

# Decorator's Notebook

## Window Decorating 101

(NAPSA)—Decorating your windows can be a daunting task. For simple ways to turn your house into a home, please note these answers to the most common window dressing dilemmas:

**Q. How do I measure for my curtains or drapes?**

A. Purchase panels that measure 2½ times the width of the window. For added fullness, use three times the width. The bottom edge of your curtain or drape should fall to the windowsill, below the sill or to the floor. Leave about ½" of clearance if you opt for floor length.

**Q. How do I know what size curtain rod to get?**

A. Be sure to measure the window width—this is the most important step in buying curtain rods. After measuring the width of the window from casing to casing, add two to five inches depending on how much of the wall you want to cover. Additionally, you should consider fabric weight. The type of curtain rod you buy depends on the weight of the treatment because the heavier the curtain fabric, the more substantial the rod needs to be.

**Q. How do I select a curtain style?**

A. Think about the function of the room and decide whether you want a formal, semiformal or casual look. Formal window treatments, found in dining rooms and living rooms, are usually layered and made from heavy fabrics. Scarf treatments or valances create a semiformal or casual look.

**Q. How do I select a curtain fabric?**

A. Determine what your needs are for a particular room, what types of fabric you prefer and if



**Decorating with the right drapery will add drama and dimension to any decor.**

you want lined or unlined curtains. Fabrics like velvet and heavier cottons can provide energy-saving and room-darkening benefits without sacrificing style. Sheer fabrics let light in and create a softer look.

**Q. How do I choose what color curtain to purchase?**

A. Try matching the color of your curtains to the other most represented color in the room, such as walls, floors or bedding.

If your walls are neutral, bring in a little warmth by adding a pop of color.

**Q. Where can I find the highest-quality curtains for the best price?**

A. Many clever consumers turn to [www.Curtainworks.com](http://www.Curtainworks.com), which offers a complete line of curtains retailing for about \$25 to \$75. The website also features guides on how to measure, decorate and complete a variety of looks.