

FABRICS

All Biggie Best fabrics conform to international standards.

Pure linen and hand loom fabrics are characterized by uneven texture and irregular colour and weave. The imperfections give these textiles character and are not regarded as flaws.

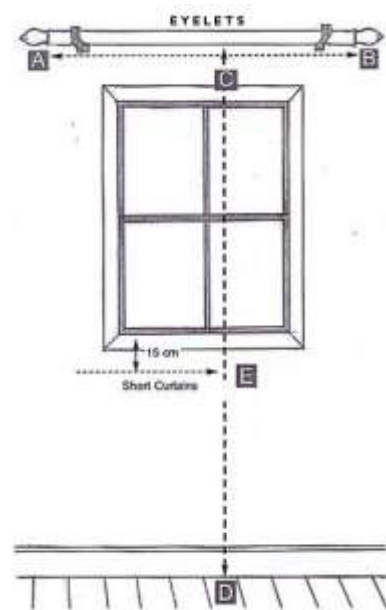
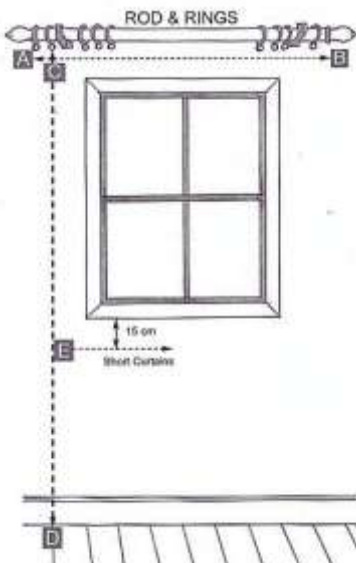
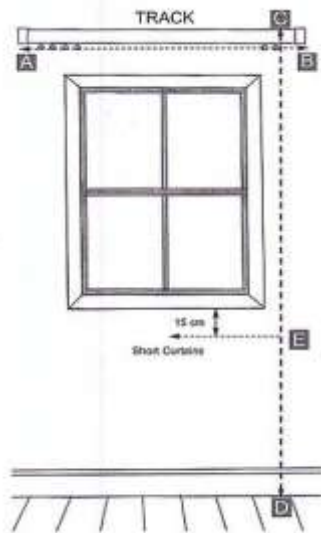
CLEANING AND CARE: Study the wash/care symbols that apply to each fabric. Vacuum curtains regularly to remove dust.

SHRINKAGE : All fabrics shrink with the first wash. Pre-shrunk natural fibre fabrics will shrink about 5% with washing. Pre-shrunk synthetic fabrics will shrink about 3%. Non pre-shrunk fabrics can shrink as much as 20% with the first wash. Most furnishing fabrics react better to dry-cleaning than washing.

SKEWNESS: International standards allow 3% skewness across the width of the fabric. For a 140cm wide fabric this can be as much as 4 cm. For this reason fabrics will not tear straight and all curtain drops **MUST** be CUT.

DROPAGE: Heavy fabrics especially those made from natural fibres will tend to drop once they are hung as the fibres lengthen with the weight of the curtain hanging from the rail. Natural fibres will also absorb moisture and go up and down with the weather. Do not hasten to shorten curtains if conditions are humid because they will be too short when dry conditions return

LIGHT FASTNESS: All fabrics fade if exposed to excessive light or sun and curtains should be lined. Curtains made from silk or silk blends must be lined with blackout lining.



MEASURING AND CALCULATING FABRIC FOR CURTAINS

Install your curtain track or pole before you measure up for curtains

MEASURE (using a metal tape measure) the finished length and width of the curtains for each window

CURTAIN TRACK

Measure the width of the track A-B = **finished width**

Measure from the top of the track to the floor C-D = **finished length**

For short curtains: Measure from top of track to 15cm below the window sill C-E

RODS AND RINGS

Measure the width of the rod between the finials A-B = **finished width**

Measure from the base of the rings to the floor C-D = **finished length**

For short curtains: Measure from the base of the rings to 15cm below the window sill C-E

EYELET CURTAINS

Measure the width of the rod between the finials A-B = **finished width**

Measure from the base of the rod to the floor C-D = **finished length**

For short curtains: Measure from base of the rod to 15cm below the window sill C-E

CHOOSE THE HEADER

CALCULATE FABRIC

Once you have established the finished width and length of the curtains it is necessary to calculate how many widths of fabric you require (to allow for gathers and/or folds) and the length to which these widths (henceforth referred to as 'drops') must be cut.

For the cutting length add 22 cm to the finished length to allow for a top turn-down and bottom hem. The number of fabric widths depends on the width of the fabric you choose and the style of the curtains.

Standard Header Tapes

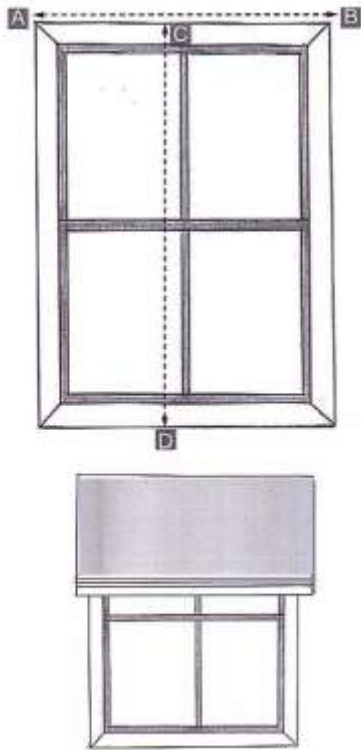
Pencil Pleat : Multiply **finished width** A-B by 2.5. Divide by width of fabric and round up to nearest whole no. to work out how many **drops** you need. **Multiply this number by (finished length C-D + 30 cm).** For **patterned fabric :** Add 1 less pattern repeat than the number of drops.

Pinch Pleat : Multiply **finished width** A-B by 2.15. Divide by width of fabric and round up to nearest whole no. to work out how many **drops** you need. **Multiply this number by (finished length C-D + 30 cm).** For **patterned fabric :** Add 1 less pattern repeat than the number of drops.

Eyelets: Multiply **finished width** A-B by 2.1. Divide by width of fabric and round up to nearest whole no. to work out how many **drops** you need. **Multiply this number by (finished length C-D + 40 cm).** For **patterned fabric :** Add 1 less pattern repeat than the number of drops.

CALCULATE LINING

You need the same amount of lining less the pattern repeat allowance



MEASURING AND CALCULATING FABRIC FOR EXTERNAL ROMAN BLIND

Establish the width and position of the top fixing batten about 5 cm above and extending about 3 cm on either side of the window opening.

For the **finished length** of the blind measure from the top of the timber batten to 10 cm below the window sill.

For the **finished width** measure the width of the top fixing batten. Take two more width measurements inside the window opening, at the middle and at the bottom.

CALCULATE FABRIC

BLIND FABRIC

The **cutting length** of the blind fabric is equal to the finished length + 13 cm for top turn-down and bottom casing/hem allowances.

The **cutting width** is equal to the finished width + 10 cm for side hems. Divide the cutting width of the blind by the width of the fabric and round up to establish the number of drops. Multiply the number of drops by the cutting length.

If 2 drops are required for a single blind cut the 2nd drop in half vertically and stitch 1/2 on either side of the full drop so you do not have a seam running down the centre of the blind. If the blind fabric is patterned, pattern match the outer 1/2 drops to the pattern on both sides of the central full drop.

If you are using a patterned fabric to make more than 1 blind in the same room, the pattern must match all around the room. Calculate the amount of fabric required for all the blinds and add on 1 less pattern repeat than the total number of drops required for all the blinds.

LINING

More lining than fabric is required because the lining will have channels stitched into it.

The cutting length of the lining is equal to the length of the blind fabric plus 24 cm (4 cm for 6 dowel stick channels).

The cutting width of the lining will be the same width as the cutting width of the blind.

A firm lining should be used to give substance to the blind.