

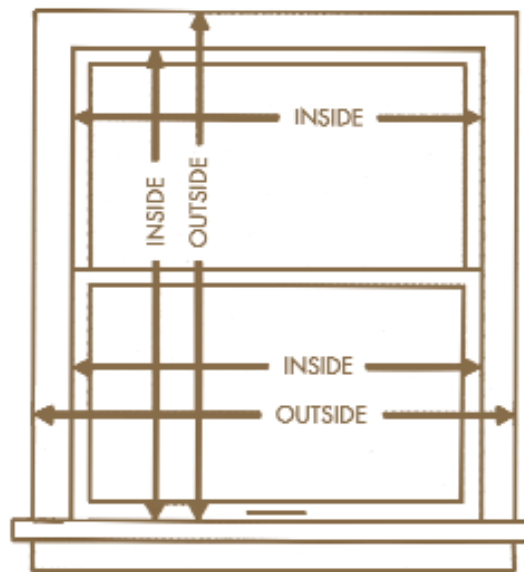
# SEVEN STEPS TO MAKE SURE YOUR WINDOW TREATMENTS MEASURE UP

Designers know that the best, most fashionable window treatments are custom-made. Long before making your selection you will have looked at your lifestyle, fashion preferences and your home's general architecture to see what will work aesthetically and practically.

Now, just before starting to the store, it's time to measure. This is critical whether you're taking a minimalist approach or wanting full-blown treatments and shutters.

Designers and window treatment manufacturers suggest you take the best, most accurate measurements you can yourself. Providing digital photos of each window is also very helpful, especially if there are special considerations.

The following are guidelines only for measuring. Check with your designer or fabricator to see what their policies are so you don't wind up with window fashions that don't quite measure up. Ask about having your window pro or designer do the final measuring.



**1 Measure EVERY window.** They may all look alike, but windows of similar sizes, even if they're from the same manufacturer, can be deceptive. This is most common in older homes where hand-work or site carpentry was common. A window also could have been repaired with lumber of slightly different dimension from the original, just enough to throw off a measurement. Every quarter inch counts in a custom fit!

**2 Use a metal tape for accurate measurement.** Fabric tapes and yardsticks are notoriously inaccurate. They stretch, warp and swell over time.

**3 Record all measurements to the nearest 1/8 inch.** (Check with your manufacturer to be sure.)

**4 Take inner and outer measurements.**

For inside mount window treatments...measure a window's inside frame width in three places: top, center and bottom. Same for its height at left, center and right. Record the narrowest and shortest measurement for each window.

For outside mount window treatments...measure the entire area you wish to cover, width and length, including overlapping areas of the wall beyond your windows' boundaries, if that's part of your design. Here again, a photo or sketch will illustrate your plan.

**5 Take all possible dimensions** and note window depth, framing/trim dimensions, hardware type, placement and sizes (i.e. latch, hinge, etc.). Jot down if the windows slide past each other left and right or up and down or if they open outward or in.

**6 Mark where you want window treatment controls,** direction of opening and hardware and trim options.

**7 Sketch approximate size and location** of specialty shapes like arches, quarter and half rounds, or other geometric shapes.

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