



CAROLE
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rapidread

Measuring Guide

DEFINITIONS

Pair of Draperies

A pair of draperies has two panels that meet at the center of the rod. Draperies need to have a Return at each end to cover the mounting brackets, providing privacy and light control. Draperies also require an Overlap Allowance so that the panels will fully close at the center of the rod.

Single Panel

A single panel of drapery is made to travel from one end of the rod to the other. It might be used on a sliding glass door where you only have room on one side of the door for the drapery to stack. A single panel will only have one Return and one 2" Overlap Allowance.

A PAIR OF DRAPERIES

Finished Width for a Pair of Draperies

See [Worksheet for Measuring for Draperies 101](#).

STEP 1

Determine where the drapery hardware is to be mounted. It is recommended that the draperies extend at least 4" beyond the outside edge of the window frame on both sides and 4" above the top frame.

If exposing more glass when the draperies are opened is desired, extend the brackets farther from the side of the frame, paying attention to avoid interferences.

For regular traversing rods, the Bracket to Bracket width is measured from the outside of one bracket to the outside edge of the other bracket. **For decorative rods with rings**, measure the full length of the rod (excluding finials) since the brackets can be positioned in various places.

STEP 2

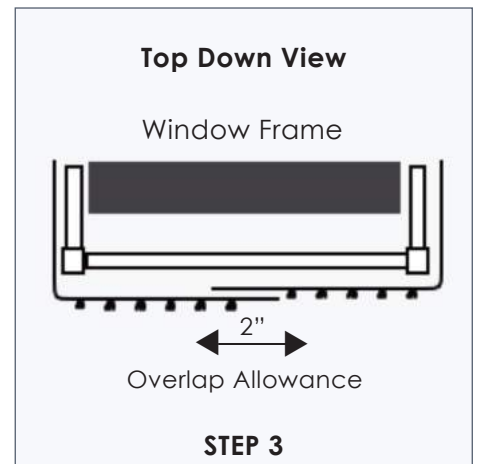
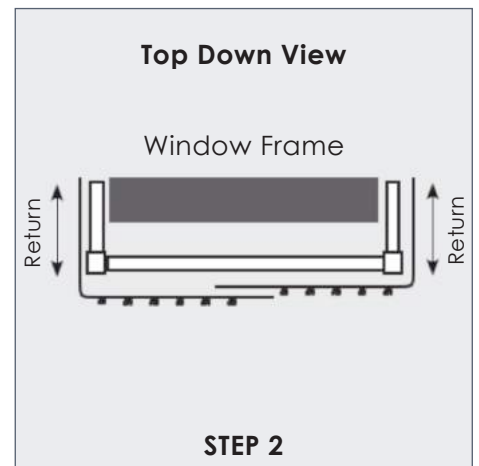
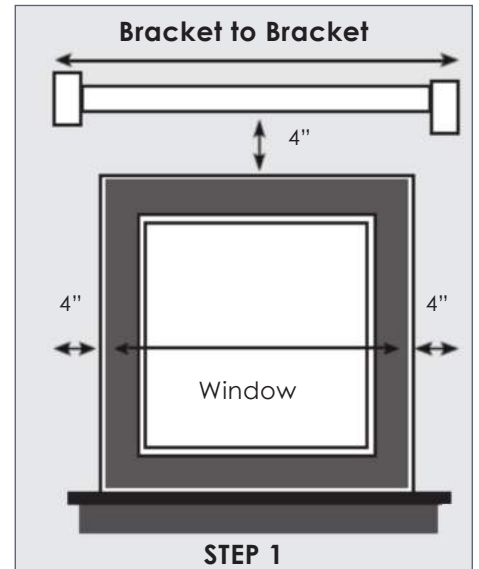
Determine the depth of the Return. This is the distance that the brackets will extend the rod from the wall. Measure this distance if you already have rods. Or, look in your hardware catalog for this information. This is the Return Size that will go on the order form. Remember, there will be a return on each end of the rod for a drapery pair.

STEP 3

Add 2" per panel for the Overlap Allowance.

STEP 4

Determine the Finished Width for the draperies. (See example on p. 2.)



FINISHED WIDTH FOR A SINGLE PANEL OF DRAPERIES

STEP 1

Determine where the drapery hardware is to be mounted. It is recommended that the draperies extend at least 4" beyond the outside edge of the window frame and 4" above the top frame.

If exposing more glass when the draperies are opened is desired, extend the brackets farther from the side of the frame, paying attention to avoid interferences.

For regular traversing rods, the Bracket to Bracket width is measured from the outside of one bracket to the outside edge of the other bracket. **For decorative rods with rings**, measure the full length of the rod (excluding finials) since the brackets can be positioned in various places.

STEP 2

There can only be one Return on a single panel. This is the distance that the bracket will extend the rod from the wall.

STEP 3

Add 2" for one Overlap Allowance.

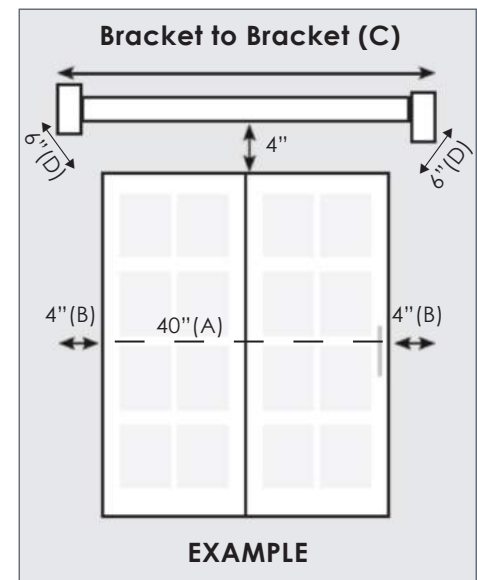
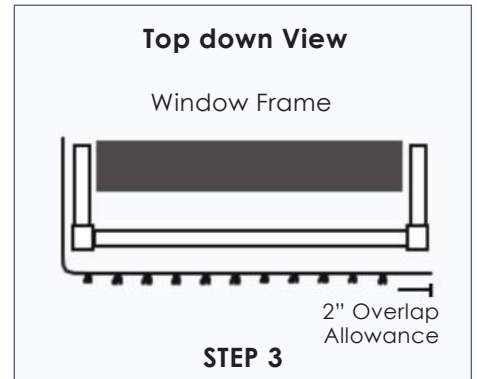
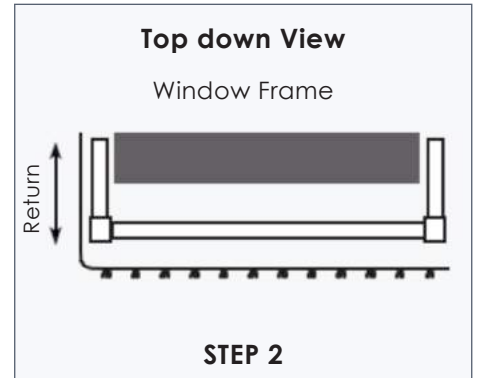
STEP 4

Determine the Finished Width for your drapery panel. (See example below.)

EXAMPLE

	Drapery Pair	Single
Window Width (A)	40"	40"
+ 4" Gap (B) X 2	8"	8"
Bracket to Bracket (C)	48"	48"
+Returns (D) X 2	Pair (X2) 12"	Single (X1) 6"
+Overlap allowance (2")	Pair (X2) 4"	Single (X1) 2"
Total Drapery Finished Width	64"	56"

NOTE: Some designers add an additional 2" to the final width to ensure draperies do not appear stretched.



DRAPERY LENGTH

If the customer is using floor length draperies, the rule of thumb is the drapery (not including the hardware) should be installed a minimum of 4" above the window. This allows for the back side of the drapery heading to not be seen from the outside of the home.

This is just a minimum. In many cases the amount of wall space above the window will dictate that the drapery be installed much higher. To determine the total length of the drapery, consider the beginning point at the top as mentioned above and decide how far down the drapery should hang. Most often the length of the drapery is measured to the floor. For traversing draperies, subtract one half inch (1/2") from the bottom for floor clearance.

For stationary side panels, one can allow them to touch the floor by adding 1" to 2", also known as a "trouser break" length or 8" to 18" which is known as "puddling" the drapery.

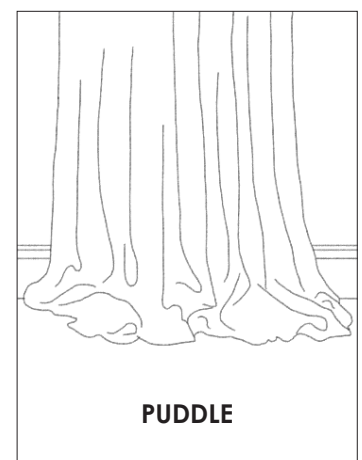
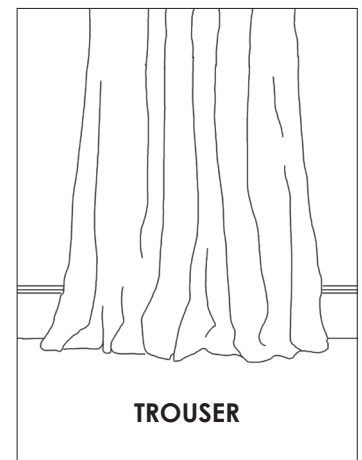
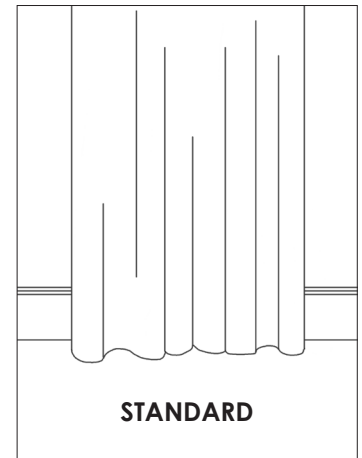
Special Considerations for Length

When determining length, also consider the drapery hardware being selected. Since there are many different styles, it stands to reason that bracket heights and rod diameters can vary.

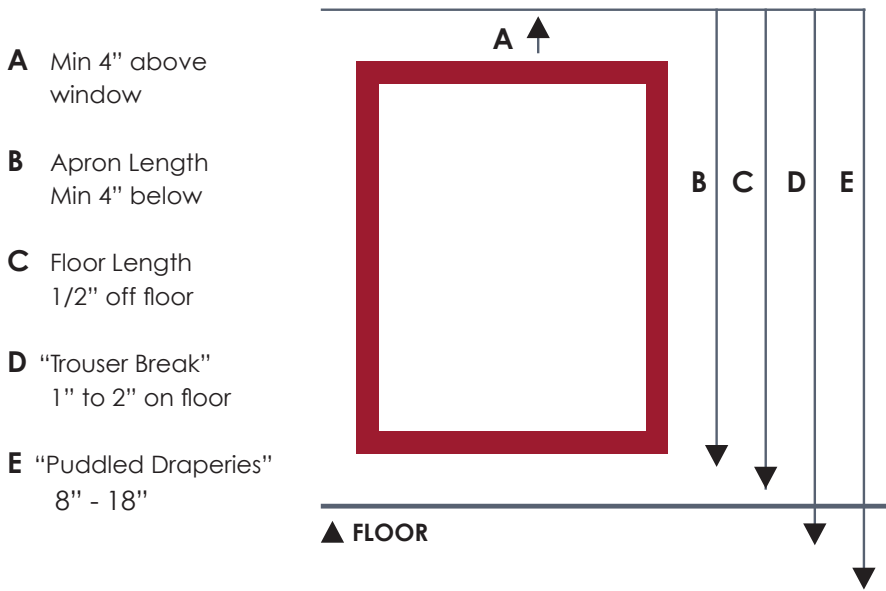
If using a 2" wood pole that had brackets 6" tall, one would need enough wall space above the drapery height to install the brackets.

It is important to read the hardware instructions to calculate the amount of wall space required to mount the rod.

Another example might be if one wanted the rod and drapery to start at ceiling height. Here again it's important to read the hardware instructions to determine rod placement allowing for ceiling clearances of moving decorative rings and bracket heights.



HOW TO DETERMINE DRAPERY LENGTH



FINISHED LENGTH FOR A PAIR OR SINGLE PANEL OF DRAPERIES

For Standard Traverse Rods

Measure from the top of the bracket or rod to the finished point that the draperies will hang. If the drapery is going to the floor, deduct 1/2" for floor clearance. This is the finished length.

For Hardware Using Thin Metal Rings

Measure from top of the rod to the finished point that the draperies will hang. Deduct the outside diameter of the ring. If the drapery is going to the floor, deduct 1/2" for floor clearance. This is the finished length.

For Hardware Using Thick Wood Rings

Measure from the top of the rod to the finish point that the draperies will hang. Deduct the outside diameter of one of the wooden rings. This will be the finished length of the drapery. Because of the thickness of wooden rings, floor clearance will already be accounted for, so no deduction for clearance will be necessary.

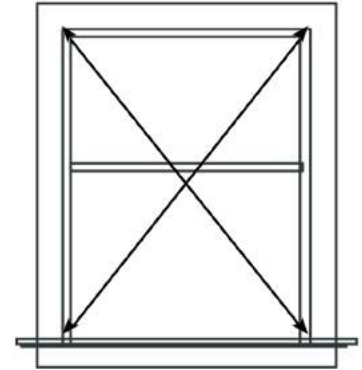


CHECK THE WINDOW FOR SQUARENESS

Not all windows are square. On smaller windows, this is usually not a problem. With large windows, and in houses that are older, this could be a potential problem.

Check windows for squareness before measuring for a shade.

Measure the diagonal dimensions. If both measurements are the same, the window is square. If the measurements are different, choose an Outside Mount Shade. An Inside Mount Shade will appear to be crooked.



Measure for squareness

FOR INSIDE MOUNT SOFT SHADES

Window Depth

A 1 1/2" minimum depth is required for an inside mount. For windows with less than 1 1/2", choose an Outside Mount shade.

Face Width

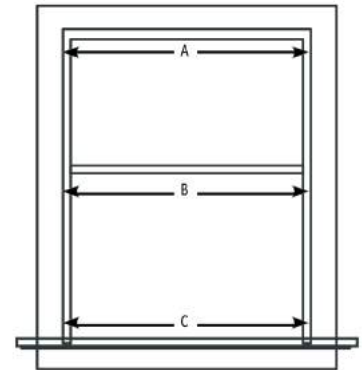
Measure the inside width of the window at the top, center, and bottom. Write down the smallest measurement. **Do NOT make any deductions.** The workroom takes a 1/4" deduction from the measurements for the head-rail and the shade. The mounting board will be made to fit inside the frame.

Length

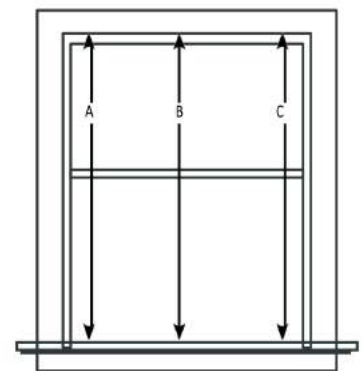
Measure the exact length of the window in three places: left side, middle and right side. Provide the longest measurement on the order form.

Remember, when the shade is raised, fabric requires stacking space at the top of the window. It's important to be comfortable with this stacking space. If that won't work, consider an Outside Mount style.

NOTE: If there is trim or hardware that would interfere with the shade, consider an Outside Mount style.



Inside Mount - width



Inside Mount - length

FOR OUTSIDE MOUNT SOFT SHADES

One may select an Outside Mount Shade for a number of reasons.

- **The window is not square.**
- **It can cover moldings that are not attractive.**
- The extra room at the top **allows the fabric to stack higher, exposing more window.**
- **If the shade has a shaped bottom.**

Face Width

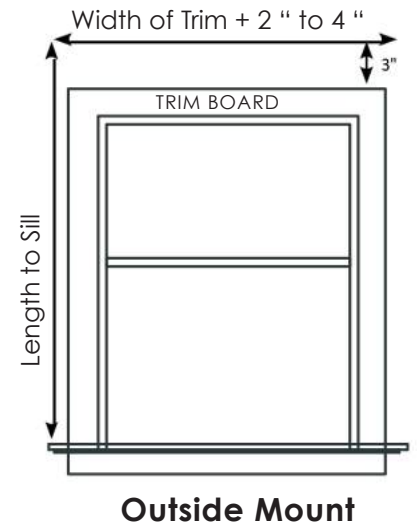
To ensure privacy, have the shade at least as wide as the outside width of the trim around the window, plus 1" to 2" on each side. If privacy or light control is an issue, go wider than 2". Austrian, Slouch, Soft and Sheer Soft styles will require extra width. Refer to the Shade Features for the amount required. Measure the width to cover and record this measurement.

Length

Determine the area to be covered. So that the headrail cannot be seen from the outside of the home, allow at least 4" above the window opening.

Mount the shade at least 2" to 3" above the top of the window trim to allow for the mounting brackets. One can go a bit higher to allow for stacking space when the shade is fully raised. Measure the distance from where the top of the shade will be installed to where the bottom should rest when fully closed. This will be the short point of the shade.

No deductions are taken for Outside Mount soft shades.



rapidread MEASURING FOR CORNICE BOARDS

A cornice is a horizontal decorative treatment across the top of a window. It is usually made of hardboard, padded and then covered with a fabric. These are a number of options for designs for cornices.

CORNICE MEASUREMENT

In most cases, a cornice will be hung over other window treatments. It is important to allow enough room under the cornice to clear anything that hangs beneath it. Some treatments will have side legs that have to be considered when you determine the width of the treatment.

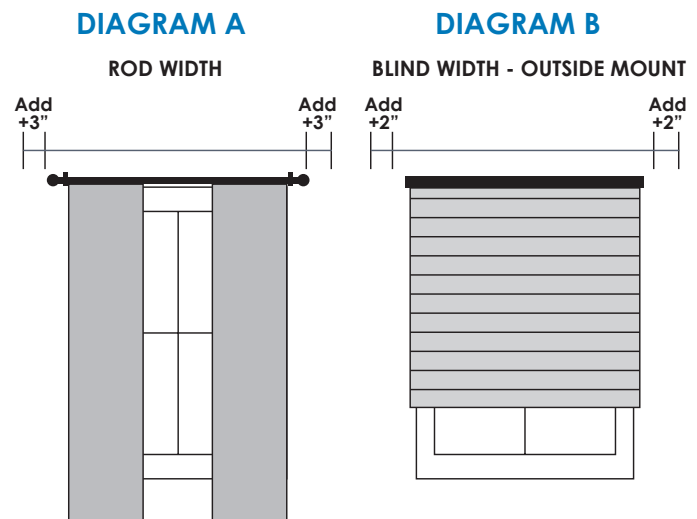
The board face will be the width of the front of the cornice.

Return or projection is the distance that the cornice will extend from the wall. Most cornices have returns. If using a cornice by itself, or if the under treatment is mounted inside the window, a minimum return of 4" is recommended.

HOW TO MEASURE

WIDTH

- 1. If covering rod-mounted under treatments such as draperies:** Measure the full length of the rod from tip to tip, including finials, if applicable. Add 6" for clearance (3" at each end). See Diagram A.
 - 2. If covering outside mounted window coverings such as shades or blinds:** Measure full width of the window covering and add 4" for clearance (2" at each end.) See Diagram B.
 - 3. For inside mount window coverings:** Customer must determine the look desired, and whether top treatment will extend beyond window trim, if any. When width of opening is determined, add 2" (1" per side) to accommodate for the thickness of the board material.
- ### RETURN
- 4. Determine the return (aka "projection")** of the top treatment so that it does not interfere with the operation of the window covering. The top treatment projection should be at least 2" more than the product it is covering. (Example: if the drapery rod projects 6" from the wall, the top treatment would need an 8" projection. If a vertical blind had a 5 1/2" projection in the open position, one would need an 8" projection for the top treatment.)
 - 5. The top treatment return** should generally not be less than 4" **UNLESS** it is covering an inside mounted window treatment.



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rapidread MEASURING FOR SWAGS AND CASCADES

A **swag** is fabric draped in decorative folds and generally attached to a rod or wooden board. It's generally used as an overtreatment over various types of window coverings.

SWAG MEASUREMENT

In most cases, a swag will be hung over other window treatments. It's important to allow enough room under the swag to clear anything that hangs beneath it. The board face or rod face will be the width of the front of the swag.

Return is the distance that the swag will extend from the wall. Most swags have returns. If using a swag by itself, or if the under treatment is mounted inside the window, a minimum return of 4" is recommended.

HOW TO MEASURE

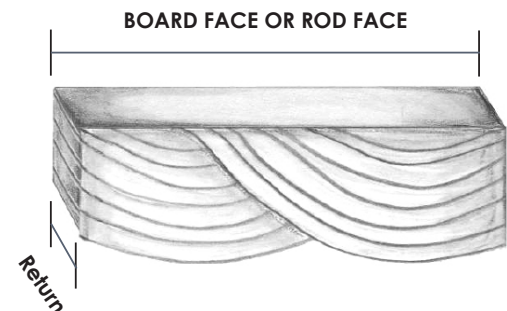
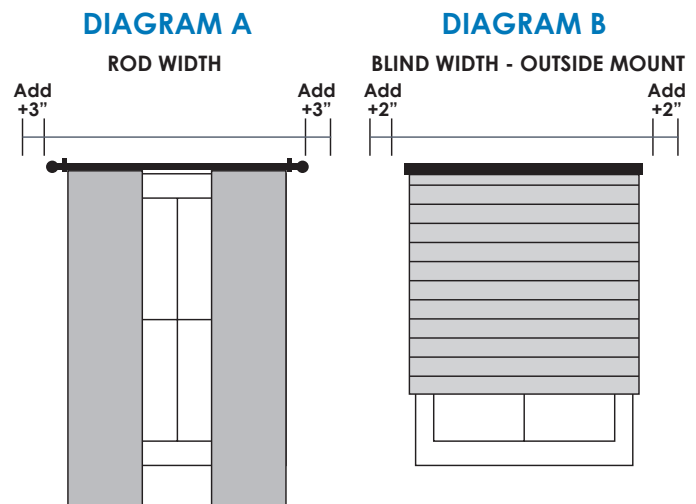
WIDTH

- 1. If covering rod-mounted under treatments such as draperies:** Measure the full length of the rod from tip to tip, including finials, if applicable. Add 6" for clearance (3" at each end). See Diagram A.
- 2. If covering outside mounted window coverings such as shades or blinds:** Measure full width of the window covering and add 4" for clearance (2" at each end.) See Diagram B.
- 3. For inside mount window coverings:** Customer must determine the look desired, and whether top treatment will extend beyond window trim, if any. When width of opening is determined, add 2" (1" per side) to accommodate for the thickness of the board material.

RETURN

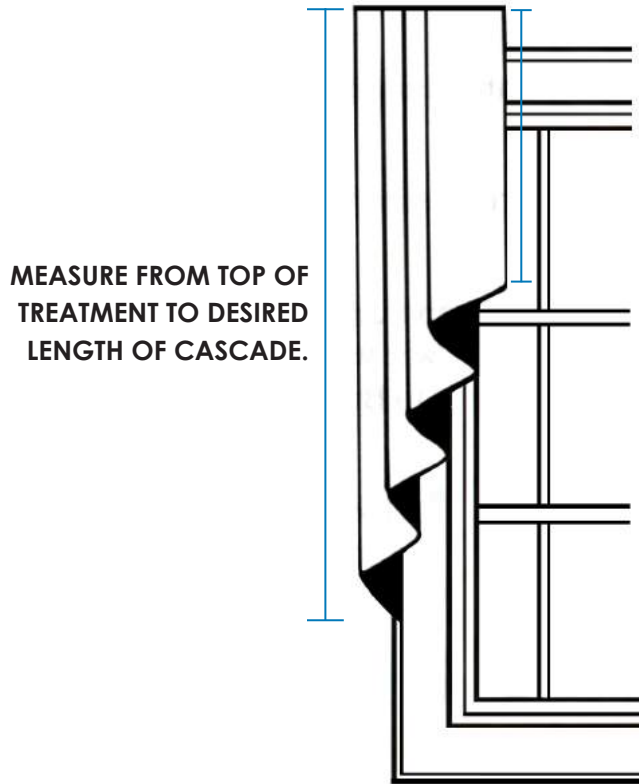
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- 5. The top treatment return** should generally not be less than 4" **UNLESS** it is covering an inside mounted window treatment.

Note: Some pole swags may not require a return.



CASCADE MEASUREMENT

A **cascade** is often used with elegant window treatments and formal decorating situations. Cascades fall from where they are mounted in a zig-zag line and may be interlined in a contrasting fabric.



MEASURE FROM TOP OF TREATMENT TO DESIRED LENGTH OF CASCADE.

TAPER TYPICALLY BEGINS AT LONG POINT OF THE SWAG UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

Fabricator will begin the taper at the long point of the swag and determine the number of folds.

A **valance** is a soft treatment of fabric hanging from a valance board, rod or pole. Lined or unlined, there are a variety of valances that can be used as top treatments. This sheet will explain how to measure both rod mounted and board mounted valances.

VALANCE CONSIDERATIONS

In most cases, both rod mounted valances and board mounted valances will be hung over other window treatments. It is important to allow enough room under the rod or board mounted valance to clear anything that hangs beneath it.

The board face or the rod face will be the width of the front of the valance.

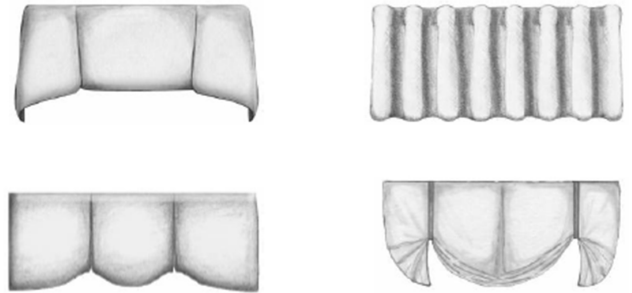
Return (aka "projection") is the distance that the rod mounted or board mounted valance will extend from the wall. Most valances have returns. If using a rod mounted or board mounted valance by itself, or if the under treatment is mounted inside the window, a minimum return of 4" is recommended.

HOW TO MEASURE

WIDTH

- 1. If covering rod-mounted under treatments such as draperies:** Measure the full length of the rod from tip to tip, including finials, if applicable. Add 6" for clearance (3" at each end). See Diagram A.
- 2. If covering outside mounted window coverings such as shades or blinds:** Measure full width of the window covering and add 4" for clearance (2" at each end.) See Diagram B.
- 3. For inside mount window coverings:** Customer must determine the look desired, and whether top treatment will extend beyond window trim, if any. When width of opening is determined, add 2" (1" per side) to accommodate for the thickness of the board material.

EXAMPLES OF ROD MOUNTED VALANCES



EXAMPLES OF BOARD MOUNTED VALANCES

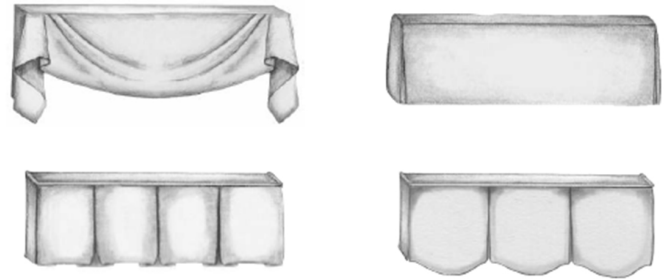


DIAGRAM A

ROD WIDTH

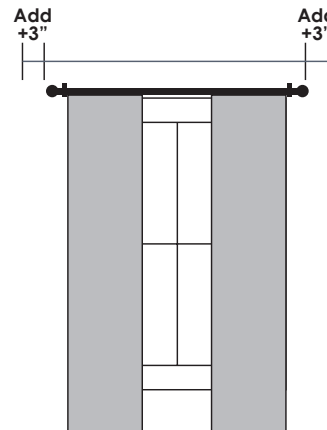
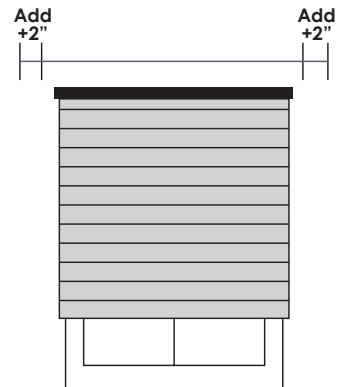


DIAGRAM B

BLIND WIDTH - OUTSIDE MOUNT



RETURN

- 4. Determine the return (aka "projection")** of the top treatment so that it does not interfere with the operation of the window covering. The top treatment projection should be at least 2" more than the product it is covering. (Example: if the drapery rod projects 6" from the wall, the top treatment would need an 8" projection. If a vertical blind had a 5 1/2" projection in the open position, one would need an 8" projection for the top treatment.)
- 5. The top treatment return** should generally not be less than 4" **UNLESS** it is covering an inside mounted window treatment.

