out creases, dry-clean, etc., we will quote the appropriate additional charges.

Skimping on yardage

We can often “make it work”, but this can prove very difficult under certain circumstances. We will contact you to get your approval before we take any steps to make the product.

Second quality fabric

We will do our very best with your fabric, but we hold you responsible for your fabric’s flaws, print problems, or dye lot variations.

About color bleed-through

We recommend caution when lining a product in a contrasting fabric. Frequently, (and especially when lining a lighter fabric with a darker) color bleed-through will turn the face fabric a potentially undesirable color. However, you can avoid color bleed-through by interlining the product. We will contact you to discuss options.

Bias prints

Bias prints, or prints which do not run perpendicular to the selvage, pose a special challenge. We either have to not match the pattern and hide the seam as best we can or make the product out of square. Take special care to avoid such fabrics.

Dye lot Variances

Fabrics vary in color according to dye lots. Many problems arise from trying to work with fabrics from different dye lots. Ideally, order all of the fabric you need at the same time so that we can manufacture from one dye lot.

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Design Sheets

Face Width, Finished Length, Projection,
Draperies Widths & Fullness, Railroaded Fabric,
Pattern Drop, Ring Count, Half Drop Fabrics,
Width Placement, Stackback, Measure Sheets

Tab 5

Face Width defined for every product.....	2
Finished Length defined for every product.....	3
Projection and Bedding Drop.....	4
Number of Widths vs. Fullness.....	5
Fabric Orientation.....	6
Dropping Patterns.....	7
Top Down Matching	8
Ring Count.....	9
Half Drop Fabrics.....	10
Width Placement of Stationary Panels.....	11
Stackback.....	12
Working Measurements for Draperies.....	13
Working Measurements for Functional Shades.....	14
Working Measurements for Top Treatments.....	15



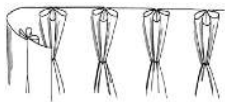
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topics expanded into
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blog](https://stevensonvestal.com/blog)

Face Width Defined for Every Product

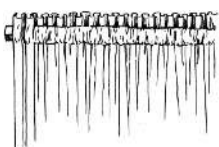
Face Width

Definition: The two-dimensional space, left to right, that a product will occupy once finished and installed.*

*See *exceptions* for pillows, shams, and table skirts, and note additional details by product below:



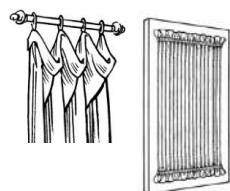
Traversing Pleated Draperies: The bracket to bracket rod width. We will allow for projections and overlap separately. Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/drapery-widths to learn more!



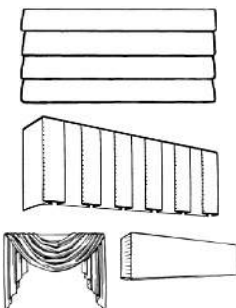
Rod Pocket, Shirred, and Tab Draperies, Door Curtains, Rod Sleeves (full window coverage): The two-dimensional width after being gathered on the pole or curtain rod. When you do not plan to fully cover the space, the face width is not relevant to these types of draperies, and you may treat them as stationary side panels (see next).



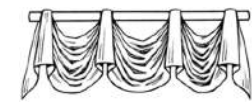
Stationary Side Panels: Face width is not relevant—leave it blank! Instead, specify the number of widths of fabric left and right, such as 1 - 1 widths, or 1.5 - 1.5 widths. We will pleat your panels to an optimized finished width. For 54" fabric, this is 20" for 1 width of fabric, 30" for 1.5 widths, and 40" for 2 widths, including a 3.5" projection and a 3.5" overlap.



Railroaded Stationary Panels or Door Curtains: You may leave the face width field blank, but instead, in the #widths Left - Right fields, specify a number of railroad inches. For example: specify 54" left - 54" right for a pair of railroaded panels with as much fabric as conventional single-width panels.

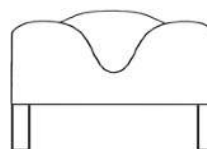
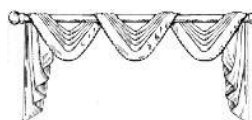


Board-mounted Shades, Shade Toppers, Valances, Swags, and Cornices: The board width left to right before fabric layers are added. For shades, valances, and swags, expect a total of 0.375" of additional bulk beyond the specified face width. For cornices, expect a total of 0.5" of additional bulk for fabric, foam, and welt beyond specified face width.

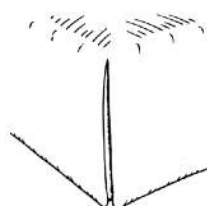


Pole-mounted Valances, Pole-mounted Swags: The two-dimensional that the treatment will occupy on the pole.

NOTE: We will cut poles 2" larger (1" on each side) than your specified face width to accommodate brackets and finials.



Headboards: Face width equals bed width, usually in standard bed sizes. The wood frame will be made to your specified face width, and fabric and padding create additional bulk.



Bedspreads, Coverlets, Duvets: The width of the mattress top. Standard bed sizes apply, but you may be more precise by measuring the bed when made up with sheets and blanket.

NOTE: Drop should be specified separately.



Dust ruffles: The width of the boxspring.

NOTE: Drop should be specified separately.



Pillows and Shams: Flat measurement left to right (if rectangular, the larger of the two measurements) of the cover before it is filled by the form.



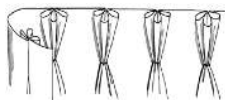
Round, Square, or Rectangular Table Skirts: Flat measurement left to right (if rectangular, the smaller of the two measurements).

Finished Length Defined for Every Product

Finished Length

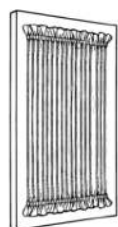
Definition: The measurement from the highest point to the lowest point of a product.*

*See *exceptions* for bedspreads and dust ruffles, and note additional details by product below:



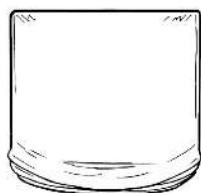
Draperies: The overall length from top to bottom. For Rod Pocket Draperies this includes the header and pocket,

NOTE: This is a flat measurement and does not include take-up on Rod Pocket Draperies.



Door curtains: The overall length including headers and pockets top and bottom.

NOTE: This is a flat measurement and does not include take-up, which occurs once gathered onto rods.

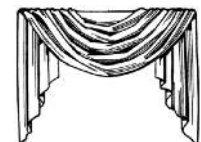


Functional Shades: The overall length from top of board to short point (to provide full window coverage) when fully lowered. For example, on a London Balloon Shade, the long point will actually exceed your specified finished length for full light blockage when lowered. Compare to Shade Topper below.



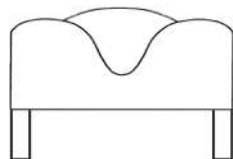
Shade Toppers, Valances, Swags and Cascades, Cornices: The overall length from the top of the board or pole to the longest point of the treatment.

NOTE: For Swags without Cascades, swag drop works a bit differently. Swag drop is from the top of the board or pole to the forward edge of the lowest fold. The swag fabric will actually be slightly longer than this. Please adjust accordingly.

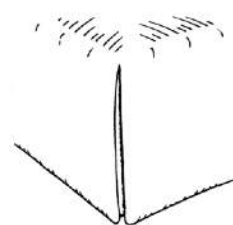


Arched, Raised, or Palladian Swags, Valances, Shades and Shade Toppers, Cornices (treatments with any raised element): The overall length from the highest point to the lowest.

NOTE: A well-labeled drawing is always recommended for custom products.

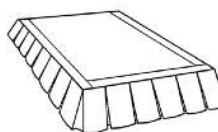


Headboards: The overall height including body of headboard and legs.



Bedspreads, Coverlets, Duvets: The length from head to foot of the mattress top. Standard bed sizes apply, but you may be more precise by measuring the bed when made up with sheets and blanket.

NOTE: Drop should be specified separately.



Dust ruffles: The length from head to foot of the boxspring.

NOTE: Drop should be specified separately.



Pillows and Shams: Flat measurement top to bottom (if rectangular, the smaller of the two measurements) of the cover before it is filled by the form.



Round, Square, or Rectangular Table Skirts: Flat measurement top to bottom (if rectangular, the smaller of the two measurements).

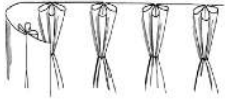
Projection and Bedding Drop

Projection (for window treatments and boxed headboards) or **drop** (for bedding)

Definition: The third dimension of a product, after face width and finished length.*

**Projection* applies to draperies, shades, decorative window treatments, and boxed headboards, and *drop* is the term we use for bedspreads, coverlets, duvets, and dust ruffles. NOTE: All SV products with a projection or bedding drop have defined default values, although you may always specify otherwise.

PROJECTION

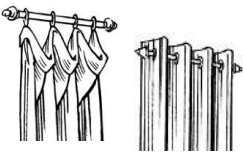


Pleated draperies: The projection is the horizontal distance from the last pleat to the outside of each panel. This flap is intended to return to the wall to block the light and view at the outside of the installed drapery.

NOTE: Pleated drapery projection is 3.5" by default, but you may specify otherwise as needed for your hardware. Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/what-is-the-projection-on-a-pair-of-draperies to learn more!

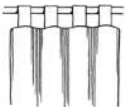


Rod pocket draperies typically do not need to have a projection specified.



Flat draperies with rings, grommets or tabs: The projection is the distance from the last ring, or tab, or grommet to the outside of each panel.

NOTE: For these styles, the projection is 3.5" by default.



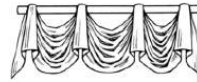
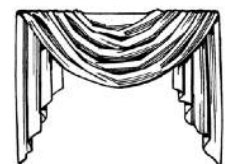
Shades and Shade Toppers: The board is cut to 2.5" by default to allow for inside-mounting, or mounting behind other treatments. Fabric layers add extra bulk.



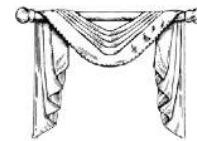
Board-mounted Valances: The board is cut to 5" by default to allow for drapery mounted under valance. Fabric layers add extra bulk.



Board-mounted Swags & Cascades: The board is cut to 3.5" by default to allow for stand-alone treatments. Fabric layers add extra bulk.



Pole-mounted Valances and Swags & Cascades: The Pole Windsor and Oxford Swag have a 3.5" projection, but the Pole Windsor with Rings and the Victory Windsor have a 0" projection. Fabric layers add extra bulk.



Inside
projection

Cornices are built with a 5" inside projection by default to allow for draperies mounted inside. Padding and fabric layers add extra bulk to the exterior of the face board.

NOTE: This is the only product specified by *inside* projection.

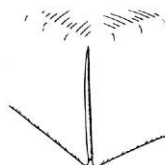


Boxed Headboards: Boards are cut and assembled for a 2.5" projection by default. Padding and fabric layers add substantial bulk to the front.

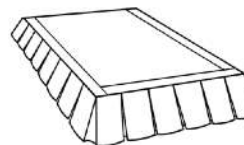
BEDDING DROP



Duvet Covers and Coverlets will need to have a specified bedding drop, as well as measurements specified for the width and finished length of the mattress top.



Bedspreads have a 21" drop by default. Face width and finished length of the mattress top should be specified separately.



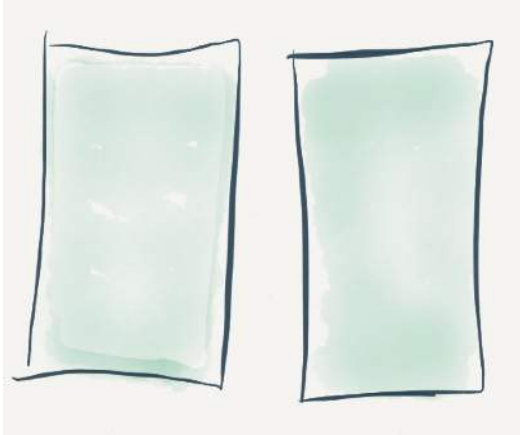
Dust Ruffles have a 14" drop by default. Face width and finished length of the boxspring should be specified separately.

NOTE: Many beds are taller these days. You may specify otherwise.

Number of Widths vs. Fullness

Number of Widths of fabric, compared and contrasted to Fullness

NUMBER OF WIDTHS are the total pieces of fabric used in a custom soft goods product.



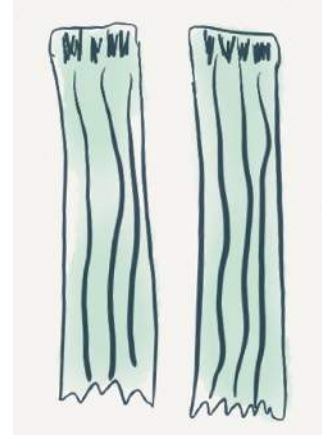
2 widths of fabric

Drapery fabric is usually 54" wide from selvage to selvage, and prints usually have an "up direction" running up the roll.

A certain number of widths of fabric are used in every drapery and custom soft goods product. In the case of a pleated drapery, the number of widths of fabric is determined by multiplying the face width (bracket to bracket rod width) by the fullness (and then adding an allowance for side hems, etc.).

But there is no need to stress about that calculation! The number of widths of fabric required for a product is usually pre-determined by your product size and the default fullness, and so does not need to be specified.*

FULLNESS is the density or compactness of fabric as a result of pleating or gathering.



2.5 times fullness

Workroom artisans add fullness in the form of pleats or gathers on many styles of custom soft goods.

Fullness can occur in the width or the length of a product. For example, a Lined Pinch Pleated Drapery has a 2.5 times *width* fullness but a Soft Fold Roman Shade has a 2.5 times *length* fullness. A "1 times" width or length fullness implies that the fabric lays or hangs flat in that direction. Most commonly, we are concerned with the width fullness of a drapery or decorative window treatment.

Fullness is usually pre-defined by a default value for any given product, and therefore does not need to be specified on your work order unless you have a special request.

* Visit <https://www.stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/drapery-widths> to find out more!

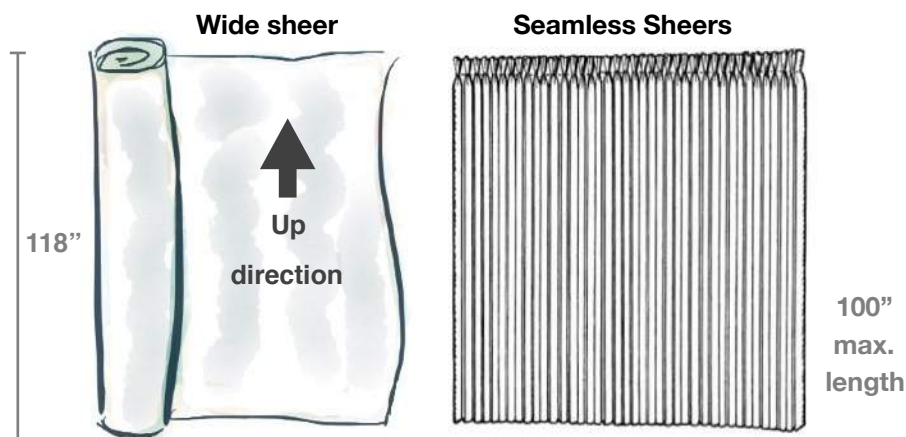
* **As a rule, do not specify number of widths.** However, there is one important exception: Stationary Side Panel Draperies. To learn more, see the next SV Tech Sheet: "Stationary vs. Traversing Draperies."

Fabric Orientation

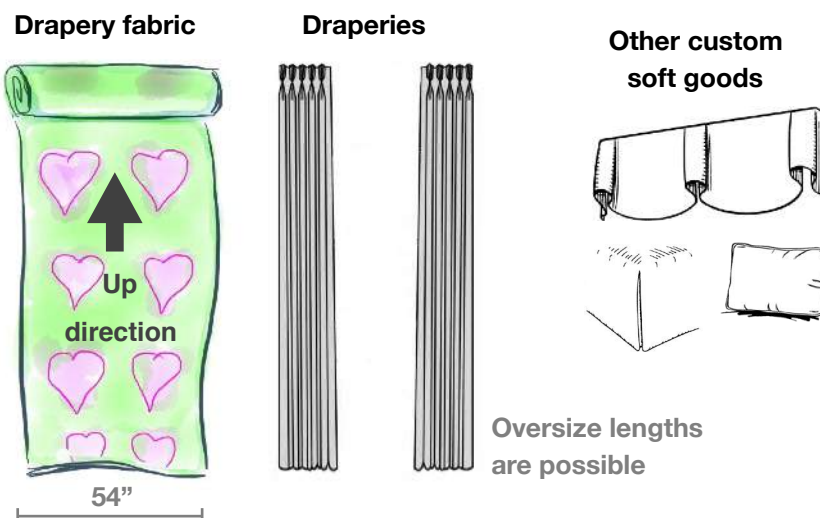
Placement of wide sheer fabric, conventional drapery fabric, and upholstery fabric on custom soft goods

Railroaded 118" sheer fabric has a vertical pattern repeat that is oriented from selvage to selvage. For these fabrics, the 118" width of the fabric is used for the length of the drapery, and the "endless" horizontal repeat results in a seamless product.

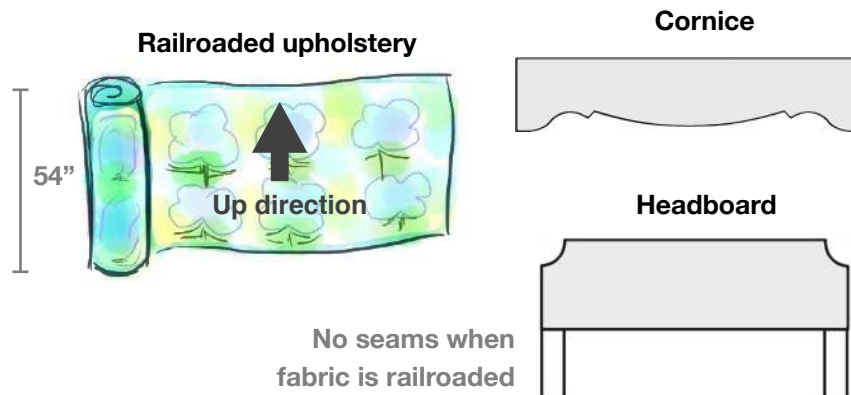
NOTE: The 118" fabric width places a limit on pleated draperies of a 100" maximum finished length.



Conventional 54" drapery fabric has a vertical pattern repeat that is oriented "up the roll," making these fabrics suitable for many types of custom soft goods, including extra-long draperies. To create wider products, multiple widths of fabric are sewn together, resulting in vertical seams, which are often hidden in folds or pleats.



Railroaded 54" upholstery fabric is designed for use on wide upholstered sofas and couches. Using these fabrics for draperies and other custom soft goods presents two challenges: the railroaded orientation prevents its use on full-length draperies, and the heavy "hand" of the fabric may result in an inappropriate stiffness. However, these fabrics are great for a seamless look on upholstered soft goods.



Learn more at <https://www.stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/what-is-railroaded-fabric>

Dropping Patterns

A dropping pattern is a characteristic of some fabrics where the pattern slips down a few inches from selvage to selvage. Our standard for an “acceptable” dropping pattern is 1” or less.

For fabrics with a pattern that drops more than 1” we will contact you to offer one of the following solutions.

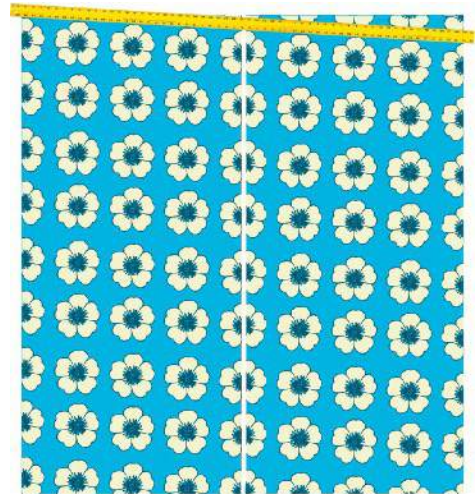
Match in the seam: Of course, we always attempt to match fabrics in the seam, but for dropping patterns this presents a problem since the pattern will continue to drop across each width. This is sometimes an acceptable solution if the seams will be very visible and the pattern drop is slight, and for products made from only a few widths of fabric.

Horizontal match: In this case the same design motifs (such as floral groupings) will be aligned at the same height on each width of fabric, but the pattern will not match in the seam. This is a reasonable choice if the seams will be hidden and the pattern drop is more noticeable, and for wider products with many widths of fabric.

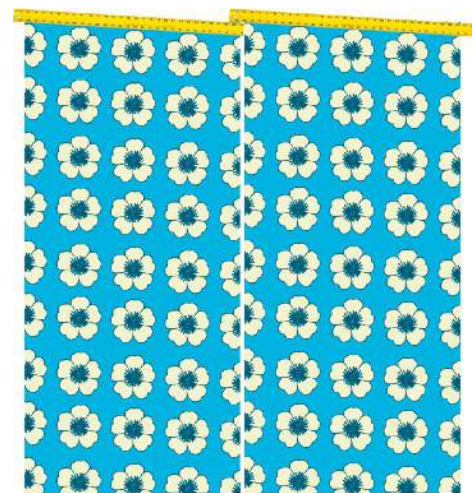
Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/pattern-repeat-and-pattern-drop



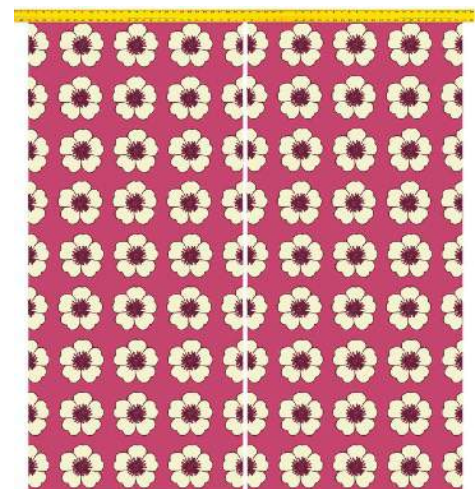
Match in the seam



Horizontal match



**A non-dropping pattern.
No problem here!**



Top Down Matching

Coping with inconsistent pattern repeats

OUR STANDARD PRACTICE for pattern matching draperies is from the bottom up. Most notably, we seam widths of fabric together by sewing from the bottom to the top. Even single-width drapery panels are matched from the bottom up. This practice does not usually have any noticeable impact on the finished product.

However, some fabrics, notably plaids, present a challenge because of an inconsistent pattern repeat. The size of the pattern grows or shrinks as it proceeds up the roll. This is most often due to stretchiness in the fabric, and the challenge is also compounded by bowing of the pattern.

Our standard procedure for plaids is to switch to top down matching. Although this causes some members of our drapery team to perform extra steps, there is no extra charge. Our goal is to make the best product every time. In this case we assume that the top of the drapery is the most important visual feature.

Top Down Matching - our default for plaids



We place the highest priority on the appearance at the top of the drapery.

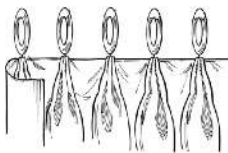
Bottom Up Matching - not a good choice for plaids



We assume you *do not* want this result!

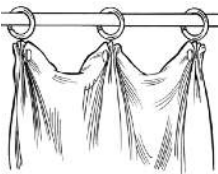
Ring Count

Providing the correct number of decorative rings for draperies



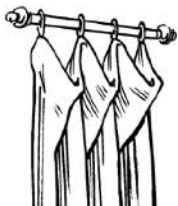
For Pinch Pleated, Top Tacked, Hand Pinched and all other pleated drapery styles that are specified with 5 pleats per width, please provide:

- 5 rings for each whole width
- 2 rings for each half width
- 1 ring for each overlap

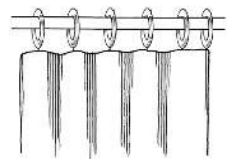


For Button Tacked Draperies, which are specified with 3 pleats per width, please provide:

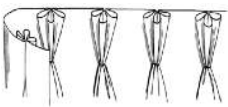
- 3 rings for each whole width
- 1 ring for each half width
- 1 ring for each overlap



For Flat Panel or European Cuffed Draperies, we recommend 4 rings per width, but you may specify otherwise.



For Flat Panel Draperies with Buckram, we recommend 6 rings per width, but you may specify otherwise.



For Seamless Pleated Draperies with railroaded fabric, typically 118" sheer, see the chart at right. Note that the chart assumes 3X fullness and 3.5" projection.



Sheer, 3 times fullness

Number of pleats per panel	Face width in inches per pair	Rings per pair	Face width in inches per panel	Rings per panel
5	27.5	12	15.5	6
6	33.5	14	18.5	7
7	39.5	16	21.5	8
8	45.5	18	24.5	9
9	51.5	20	27.5	10
10	57.5	22	30.5	11
11	63.5	24	33.5	12
12	69.5	26	36.5	13
13	75.5	28	39.5	14
14	81.5	30	42.5	15
15	87.5	32	45.5	16
16	93.5	34	48.5	17
17	99.5	36	51.5	18
18	105.5	38	54.5	19
19	111.5	40	57.5	20
20	117.5	42	60.5	21
21	123.5	44	63.5	22
22	129.5	46	66.5	23
23	135.5	48	69.5	24
24	141.5	50	72.5	25
25	147.5	52	75.5	26
26	153.5	54	78.5	27
27	159.5	56	81.5	28
28	165.5	58	84.5	29
29	171.5	60	87.5	30
30	177.5	62	90.5	31
31	183.5	64	93.5	32
32	189.5	66	96.5	33
33	195.5	68	99.5	34
34	201.5	70	102.5	35

NOTE ABOUT PROJECTION: We do not include the projection area of the drapery in ring count. We assume that you want to return the drapery to the wall. You may always specify otherwise.

Half Drop Fabrics

Identifying half drop fabrics, and providing correct yardage for them

Identifying half drop fabrics

Half drop fabrics, usually large designs, have patterns that do not match straight across from selvage to selvage. Instead the pattern has a diagonal arrangement and the match is off-set by one-half vertical repeat. Compare the illustrations of a normal pattern repeat and a half drop repeat.

Luckily, there is a method to deal with these fabrics for both quoting yardage and cutting to match the repeat.

Providing Correct Yardage

We will add a half repeat to the over-all yardage quote. For example, if the vertical repeat is 36", we will request an additional 1 cut @ 18".

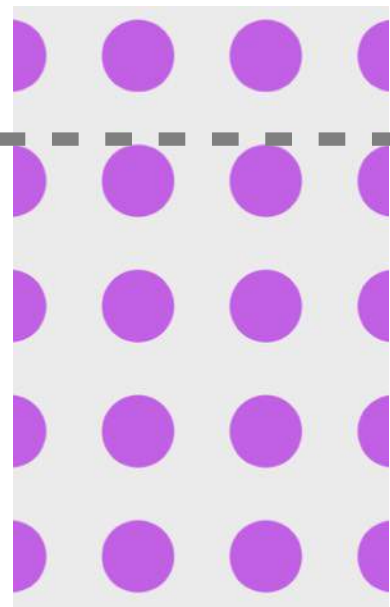
Half drop pattern repeat

Pattern **does not** match selvage to selvage straight across



Normal pattern repeat

Pattern matches selvage to selvage straight across



Make sure to clearly identify half drop fabric to the workroom ahead of time.

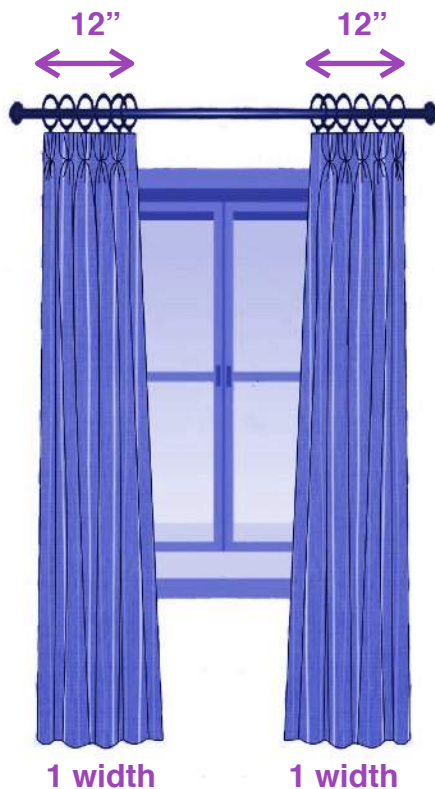
Width Placement of Stationary Panels

Stationary Panels give the illusion of a full drapery stacked off the window to reveal a beautiful view.

WHEN YOU ARE PLANNING THE WIDTH PLACEMENT OF STATIONARY DRAPERY SIDE PANELS, you need to answer two basic questions. First, where, exactly, will you install your panels relative to the window glass, trim, and wall? And second, how tightly will you stack them?

Stationary panels are a bit different than traversing draperies, with their tight stacking off the window when open. For stationary panels, an illusion is sought — the *appearance* of fully drawn-open draperies, occupying a similar wall space and revealing the glass and the view. But typically, stationary panels are installed with a “relaxed stack”: not packed together tightly like a stacked-back traverse drapery, but not stretched as wide as they will go either.

For 1-width stationary panels, which we will pleat to 20” each, including a standard 3.5” projection (that leaves 16.5” for the face), **choose an installed face width of about 12” per panel.**



For 1.5-width stationary panels, which we will pleat to 30” each, including a standard 3.5” projection (that leaves 26.5” for the face) **choose an installed face width of about 18” per panel.**



Position your stationary panels with the inside edge of each panel **even with the edge of the glass area**, provided you have adequate wall space. This means that each panel will cover the trim at the side of the window and extend a number of inches onto the wall outside of the window. Sometimes close side walls, wall-to-wall windows, dormer windows, and cabinets or other wall obstructions will cause the panels to obstruct the view. Use the guidelines presented here to plan the placement of your stationary panels, and set realistic expectations.

Stackback

STACKBACK is the additional space needed to the left and right of a window to allow a traversing Pleated Drapery to completely open and fully expose the glass in the window.

In the charts on this page we are using the term **Clearance Width** to mean the area the draperies will clear when open.

For a **Pair** the Clearance Width is the measurement of the glass area of the window. For a one-way **Panel**, the Clearance Width is the glass width plus—on the side opposite the stack—the trim and a few inches onto the wall to provide complete coverage, privacy and light blockage.

Width Fullness	Pair / Panel	Widths of 54" Fabric							
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.50	Pair	Clearance Width...							
		34	49	67	82	100	116	133	149
		+ Stackback							
		10.5 + 10.5	13.5 + 13.5	15.5 + 15.5	18.5 + 18.5	20.5 + 20.5	23.5 + 23.5	25.5 + 25.5	28.5 + 28.5
	Panel	= Face Width							
		55	76	98	119	141	163	184	206
		Clearance Width...							
		36	52	69	85	102	119	135	152
3.00	Pair	+ Stackback							
		19	24	29	34	39	44	49	54
		= Face Width							
		55	76	98	119	141	163	184	206
	Panel	Clearance Width...							
		36	50	62	76	88	102	114	
		+ Stackback							
		13.5 + 13.5	15.5 + 15.5	18.5 + 18.5	20.5 + 20.5	23.5 + 23.5	25.5 + 25.5	28.5 + 28.5	
	Pair	= Face Width							
		63	81	99	117	135	153	171	
	Panel	Clearance Width...							
		39	52	65	78	91	104	117	
		+ Stackback							
		24	29	34	39	44	49	54	
		= Face Width							
		63	81	99	117	135	153	171	

How to use the Chart and Guide:

- Determine** your Clearance Width based on the definitions above.
- Look up** your answer on the Quick Stackback Chart for a quick estimate, then follow the steps in the Exact Stackback Guide to get the most accurate answer.
- Confirm** that the stackback size you have determined is actually available to the left and right of your particular window. If not, start again and measure your maximum available face width (for example: wall to wall) and work the chart in reverse to look up the corresponding stackback. Now at least you can see how far the drapery will stack into the window.

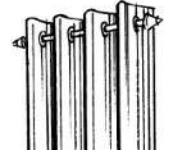
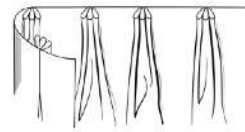
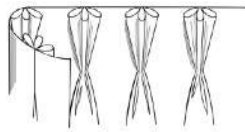


Visit stevensonvestal.com/blog-post/drapery-stackback to find out more!

Exact Stackback Guide

The Numbers: Width Fullness 2.50 or 3.00, plus Pair or Panel and your Glass Width		
Overview: Clearance Width...	Steps: Clearance Width (the area the draperies will clear when open).....	Example: 90" Clearance Width
+ Stackback	Stackback from the chart above.....	For a pair at 2.50x Fullness and up to 100" Clearance Width, the chart says: 20.5 + 20.5 = 41" Stackback
= Face Width	Clearance Width + Stackback = Face Width.....	90" + 41" = 131" Face Width

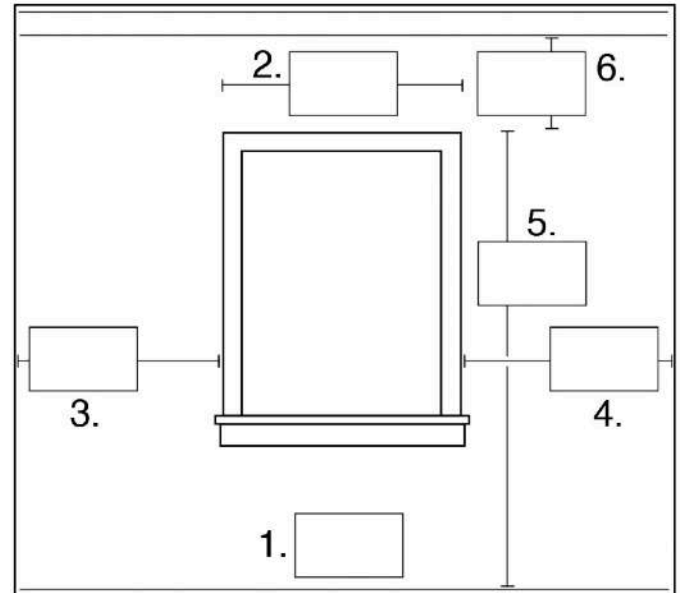
Working Measurements for Draperies



STEP 1: MEASURE YOUR WINDOW

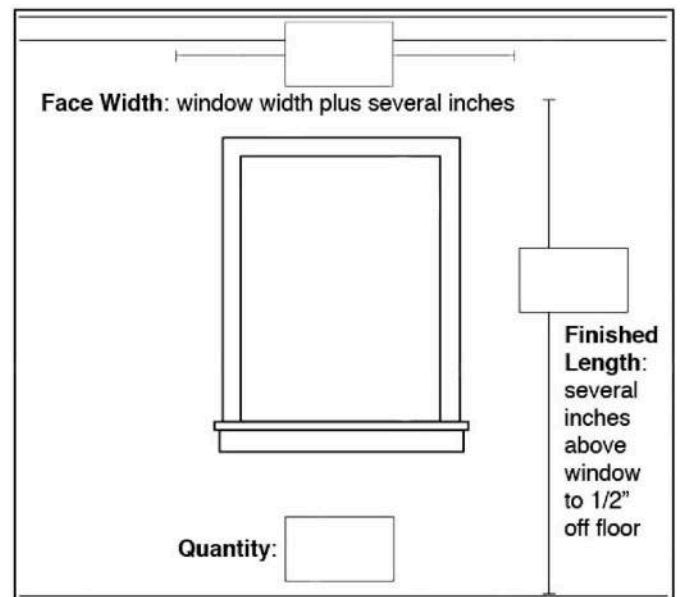
Collect the following information:

- 1. Quantity:** the number of windows of the same size.
- 2. Window Width:** the horizontal size of the window including trim (molding).
- 3. and 4. Left and right restrictions:** the horizontal space from outside the window trim to the nearest adjoining window, wall, cabinet or other obstruction.
- 5. Top of Window to Floor:** the vertical distance from top of window trim to touching the oor.
- 6. Top of Window to Ceiling:** the vertical space between the top of the window trim and the ceiling or crown molding.



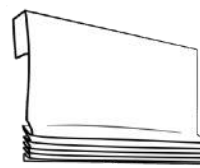
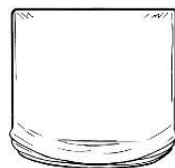
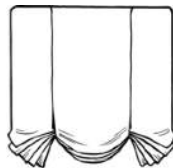
STEP 2: DETERMINE FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

- Indicate the **Quantity** of window treatments of the same size, style and fabrics.
- Determine the drapery's **Face Width**. Add several inches (up to 8" for single windows, 12" or more for larger windows) to **each side** of the window width, as space allows. This allows a functional drapery to clear the window's glass when open. The same principle applies to stationary side panels.
- Determine the drapery's **Finished Length**. Measure from several inches (usually 4" to 6"*) above top of window trim, as space allows, to touching oor. Subtract 1/2" for draperies to clear floor.



To enhance apparent window size and reveal maximum light and view, place window treatments outside and above windows.

Working Measurements for Functional Shades



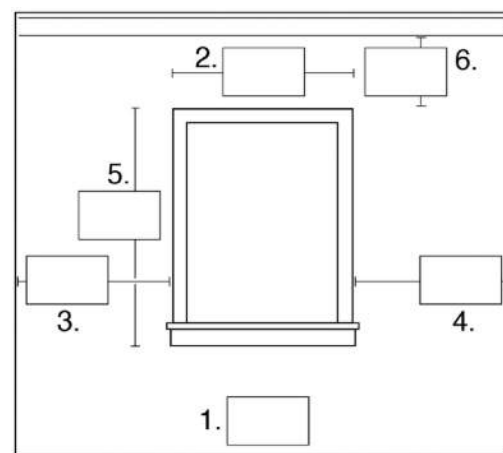
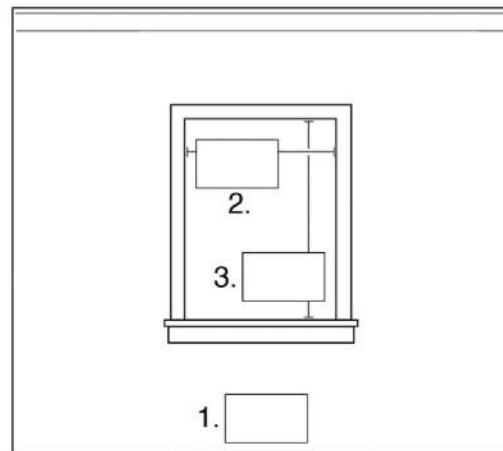
STEP 1: MEASURE YOUR WINDOW

FOR INSIDE MOUNT measure:

1. **Quantity:** the number of windows of the same size.
2. **Inside Width:** the horizontal size of the window inside the trim (molding).
3. **Inside Length:** the vertical distance inside the trim.

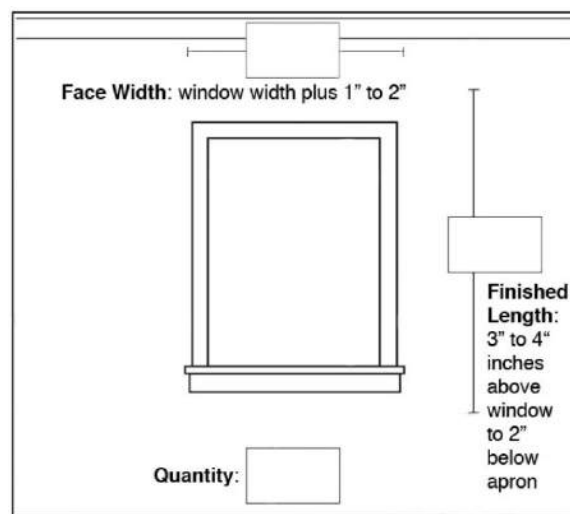
FOR OUTSIDE MOUNT measure:

1. **Quantity:** the number of windows of the same size.
2. **Window Width:** the horizontal size of the window including trim (molding).
3. and 4. **Left and right restrictions:** the horizontal space from outside the window trim to the nearest adjoining window, wall, cabinet or other obstruction.
5. **Top of Window to Apron:** the vertical distance from top of window trim to the apron.
6. **Top of Window to Ceiling:** the vertical space between the top of the window trim and the ceiling or crown molding.



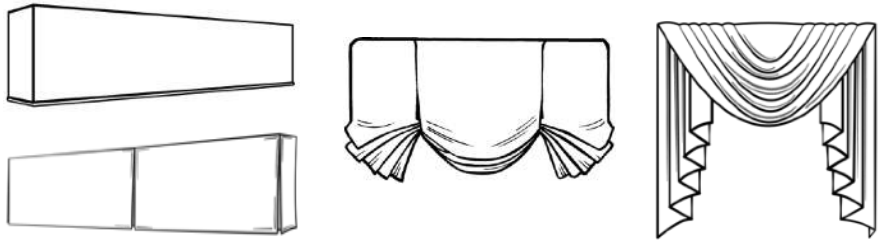
STEP 2: DETERMINE FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

- Indicate the **Quantity** of window treatments.
- For inside mounts, subtract 1/4" from the inside width for **Face Width**; add 1/2" to the inside length for the **Finished Length**.
- For outside mounts, add 1" to the window width for **Face Width**; add 6" to the window to apron measurement for **Finished Length**. Plan to mount so shade extends 4" above and 2" below window, if space allows.



Finished measurements example above is for an **outside mount**.

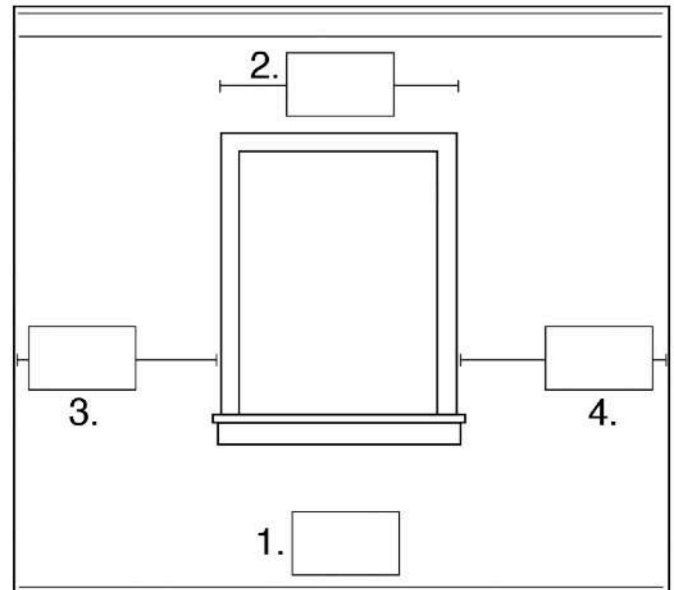
Working Measurements for Top Treatments



STEP 1: MEASURE YOUR WINDOW

For decorative top treatments such as **cornices**, **swags**, **shade toppers**, and **valances**, collect the following information:

- 1. Quantity:** the number of windows of the same size.
- 2. Window Width:** the horizontal size of the window including trim (molding).
- 3. and 4. Left and right restrictions:** the horizontal space from outside the window trim to the nearest adjoining window, wall, cabinet or other obstruction.

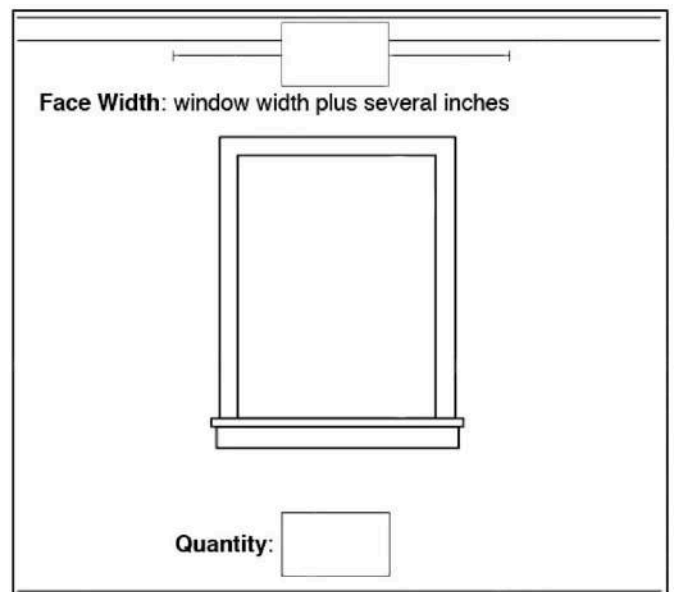


STEP 2: DETERMINE FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

- Indicate the **quantity** of window treatments of the same size, style and fabrics.
- Determine the valance's **face width**:

For a top treatment as the only treatment on the window, add 1/2" to 1" to **each side** of the window width, as space allows.

For a top treatment that goes over draperies, use the drapery face width as the valance face width.



To enhance apparent window size and reveal maximum light and view, place window treatments outside and above windows.