

DRESSING YOUR WINDOWS IN FABRICS

BY SARA AUGENBLICK | Your mood dictates what you wear and how you present yourself everyday. In much the same way, dressing your windows, just like dressing yourself, is based on your emotions. After all, your home is an extension of yourself — the way you design it creates a particular atmosphere and a certain feeling.



When selecting your window fabrics look at companies like Alendel for vast stylish yet affordable options. Then ask yourself, “what mood do I want to create?” Think about your style — is it formal? relaxed? classic? traditional? Each of these styles has corresponding design elements. For example, a formal atmosphere can be created with the help of satins, silks, jacquards, or velvets. If the room is more casual, simple fabrics such as cotton, faux linen, rayon or mixed polyester are more appropriate. Genuine linen is a popular choice for a cottage or country home — the natural wrinkles and imperfections are a charming way to create a relaxed style. Cotton can be used in a variety of settings including industrial and urban lofts for added

casual coziness. Sheers can be draped to soften a space and are a versatile fabric option across many design styles.

Are you drawn to Art Deco style geometric prints, or prefer more traditional, elaborate brocades? Perhaps you like bold, colourful fabrics or you are inspired by modern, mid-century Scandinavian style. Even if your style is eclectic, drawing off of several historical periods, anything goes as long as there is a sense of flow. Don't be afraid to mix colours, textures and patterns as long as everything works well together. Drapery fabrics can help add balance or create contrast — it all depends on how they're used.

Whatever fabrics you choose, ensure that they drape well. A stiff or heavy fabric causes bulky seams and does not fall as nicely as fabric with more elasticity. Feel the fabric to get a sense of how it will drape. To do this, order a yard sample and hold it up to your window.

Once you have decided on the mood you want to convey and the function of the drapes, you can finalize the details. Bear in mind that draperies are an investment and are not likely to soon change. If you find yourself easily bored with certain colours and prints,



avoid using such fabrics for draperies, opting for neutral colours instead.

Sometimes you have to try on a few outfits before deciding what to wear, and you might surprise yourself with what looks best. So, hold up a few sample fabrics to your window to help you decide. Once your windows are all dressed up, they will make your home feel beautiful and inviting!



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