

# The 2026 Ultimate Guide to Custom Window Coverings

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## Your Room-by-Room Strategy:

Different spaces have unique demands for privacy, light, and durability.

**Living Rooms:** Focus on layering. Use sheers for daytime privacy and light diffusion, paired with block out drapes or roller blinds for movie nights.

**Bedrooms:** Priority is sleeping quality. Blinds or block out curtains are best for total darkness and noise reduction.

**Kitchens & Bathrooms:** Moisture resistance is key. Opt for PVC Venetian blinds or shutters that won't warp in humid conditions.

**Home Office:** Reduce screen glare with light-filtering roller blinds that keep the space bright without the harsh reflection.

## Energy Efficiency: Keeping Your Bills Down

Window treatments are an investment that pays for itself by regulating home temperature.

**Summer Cooling:** External awnings and UV-filtering blinds can block up to 70% of solar heat before it hits your glass.

**Winter Warmth:** Add blinds for extra insulation and your choice for decorative custom curtains. This design traps air, acting like a second layer of glazing to reduce heat loss.

**Pro Tip:** For maximum thermal performance, hang curtains "high and wide" to seal the window and prevent drafts.

## 2026 Style Trends: "Soft Minimalism" & Texture

This year, the trend has shifted from flat, stark colours to rich, tactile textures.

**The "Quiet Luxury" Look:** Replace plain white with warm neutrals like cashmere cream, duck egg, and moonlight.

**Track Hardware:** A minimalist sleek design, perfect when it's visible with Wave Fold or totally covered with Pleated Curtains.

- Track is available for Motorised & Manual control.
- Track bracket: Available options for face-fit & ceiling fit brackets.

## Choice of Curtain Headings:

- **Wave fold** brings a contemporary look and feels to a room especially with a beautiful sheer fabric, giving a soft ambience touch which is great for living rooms and open plan spaces.
- **Double pleat & Triple pleat** offer traditional elegance to a room.
- **Box fold** that suits both traditional and contemporary home décor.

## The Smart Home Evolution: Motorisation

Motorised treatments are no longer just a luxury—they are a 2026 standard for convenience and security.

**Battery vs. Wired:** Battery motors are perfect for retrofitting existing homes with no wiring needed, while AC mains motors are ideal for large, heavy curtains.

**Automation:** Set schedules for your blinds to open at sunrise or close automatically when the afternoon sun hits your west-facing windows.

**Safety:** Motorised systems are inherently child-safe and pet-friendly because they eliminate dangerous hanging cords.

## The "Perfect Fit" Checklist

Before you buy, ensure you've considered these three factors:

**Mounting Style:** Do you want Face Fit (mounted outside the frame to block all light) or Recess Fit (inside the frame for a sleek, minimalist look)?

**Fabric Density:** Block out for full light protection and/or windows benefit from light-filtering sheers.

**The Measurement Rule:** Always measure the top, middle, and bottom of your window—frames are rarely perfectly square!

## Indoor Blinds: An Overview

Indoor blinds are the most versatile window treatment available. Unlike curtains, which primarily offer "open or closed" options, blinds use adjustable fabrics to give you precise control over glare and airflow. They are often more compact than shutters and can be motorised for ultimate convenience in hard-to-reach areas.

### **Aluminum Venetian Blinds - The Practical All-Rounder**

Description: These consist of horizontal, lightweight slats (usually 25mm or 50mm) made from corrosion-resistant aluminium.

Best For: Kitchens, bathrooms, and laundries.

Key Benefit: Because aluminium does not rust or warp in high humidity, these are the go-to for "wet areas". They offer ultimate light control—you can tilt the blades to let light in while keeping people from seeing inside.

### **Holland Blinds (Roller Blinds) - The Modern Minimalist**

Description: A single sheet of fabric that rolls up and down around a tube. "Holland" is simply the traditional name for Roller Blinds.

Best For: Bedrooms and living rooms.

Key Benefit: They provide clean, architectural lines and are incredibly easy to operate. You can choose Block out for total darkness or Sunscreen to keep your view while cutting UV rays.

### **Panel Glide Blinds - The Sliding Door Solution**

Description: Wide panels of fabric that slide horizontally along a multi-channel track. They are a modern, sophisticated alternative to old-fashioned vertical blinds.

Best For: Large sliding doors, floor-to-ceiling windows, or as room dividers.

Key Benefit: The panels stack neatly behind one another when open, providing an unobstructed view without the "clutter" of traditional vertical slats.

### **Roman Blinds - The Elegant Classic**

Description: Fabric blinds that fold into neat, horizontal pleats when raised. When lowered, they lie completely flat against the window.

Best For: Formal dining rooms, master bedrooms, and smaller windows.

Key Benefit: They offer the luxurious look of a curtain but with the structured functionality of a blind. Their layered construction also provides excellent thermal insulation.

**Pro Tip for Homeowners:** If you have a room with both a standard window and a sliding door, you can often use matching fabric across both a Holland Blind (on the window) and a Panel Glide (on the door) for a seamless, designer finish.

| Blind Type          | Best Rooms                     | Light & Privacy Control                                          | Durability & Maintenance                                   |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aluminium Venetians | Kitchens, Bathrooms, Laundries | <b>Excellent:</b> Tilt slats for precise light/view control      | <b>High:</b> Water-resistant easy to wipe clean            |
| Holland (Roller)    | Bedrooms, Media Rooms, Offices | <b>Good:</b> Choose blackout for darkness or sunscreen for glare | <b>Medium:</b> Low maintenance simple "roll up" protection |
| Panel Glides        | Sliding Doors, Large Windows   | <b>Moderate:</b> Best for privacy on large glass spans           | <b>High:</b> Simple sliding mechanism with minimal wear.   |
| Roman Blinds        | Dining Rooms, Master Suites    | <b>Good:</b> Solid fabric provides great privacy when down       | <b>Moderate:</b> Requires gentle care for fabric folds.    |

## Why "Room-Matching" Matters

**Wet Areas:** You should strictly avoid Roman or Panel Glides made of delicate fabrics in bathrooms, as they can attract mildew. Stick to Aluminium or PVC.

**Large Glass Spans:** Using multiple Holland blinds on a wide sliding door can create "light gaps" between the rollers. Panel Glides eliminate this by overlapping the fabric.

**Maximum Sleep Quality:** For nurseries or night-shifters, Holland Blockout blinds with side channels (to block the "light halo" around the edges) are the top recommendation.

## Operation Methods: Choosing Your Control

**Chain Operated (The Universal Standard)**

This is the most common system for roller (Holland) and vertical blinds. It uses a looped plastic or stainless-steel bead chain to rotate the roller.

The Benefits:

- **Proven Reliability:** Simple mechanical design that lasts for years.
- **Precise Height:** Stop the blind at any exact point you want.
- **Cost-Effective:** Usually the base price for most blind systems.

Best For: Standard-sized windows in kitchens and living rooms.

Safety Note: Must be installed with child-safety tensioners to keep the loop secure and away from children.

### **Twist Stick / Wand Operated (The Child-Safe Classic)**

Mostly found on Aluminium Venetians and Vertical Blinds, this uses a solid plastic wand to either tilt the slats or slide the blind across.

The Benefits:

- **Inherently Child-Safe:** Since there are no looped cords or chains, it is the safest manual option for nurseries and playrooms.
- **Fine-Tuned Shading:** A simple twist allows you to angle the light without moving the whole blind.
- **Minimalist Look:** No dangling chains; the wand stays tucked neatly against the frame.

Best For: Rental properties, kids' bedrooms, and wet areas like bathrooms.

### **Motorised (The Ultimate Upgrade)**

As discussed, this replaces all physical chains or wands with an internal motor controlled by a remote, app, or voice command.

The Benefits:

- **Safety First:** 100% cordless, making it the "Gold Standard" for child and pet safety.
- **Reach the Unreachable:** Perfect for high-set windows, skylights, or blinds hidden behind furniture.
- **Instant Privacy:** Close every blind in the house with a single button press before bed.

Best For: Large modern homes, "Smart Home" enthusiasts, and homeowners with mobility challenges and hard to reach places.

## Outdoor Awnings: An Overview

Unlike indoor blinds, outdoor awnings are engineered with heavy-duty, UV-resistant fabrics (like mesh, acrylic, or PVC) and powder-coated aluminium frames to withstand wind and rain. They are the most effective way to lower energy bills because they stop heat before it hits your glass.

Outdoor awnings act as a protective "second skin" for your home, blocking up to 90% of solar heat gain. In the window treatment industry, choosing the right external system depends on whether you need a fully sealed room, simple sun shading, or airflow.

### Zip Screens (The All-Weather Sealed Room)

Description: A premium blind where the fabric is zipped securely into side channels.

Best For: Enclosing patios, alfresco areas, and balconies.

Key Benefit: Because there are no gaps on the sides, they are the only option that completely blocks out wind, rain, and insects. They stay taut even in strong breezes (up to 70km/h) without flapping.

### Channel Awnings (The Sturdy Traditionalist)

Description: Similar to zip screens, but the fabric is not locked into the track; instead, a heavy bottom rail guided by two side channels keeps it in place.

Best For: Areas where you want privacy and sun protection but don't need a total seal.

Key Benefit: They allow for better ventilation than zip screens. While they can blow out of the track in extreme wind, they are a more budget-friendly alternative for standard sun shading.

### Pivot Arm Awnings (The Airflow Specialist)

Description: These awnings project outward at an angle rather than dropping vertically, creating a pitched canopy over the window.

Best For: Second-storey windows or rooms that need both shade and a breeze.

Key Benefit: By sitting away from the window, they allow maximum airflow into the home while still blocking direct sunlight.<sup>4</sup>

### Guided Awnings (Wire or Cable Guided)

Description: A sleek vertical drop system held steady by slim, high-tension stainless-steel cables on either side.

Best For: Modern homes or balconies where you want a minimalist look with no bulky side tracks.

Key Benefit: They provide unobstructed views when the blind is up and prevent the fabric from billowing in light breezes without the visual weight of a full channel system.

### Straight Drops (The Versatile Basic)

Description: A vertical awning that rolls directly down without side tracks or cables. It is typically secured at the bottom with straps or clips.

Best For: Budget-conscious projects or windows where side tracks cannot be mounted.

Key Benefit: They are extremely flexible and can be installed in almost any opening, providing essential privacy and sun protection without complex hardware.

| Product Type           | Wind Resistance | Insect Protection | Max Airflow | Best Use Case              |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Zip Screen</b>      | <b>High</b>     | Full Seal         | Low         | Creating an outdoor “room” |
| <b>Channel Awnings</b> | <b>Moderate</b> | Partial           | Moderate    | Standard patio shading     |
| <b>Pivot Arms</b>      | <b>Moderate</b> | None              | <b>High</b> | Upper-level window         |
| <b>Guided Awnings</b>  | <b>Moderate</b> | None              | Moderate    | Balconies with views       |
| <b>Straight Drops</b>  | <b>Low</b>      | None              | Moderate    | Quick, affordable shades   |

### Maintenance Guide for Longevity

Regular care can extend the life of these systems by 3–5 years. Follow these steps for professional-grade maintenance.

## General Cleaning (Every 3–6 Months)

- **Remove Debris:** Use a soft-bristled brush or a leaf blower to remove dust, leaves, and cobwebs.
- **Gentle Wash:** Mix lukewarm water with a mild, fragrance-free soap (like dishwashing liquid). Avoid harsh chemicals, bleach, or solvents, as these can strip the protective UV coating.
- **Rinse Thoroughly:** Use a garden hose with a gentle spray. Never use a high-pressure washer, as it can tear the fabric or damage the zip mechanism.
- **Dry Before Retracting:** Always allow the fabric to air dry completely in the extended position before rolling it up to prevent mould and mildew growth.

## Specific Care for Moving Parts

**Zip Screens:** Regularly clean the side tracks to ensure the "zip" moves smoothly. Avoid using oil-based lubricants in the tracks as they attract dirt; use a dry silicone spray if needed.

**Pivot Arms:** Annually check and tighten all nuts and bolts. Lightly lubricate the pivot joints with a high-quality light oil to prevent squeaking.

**Motorisation:** Periodically check remote batteries. If the power fails, do not attempt to manually force a motorised awning, as this can strip the motor gears.

**Pro Tip for Homeowners:** If your awning gets wet during a sudden storm, retract it for safety, but extend it again as soon as the weather clears to let it dry out. Leaving a wet awning rolled up for more than 48 hours is the most common cause of permanent fabric staining and odour.

## Motorised Systems: The Future of Home Comfort

Motorisation is the fastest-growing segment in window treatments. It transforms blinds and awnings from manual tools into smart home assets.

- **Quiet Operation:** Insulated sounds for quietest automation
- **Micro USB Charging:** Convenient USBC charging port
- **Elegant Motion:** Smooth action and elegant stop

### Battery-Powered (Retrofit Friendly)

**The Benefit:** No electrician required. These motors use high-performance lithium-ion batteries hidden inside the roller tube.

Pros:

- ✓ Simple Install: Perfect for existing homes where running wires through walls is difficult or expensive.
- ✓ Longevity: A single charge typically lasts 6–12 months with average use.
- ✓ Solar Option: Many can be paired with a slim solar panel to keep them topped up indefinitely.

Best For: Internal roller blinds and Roman blinds in hard-to-reach spots.

### **Hard-Wired / Connected (The Gold Standard)**

The Benefit: Motors are wired directly into your home's 240V power.

Pros:

- ✓ Infinite Power: Never worry about charging; ideal for large, heavy outdoor Zip Screens or Awnings.
- ✓ Smart Integration: Easily connects to Google Home, Amazon Alexa, or Apple HomeKit.
- ✓ Automation: Set "Scenes" so your awnings automatically close when the sun hits the west side of the house or open at 7:00 AM to wake you up.

Best For: New builds, large renovations, and heavy-duty outdoor installations.

***\*You will need to have an electrician connect power.***

### **Crank Operated: The Rugged Alternative**

Crank operation uses a detachable or fixed manual handle to wind the awning up or down.

The Benefit: Reliable, cordless control that works regardless of power outages or battery life.

Pros:

- ✓ Extreme Durability: With fewer electronic parts, crank systems are incredibly robust and ideal for coastal areas with high salt spray.
- ✓ Cost-Effective: A great way to get the benefits of a premium outdoor system without the added cost of motors and electrical work.
- ✓ Precision: Allows for very fine adjustments to the height of the blind.

Best For: Ground-floor outdoor awnings, straight drops, and situations where simplicity is preferred over automation.

## PVC Shutters

### Product overview

PVC plantation shutters are a durable, easy-care window furnishing option designed to improve privacy, light control and the finished look of a room. They suit many window and door openings, including standard windows, larger openings and sliding doors when the correct configuration is selected.

### Commonly Used Areas

| Area                   | Why Choose                                                                                       |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bedrooms               | Privacy, blackout improvement when combined with good framing, and a neat built-in look.         |
| Living Areas           | Light control and a premium finish while still allowing airflow through adjustable blades.       |
| Kitchens and Wet-prone | PVC material is easy to clean and a practical choice where moisture or marks are more likely     |
| Sliding Doors          | Sliding or bi-fold shutter systems can be used where panels need to move away from the opening   |
| Awkward Windows        | T-posts, frames and fixed panels can help suit different layouts, subject to measurement checks. |

### Client Product Customisable Options

|                       |                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blade Size            | 63 mm for a more traditional look, or 89 mm for a wider blade and more open view.         |
| Colour                | Colour White painted finish options: Arch White, Ultra White, Pure White and Bright White |
| Opening Style         | Hinged, fixed, sliding or bi-fold depending on the window, door and access needs.         |
| Frame Style           | Different frame profiles can be selected to suit the opening and finished look            |
| Light Control Add-ons | D-moulds, light blocks and side light blocks can help reduce gaps and improve the finish. |
| Locks                 | Flush bolts can be used where panels need to be held securely in place.                   |

## Opening Styles Explained

| Style   | Best Use                                                                                 |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fixed   | Used where the shutter does not need to swing open. Blades still tilt open and closed.   |
| Sliding | Best for sliding doors, wide openings and areas where panels need to move along a track. |
| Bi-fold | Panels fold to the side, useful where access is needed and stacking space is available.  |
| Hinged  | Best for most standard windows. Panels swing open for window access and cleaning.        |

### What to expect during quoting

- We check the window or door opening, including handles, locks, storm bars and depth, to make sure blades
- can operate properly.
- We confirm whether the shutter should sit inside the reveal or on the face/outside of the opening.
- For large openings, we confirm whether hinged, sliding or bi-fold is the most practical option.
- Final suitability depends on measurements, panel size limits, frame choice and the opening style required.

### Remotes:

Remotes range includes:

- Push One: controls 1 shade
- Push 5: controls 5 shades
- Push 15: controls 15 shades with 5 groups
- Push Pro: controls 30 shades with 15 groups and 10 timers