

OPEN YOUR WINDOWS

To Another Comox Valley Summer...
and Love What You See Inside & Out

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With spring finally here, now is the perfect time to embrace the change of season in your home or office—to give yourself a lift.

Windows are the perfect place to start a makeover, too. Ironically, windows are such an important feature in most rooms, yet so many people consider their window coverings last when embarking on an interior design makeover.

Many say the reason for looking first at bedding, flooring, and furniture for “updating” is because they just don’t know what to do with their windows.

SHADES OR BLINDS?

They ask what type of hardware should be used, and where should it be positioned—above the window...at what height... how far past the window frame?

Should there be a fabric valance or a wood valance? Curtains or drapes...or both?

For those who are not working with an interior designer, these questions often never get answered so the window treatments fall to the bottom of the list.

This is also unfortunate, since a window can make

or break a room on nearly any budget. And, if the window treatments fall short of creating the impact you want, your entire design effort may be a disappointment.

IS CUSTOM VS READY-MADE FOR YOU?

Don’t be disappointed and waste your money on more costly changes to your room. First, talk to an experienced window coverings expert to discuss the look and function of your makeover project.

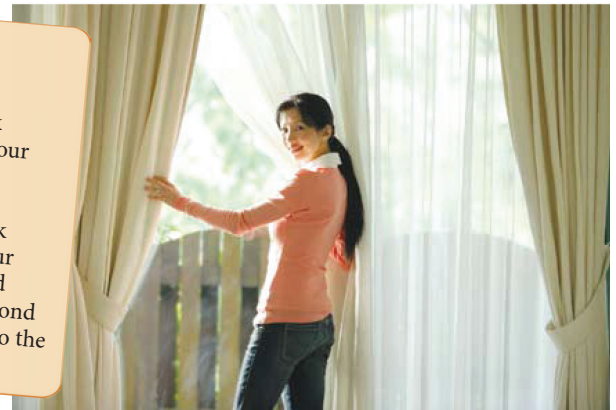
One of the main decisions you will need to make after that consultation is whether you want to go with ready-made window coverings—blinds, shades, drapes, and curtains—or if custom is the way to go for you.

While you may assume that custom window coverings will be too costly for you, that may not be the case; and even if custom is more expensive, there are so many more options, you may find the differential to be worth it.

Retailers stock products that are thought by the buyers to appeal to many. As a result, fabric choices

TIPS

- Make a ceiling look higher, by hanging your drapes high near the ceiling.
- Make a window look bigger by hanging your rods so the drapes and curtains will push beyond the window frame onto the wall.



are limited. The panels come in standard widths and lengths (which may not work for all windows), and standard rod pockets don’t look good with all types of hardware.

These limited choices become extra challenging when you have a home with high ceilings or unusual windows to show-off a Comox Valley view.

Also, many ready-mades are not lined, so if blocking the light is a concern (or thermal properties), think about this in your choices, too. And, most require ironing when you pull them out of the package.

With custom drapes and curtains, choice is the name of the game. There are nearly unlimited fabric choices, widths and lengths are a non-issue, and you have more choices in style—casement panels, pencil pleated, tab top, tie top, eyelet or grommet top.

An additional factor to consider when thinking ready-made versus custom is your accessory plan. If you’re thinking of shams or pillows, runners, bedding ensembles, or other décor touches, you’ll likely have limited choices if you go with ready-mades; yet a window treatment-décor seamstress can make exactly what you need from your drape fabric or a complementary fabric.

So, if you’re ready to open your windows for another Comox Valley summer, look at how those windows are treated and the frame your curtains and drapes make around that view.

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