



# BATHING beauty

*Expert tips to really dress up your bathroom windows.*



Bathrooms are a place of sanctuary for some homeowners. Through design, serene elements can be used to enhance your spa-like experience. Bathroom design elements range from the latest in soaker tubs to marble sinks to custom vanities, but not to be forgotten when re-designing your bathroom are window coverings. For a room that requires both style and privacy, treating the windows should be at the top of the list.

Bathroom light is something that should not be compromised. The room needs to be bright, using natural light where possible.

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Shades that lower from the top of the window – referred to as top-down shades – are a modern take on café curtains. The top portion of the window is exposed, while the bottom part is covered, offering maximum light and privacy. There are many types of blinds that are made with this option, including Hunter Douglas Silhouettes, Vignettes and Duettes. This is a brilliant solution – unless you face another house that has a window directly above yours, where someone could look down through the top of your window. In that case, the top-down style of shade is not the best solution.

Alternatively, there are many transparent roller shades that just have enough opacity to stop glare, yet preserve natural light. Roller shades have come a long way in recent years. They now are available in many modern fabrics, including linens, recycled materials, bamboo, mixed cottons and silks.

The fabrics are installed on a circular tube (hence the name roller) and operate with a clutch. The trick for a glamorous window covering is pairing them up with a Roman shade. Roman shades should be installed on the wall above the frame, or hung from the ceiling, and should only cover one quarter of the glass (or less). This setup will create the illusion of a taller window and add height to any room – without significantly reducing the amount of sunlight getting in.

Roman shades are by far the most popular treatment for a bathroom because of the variety of textiles that can be used in a neglected powder room or small ensuite. For instance, textures such as you see in linens and natural fabrics can be used to bring the look of natural elements indoors. The patterns and colours available in Roman shades can produce a dramatic look, just like wallpaper does.

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Technology is a huge part of our lives and now it's even in the bathroom, through the use of motorized blinds. Motorization is very convenient, especially for windows and hard-to-reach over-the-tub areas. Both wired-in and battery-operated options are available for motors on blinds, and their cost has gone down significantly in the past few years as their use has become more popular.

The bathroom may be the smallest room in your house, but that doesn't mean it cannot be big on style. Create a more blissful spa-at-home bathroom experience by taking a look at your windows. 🍁



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