



Perfecting WINDOW COVERINGS FOR SMALL SPACES by Sara Augneblick

Love those oversized windows and the daytime sunshine that comes streaming in? Natural light – and lots of it – is a must for many homeowners, and with good reason. But in exchange for that gorgeous glow, it's important to have quick access to some serious shade or simply, a little extra privacy, when you need it. The good news? There are countless window coverings for every space, style and budget. The best part? These shades, drapes and curtains are as chic and inspired as they are practical and functional.

You've put considerable thought and energy into searching for the right solution for your window coverings and now frustration is settling in and you're more confused than ever. The challenge here is not just deciding on what you like, but what is a complimentary solution for small spaces.

Window shades really are an efficient answer to your dilemma, but there are several important things to remember when considering window shades for smaller spaces. Avoid any blind with a stack, such as wood slats blinds or roman blinds and select a blind style that is hidden when not in use. Neutral pull down shades can roll up and condense into 2.5" (or less). They are a simple solution to combat glare, provide UV protection and privacy, and virtually appear hidden when not in use. They are offered in a variety of classic modern fabrics and are available as "dual shades." This type of window covering contains two shades taking the space of a single unit and giving you the best of both worlds: a day shade that filters the sun and a night shade that provides complete darkness.

If you are more of a statement junkie like myself, you may be more inclined to use a drapery treatments that offer warmth and softness to your room, while keeping to a modern scheme. To maintain a streamlined look, which is important in smaller spaces, I suggest you avoid the use of round drapery poles with large finials, which are meant to be mounted on the walls. Use small face tracks (5/8" in size) and hang from the ceiling, a more modern approach to dressing your windows. The header for your drapes is also important. A ripple-fold header is one of the most appropriate



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styles, it is user-friendly for smaller spaces. A ripple-fold header will condense better than any other pleated style to maximize your view and the hardware. Designed for an uninterrupted, easy glide over larger fabric lengths. You really should avoid window valances in smaller spaces. Valances cut up your window space too much and cause it to appear smaller than it really is. Drapes add colour and texture while emphasizing

the height of any window. They balance the room by adding an element of design, and draw attention to the windows by framing them just like a frame for a piece of art. If you want to have your "cake and eat it too" then consider layering a couple of treatments. Combine drapes with sheers or shades, or even sheers with shades for a different look.

Finally, avoid purchasing ready-made drapery. There are many well-known go-to retailers out there, but this is really not the solution for your specific dilemma. Custom window treatments will deliver on maximizing your window space and the aesthetics of your condo. A beautiful room deserves the perfect window treatment that allows for the right light filtration and perfectly highlights windows you loved.