

CURTAINS - Technical Sheet

Tracks and Poles

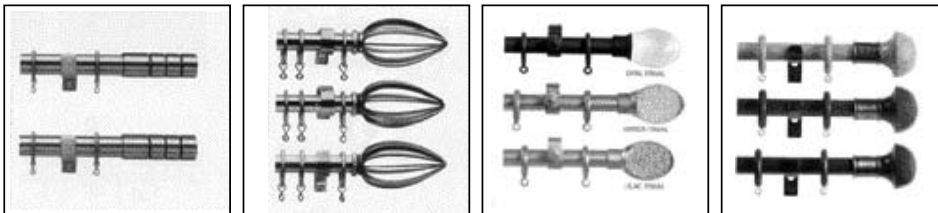
Make sure you select the right type to suit the fabric and window shape, and you must ensure that it can take the weight of the fabric and the pole. Curtain poles are designed to be displayed whereas tracks are often best hidden by a heading pelmet. Whichever type you choose, it will come in kit form which includes the mounting brackets, endstops, hooks and gliders. Most heading tapes use plastic C-hooks, but pinch-pleat curtains need special metal multi-pronged or split hooks.

Curtain Tracks

Tracks are made from plastic, aluminium, brass and steel. Check that you select the right grade for the weight of the fabric. Variable lengths are available or they can be made-to-measure. Tracks can be ceiling or wall mounted, and some can follow gentle curves.

Curtains Poles

Poles are made from a wide variety of different woods, teak, ash, pine etc, or a metal finish, in a range of diameters from 19mm to 28mm, depending on the fabric length, as long, lined curtains need substantial poles to bear the weight.



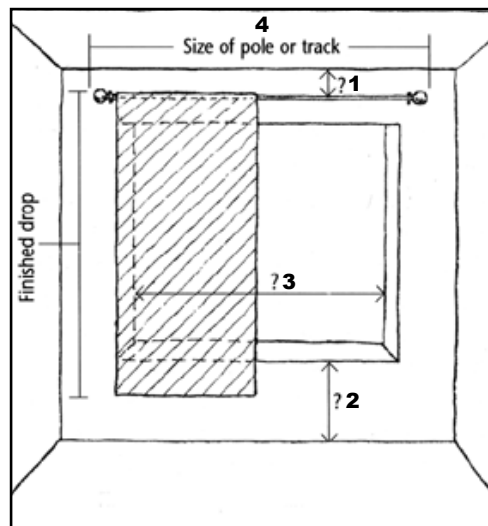
Measuring Up

To get a finished curtain to the size you require is likely that you will have to join lengths of fabrics has to be.

Start with the Window

Firstly you need need to make a sketch of the opening to be dressed. To your drawing you will need to measure the following points.

1. Top of recess to ceiling.
2. The window sill to the floor.
3. Either side of window to the outer edge required for curtain.
4. Decide exactly where you require the pole or track to be fitted.



Patterned Fabrics

If you have chosen a patterned fabric, then the pattern must be matched across a pair of curtains. A small, closely repeated pattern is much easier to work with than a large one repeated irregularly over a large area. Also if there is more than one pair of curtains in the same room they all need the pattern set at the same level. To achieve this professional look, each width fabric must be cut so that the pattern elements are in the same place. To calculate a patterned cut drop, you have to take into account the pattern repeat as well as the standard hem and heading allowance for plain fabrics.

Linings

It is worth paying a little more to have the curtains lined. The extra weight not only helps block out the light at night but improves that drape and protects to top fabric from fading and condensation.

Standard Linings

Cotton sateen is the most common fabric, available in ivory or white. Oceanair will match the lining to the face fabric unless otherwise requested by the customer.

Blackout Linings

This fabric gives total blackout in any application.

Interlinings

Used between the main curtain and lining to add body and insulation.

Flame Retardant Linings

This gives a protective coating over the fabrics.

Thermal Linings

These can be effective as a form of double glazing, saving up to 17% more heat than lined curtains.

Tie-Backs & Plaits

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 the window, doorway or bed. They may be made in the same fabric, stiffened and cut in a banana shape or variation, to embrace the curtains and hold them back when open.

Plaits

Plaited tie-backs can look extremely elegant if made in the same fabrics as the curtains, or provide a bright contrast if made in other materials that blend well with the curtain. They offer an excellent way of introducing different colours to the curtains which can be picked up in other soft furnishings to the room.