

## WINDOW TREATMENTS

Window treatments consist of curtains, draperies, blinds, or shades used to cover or enhance a window. Window treatments are one of a room's most important decorative features and are used for several purposes:

1. **Light control**—Window treatments allow us to control the amount of light a room receives. They also allow us to brighten the room by removing the covering from the window.
2. **Energy control**—Window treatments can effectively conserve heat in a room, thus making the heating of the room more economical.
3. **Camouflage**—If a window is poorly located or sized, a window treatment can camouflage the problem.
4. **Noise control**—Although most people enjoy the light and ventilation a window provides, there may be times of the day, or season, when undesirable noise enters the home through a window. In some cases, a window treatment can minimize the noise from the outside world.
5. **Privacy**—Bedrooms and bathrooms require window treatments that provide privacy. Privacy can also be provided in other areas of the home with window treatments.
6. **Beauty**—Window treatments can add a great deal of beauty to an otherwise dreary room. Due to the great variety in window treatments, the sky is the limit on the amount of decoration a window treatment can provide.
7. **View**—Although many window treatments are designed to enhance an outside view, other treatments are designed to obscure a poor view.

For easy maintenance window treatments should be durable as well as sun-moisture-insect resistant.

There seems to be a limitless number of window treatments, with new types being designed daily. The information below is a general list of window treatments you may wish to teach your class. This list is by no means inclusive. It would be helpful to show students illustrations of the various types of window treatments. This can usually be done by having them turn to the appropriate chapter in their text or reference book.

1. **DRAPERIES:** Heavy material with pleated panels. May draw across the rod, or remain stationary on either or both sides of the windows.
2. **CORNICES:** Horizontal treatment across the top of the window. Usually made of wood. May be padded and covered with fabric.
3. **VALANCES:** Horizontal treatment across the top of a window. Generally made from fabric.
4. **LAMBREQUINS:** A cornice that extends down the sides of the draperies.
5. **SHIRRED CURTAINS:** Gathered directly on rods and hung straight down. May be attached both at the top and the bottom.
6. **RUFFLED CURTAINS:** Curtains edged with ruffles on the hem and sides.
7. **CAFE CURTAINS:** Straight curtains hung from rings that slide along a rod. May cover the lower portion of the window or the entire window.
8. **ROLLER SHADES:** Material hung on a roller from the top of the window. Pulls down to close. Rolls up via a spring mechanism.
9. **ROMAN SHADES:** Made of fabric; hangs flat when closed; folds horizontally into pleats when raised.
10. **AUSTRIAN SHADES:** Fabric shade that is gathered in scallops when down and pulls into tighter scallops when raised.
11. **BALLOON SHADES:** Fabric shade that is flat when down and pulls into scallops when raised (can also be a stationary valance).
12. **PLEATED SHADES:** Solid fabric that folds into horizontal accordion pleats. Raised and lowered using cords, usually slightly opaque.
13. **VENETIAN BLIND:** 1/2"-1"-2" wide slats made of wood, metal or plastic. Hangs horizontally from a track and may be angled or drawn up.
14. **SHUTTERS:** Louvered or fixed slats. Attached with hinges so they can be opened and shut. Made of wood or plastic.
15. **JABOT:** Folded fabric that drapes down on either side of a swag or valance or between a series of swags.
16. **SWAG:** Fabric draped over a pole or rod.