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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

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CURTAIN CALL

Window treatments may be just the finishing touch your space needs. Here's how to make them work for you.

by ALYSSA GAUTIERI

Thomas Kugh; designed by Studio Munroe.

Carina Skrobecki; designed by Emily Ruff, principal designer of Cohesively Curated. Illustrations by Brown Bird Design.

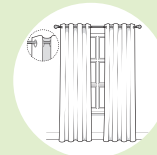
Top Curtain Styles

When planning the decor of your room, consider one of these popular options.



ROD-POCKET PANELS

This classy style is ideal for spaces where curtains are not frequently opened or closed.



GROMMET PANELS

Drapery rings look chic and allow fabric panels to open and close with ease.



VALANCES

Valances, whether alone or paired with floor-length drapes, add visual interest to windows.



BLINDS

Made from wood or plastic slats, blinds help block out natural light and provide privacy.



ROMAN SHADES

Minimalist and modern, shades are great for rooms with limited space (like powder rooms and kitchens).

SEE THE LIGHT
“Rechargeable-battery-powered smart shades can be scheduled to open and close throughout the day.”
—STEPHANIE HARVEY,
HUNTER DOUGLAS



Layer window treatments.

Pair woven Roman shades with linen drapery to evoke a cozy feel and control the amount of light in a bedroom. “Choose different materials or mix solids with patterns to create contrast,” suggests Emily Ruff, owner of Cohesively Curated.



Match curtains to wallpaper.

Embrace a more-is-more style with “different textures in the same pattern,” which give this dining room a charming feel, says Shelby Van Daley, founder of Daley Home.

PERFECT PAIRING
Van Daley ordered both the wallpaper and the fabric from designer wallpaper firm Thibaut, then had a local workroom create the drapes.

Molly Culver, designed by Daley Home.

How to Install Curtains Like a Pro

The end result: a well-dressed window that creates the illusion of a larger space.

1

Measure the height and width of the window.
Your curtain rod should extend at least eight to 10 inches past the window's edges and be hung at least four inches above the window frame.

2

Mark drill holes.
Once you've determined how high and wide the curtain rod bracket should be, mark the wall with a pencil. Use a level to be sure the sides are even.

3

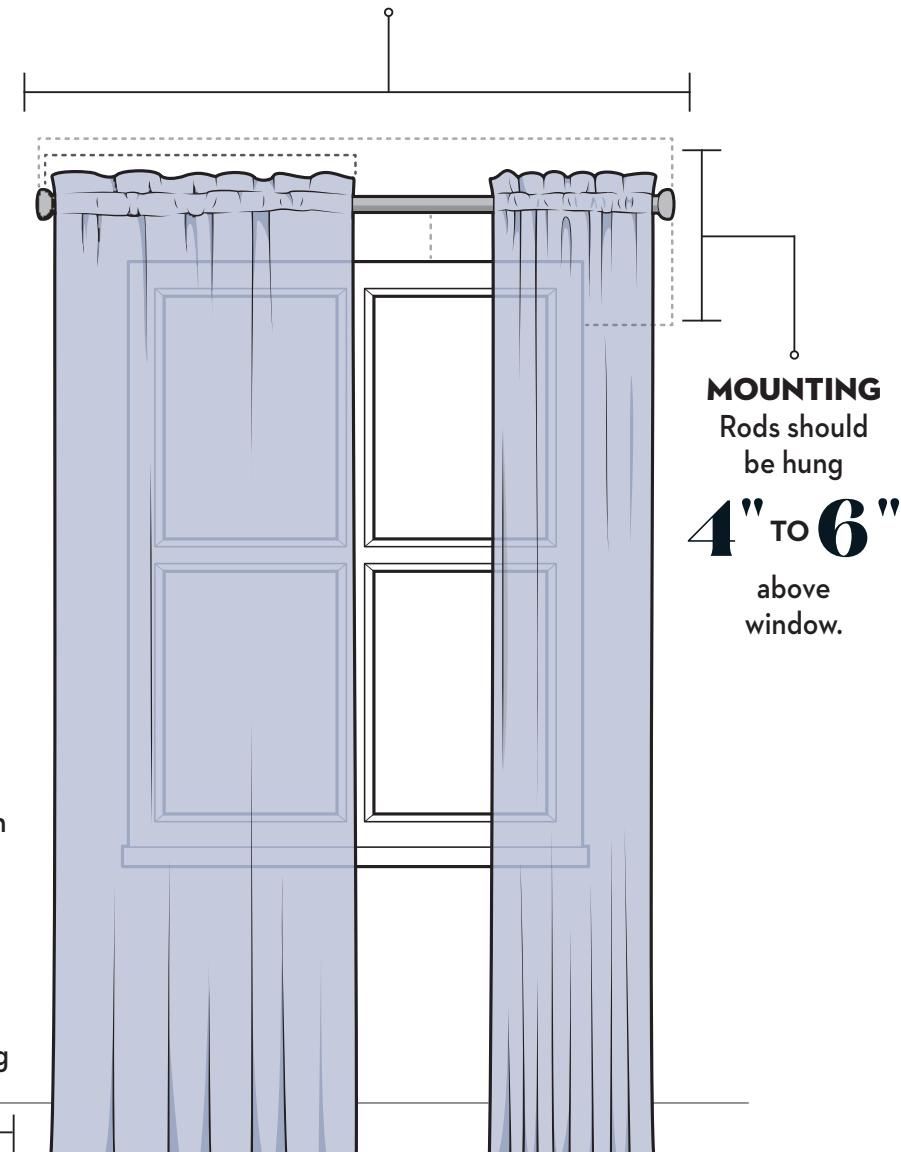
Install the brackets.
Drapery is heavy, which means you'll likely need wall anchors unless you're able to locate studs. Drill guide holes, then fasten the brackets to the wall using a drill or a screwdriver.

4

Thread drapes onto the curtain rod.
First make sure the brackets are sturdy enough to support the rod. Remove the rod to thread the drapes, then rehang it in the brackets. Use a level to ensure that the curtains are hung evenly.

Illustration by Brown Bird Design.

WIDTH
Rods should extend past the window by at least **8" TO 10"** on both sides.



LENGTH
Drapes should just about reach the floor, allowing an extra **1 1/2"** for puddling

MOUNTING
Rods should be hung **4" TO 6"** above window.

A Measure of Success

Avoid common curtain mistakes like hanging rods too low and buying curtains that are too short. “If the height of drapes is not maximized, it can make a room look smaller than it actually is, creating a feeling of compression,” says Ashley Macuga, principal designer of Collected Interiors.



Create the illusion of wider windows.

In this modern living room, white linen drapes are hung high and wide on industrial-inspired rods that match the dark-stained window trim. To emphasize the size and shape of the arched windows, one rod spans the wall's length and panels are added between the frames to "create a sense of grandiose volume," says Van Daley.