

Buyers Guide by Alison Carter

5 Important Steps
to
Selecting the Perfect
Window Coverings
For Your Home

What style is YOUR style?

Your goal should be to compliment and accent all your home furnishings/designs that reflect and emphasize your tastes. I usually see many of my clients' styles and tastes by the furniture they have – the colors that dominate...even from the clothes they wear.

Before deciding if you want to cover your windows with shades or draperies...or shutters or blinds, give some thought to the "look" that makes you feel warm, comfortable and safe.

To help produce ideas, listed below are general categories of styles:

- ❖ Modern
- Contemporary
- Minimalist
- Traditional
- Transitional
- Rustic
- Coastal

After you decide which style you want to re-create in your home, look at window coverings that accent this style. For example, if you like COASTAL, shutters or roman shades in whites and light blues could be a perfect choice. RUSTIC might have you looking at richly-stained wood blinds or shutters. I like to discuss all these options then narrow a good choice so I can

show you samples of all that is available in your selections.

How would you like your window coverings to function?

Blinds and shutters DEFLECT light coming into your home. Some shades BLOCK light and others DEFUSE light. While the light blocking shades function well and offer a quick change from full view to complete privacy, blinds and shutters give you the flexibility to adjust to a full range of privacy/light control and positions.

If you like privacy but prefer to control some outside light coming into your home, light-filtering shades are a good option. Most of these shades use multi-layered fabric to defuse the light coming through your shades that produce a "soft" look in your home.

Light control and privacy have a "range" of comfort for my customers.

This is an area where I can be helpful when deciding how they want their window coverings to function.

Do you have small children or pets?

Cords hanging from blinds and shades are a potential safety hazard. And, if they're not properly installed, pose a threat.

In the last few years, the BLIND, SHADE & SHUTTER industry has come a long way to bring safer products

and product choices to consumers with small children and/or pets. From cordless control to remote control, many options are available with NO hanging cords – eliminating any threat.

It's my goal to provide the style and the safe function you are looking for – with any budget.

Are your heating and/or cooling bills high?

Our homes today are built with more (and larger) windows and have the potential to drain energy and increase our cooling and heating bills! All custom-made window coverings provide an added insulation for your windows...and, some provide more than others.

Blinds offer a very good rating for insulation and the shutter rate is even higher. Shades offer the best and they substantially reduce your energy costs. As an added bonus, when shades are lowered to the close position they act as very good UV blockers that protect your floors and furnishings.

Again, I have a variety of good options to work with any budget.

Cleaning, maintenance & warranty?

The custom-made blind, shades & shutters I provide and install come with lifetime warranties.

Generally, light cleaning/dusting is all that is necessary to keep your window coverings looking great for many years. And, if anything spills onto them, using mild dishwashing soap, spot cleaning is usually enough to get rid of any stains. And, most blinds and shades can be ultrasonically cleaned for deeper cleaning.

I love helping folks with all these points and more...so reach out with questions and I'll do my best to help you "Transform the Light" into your home!

