

Soft Furnishings - Curtains

Curtains serve a multitude of purposes. They are used to dress an area and to conceal it, both to shield light and to insulate a room. The type of fabric used, whether it is lined or interlined, and the length and shape of curtains make them infinitely variable. The finished effect also depends heavily on the style of heading chosen and the amount of fullness. Curtains can be finished with beautiful tie-backs depending on the style and the function of the room for which they are intended.

Even if you are just draping, it is worth considering the merits of lining or interlining the fabric to give it body – lined curtains hang well and keep their style however used. Curtains are important not just for their functional properties: regulating heat, light and privacy- but they also help draw together all the other decorative elements of a room.

Heading Tapes

These are used to suspend the curtain from the track or pole and determine the drape effect - for example a formal classical style using pencil pleats or a fuller, prettier effect from gathers. Heading tapes also determine the amount of fabric required, for example pencil pleated tape requires the width to be twice the finished curtain width. Most heading tapes have cords running through them which, when gathered, create the different pleats. Curtain hooks are threaded through pockets in the tape to attach the curtain to the pole or track.

Hand Pinch Pleat Headings

This kind of heading is used on the most traditional and formal curtains. Beautiful fabrics that have been lined and interlined will look their most elegant with hand-pleated tops. Although it is traditional, a hand-pleated heading can be used in a number of ways simply because the classic folds of hand-pleated curtains keep their shape and drape perfectly, even if used on a daily basis.

Ripple Pleat Headings

Soft, ripple-like folds flow smoothly from one end of the track to the other. The effect is gently tailored, with folds identically beautiful from inside and out. Headings, suspended under the track, cannot tip or sag, they are always perfectly positioned and spaced.

Tie Backs

Tie backs and plaits can be made in a variety of fabrics and other materials to create many different effects. They are most often used to catch the curtains back either side of a window, doorway or bed. Often, they may be made in the same fabric, stiffened and cut in a crescent shape or variation to embrace the curtains and hold them back when open.

