

Jane Everard from Mix 'n' Match Interiors offers advice on measuring for curtains and blinds.

## Curtains

**To measure the drop:** Measure from the opening of the window to the floor or six inches below the sill if you want short curtains.

*You must note:* The amount of head room above the window opening. If you have ample headroom a pole can be used. The pole is usually fitted about eight inches above the opening, but it can be fitted much higher also, provided there is plenty of head room. If there is only an inch or two of head room, a railing system is your other option. Sometimes a rail can be less appealing to the eye than a pole. You can get an upholstered fitted pelmet made which will cover the view of the rail and take the bare look off the window. Straight fitted box pelmets are very much in vogue this year.

If there is coving the pole can sit right up snug under the coving gaining you an extra inch or two if you are restricted with your head room.

If any corners of presses or cabinets jut out toward the window opening.

If there is architrave around a window measure how deep it is. If it is more than three or four inches deep the pole will have to be fitted on to the architrave itself (The length and shape of the bracket for the pole is very important here).

**To measure the width:** Measure the width of the sill or window opening (if there is no sill). This will determine the minimum number of widths of curtaining needed. Extra width gives extra fullness which always looks plush. It is always better to have fullness rather than be on the skimpy side!

*You must note:* How much room there is beyond the sill? Usually the curtain pole will clear the sill about eight inches on each side. You can go out as far as you wish provided you have the wall space. If you have no wall room on one side maybe you might pull the curtain to one side.

## Blinds

Measure the width and drop of the window recess tight. Leave it up to the expert to decide on the finished width of the blind as this must be extremely precise.

*You must note:* If the window opens inwards or is a tilt and turn window as this can limit choice of blinds.

For Roman blinds (blinds that go up in folds and can be made from any curtain fabric) outside the window recess measure the width of the sill and the opening of the window to the bottom of the sill and again note how much head room there is. If you require a friction chain on the blind, note which side is easiest to access.

## Bay Windows

Every bay window is unique and must be measured by a professional for accurate results. But if you were keen to get a rough measurement, just measure the contour of the window sill and note how much wall is beyond the sill (if any). For the drop measure from the ceiling to the floor. Again note if there is headroom and how much there is. Bay windows require the use of a heavy duty custom made bay rails which can be face fixed to the wall or ceiling mounted. The curtains on a bay window can also be returned a few inches out on the outer wall. When doing this, an upholstered fitted pelmet could be fitted on the outer wall or maybe swags and tails to complete the look.



1 Samsara Carmine from Romo available from Interiors by Marie. Price on request. 2 Curtains from the Oranienbaum design in rose from the Sussex Crocus collection by Designers Guild at Hampton Furnishings. Price on request.