

Measuring for Drapes to Obtain an Estimate

These instructions are given to measure windows to obtain an estimate. I will do the final measurements if you choose to use my service.

Two Measuring Scenarios

- ✚ When a rod already exists.
- ✚ When a rod does not exist.

One of the safest ways to “fit your drape” to any window is to replace an existing rod with a new one. If replacing your rod is not possible, then carefully follow the instructions given under “**When a Rod Already Exists.**”

Rules for Measuring

- ✚ **Width** is always measured and expressed first.
- ✚ **Height** is always measured and expressed second.
- ✚ Use a **metal tape** to ensure accuracy.
- ✚ **Never** measure the existing drape or window covering. You will not get an accurate measurement this way.

When a Rod Already Exists

First identify which one of these drape rods covers your windows, and then follow the appropriate instructions.

1. Standard Rod



2. Custom Rod



Standard Rod

Width: Left to right

DO:

- ✚ Measure only across the front face of the rod from tip to tip (end bracket to end bracket). (I will add the returns and overlap.)

DO NOT:

- ✚ include the “wrap around” (brackets at each end of the rod where the drape returns back to the wall).
- ✚ add in any extra for the overlap beneath the center of the rod where the master carrier(s) may cross one another.

Height: Up and down

- ✚ Place the tip of your metal tape measure on top of the rod at the center of the rod down to where you want the drape to hang.
- ✚ Choose from the three standard heights shown below:

Past the Bottom of the Window Opening



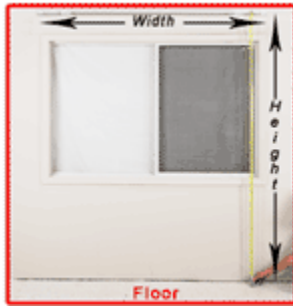
To provide sufficient coverage for privacy, reduce incoming light, and hide the drapery hem from outside view, measure a minimum of 4 in past the bottom of the window casing.

Floor Height

If you want your drapes to hang down to just above the floor or carpeting, measure the distance from the top center of the drape rod to ½ in above the floor or carpeting.



Floor to Ceiling:



These are drapes that hang from the ceiling down to just above the floor or carpeting. Measure the distance from the top center of the drape rod to $\frac{1}{2}$ in above the floor or carpeting. In most cases, floor height is the best choice since they offer superior privacy, light control, and insulation. Floor height drapes also dress up your room providing an elegant decor to the surroundings.

Custom Rod

These are the type of rods with balls, finials, or decorative end caps all attached to the ends of the rods. Oftentimes, these rods are in faux brass, wood, or antique colors. The clips the drapes hang on are found beneath the rod.

Width: Left to right

DO: Measure across the rod from the last clip on the left end of the rod to the last clip on the right end of the rod.

DO NOT: Include in your measurements the decorative finials, end pieces, or the overlap at the center of the rod.

Height: Up and down

On custom rods, place the tip of your metal tape measure at the **bottom** of the ring or clip, beneath the rod, down to where you want the drape to hang.

Choose from the three standard heights mentioned above: Past the bottom of the window opening, floor height, and floor to ceiling.

When a Rod Doesn't Exist

Although you may already have a drape rod, consider replacing it with a new one and measuring for drapes where the new rod will be placed.

1. Measure the width (side-to-side) of the **inside** of the window opening or casing.
2. Measure the height (top-to-bottom) of the **inside** window opening or casing.

3. If you have sufficient wall space on both sides, add 6" to your inside width measurement. This is the width you need your drape. If not, add the smallest measurement the wall allows.
4. Measure as indicated below depending on the height coverage you prefer.



Past the Bottom of the Window Opening: To provide sufficient coverage for privacy, reduce incoming light, and hide the drapery hem from outside view, add a total of 8 in to the inside height measurement (4 in above the window casing and 4 in below the window casing).



Drapes to the floor: If you want your drapes to hang down to the floor, measure from 4 in above the window casing to ½ in above the floor.



Floor to Ceiling: Measure from the top of the wall (ie: up to the ceiling) to the floor. Deduct ½ in from this measurement to allow the drape to hang freely not brushing the ceiling or floor.

EXPLANATION: Standard placement is calculated on the basis that the ends of the drape rod should normally extend past the window opening/casing by 3" on both sides for the width. This will allow you to firmly anchor your drape rod into the wood window framing beneath the sheetrock. Similarly, when a rod is anchored 4" above the window opening/casing it is firmly mounted into the wooden framing header beneath the sheetrock.