

A photograph of a traditional Japanese interior. On the left, a window with a grid of dark wood frames and light-colored, translucent panels (shoji) is visible. To the right, a view through an arched opening (engawa) shows a lush garden with a pond, trees, and a thatched roof. The foreground shows a wooden floor and a portion of a tatami mat.

Blinds and Shades Wish List and Measuring Guide

Linda Erlam Designsewlutions.ca

Blinds and Shades Wish List and Measuring Guide

I've been doing some specialized baking lately, and I was having a real problem with one component of a dish. Dr. Google to the rescue. I found out that I didn't know an important thing about the chemistry of that one component. Who knew? Well, not me — I didn't know what I didn't know. Took some sleuthing but it was worth it. The dish was rather spectacular in the end.

In the home decor world, with so much information thrown at us from the Home TV channels, in magazines, on the Internet and through newspaper columns, it's hard to believe that there are things we may just not know enough about to consider ourselves informed.

But we don't know what we don't know.

Because it's that time of year when we are thinking about winter and energy efficiency, or maybe "just because", you have decided it's time to buy new blinds. You get a salesperson to come tell you all about their product, they choose one or two from their line and give you a quote.

You may be surprised to find out that blinds for a whole home can cost as much as a new little car.

Which prompts you to go to a retail store and spend some time looking at the displays and talking to the sales associate. (Who is probably NOT well trained in blinds OR interior decoration.) You ask your friends what they think, or what kind of blinds they have.

You do some internet searching, but what do you look for if you don't know what you don't know? It's difficult. The smartest thing you can do is acknowledge you don't know what you don't know and find someone who can guide you through the process.

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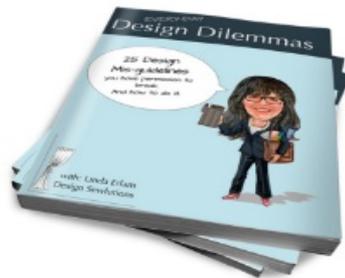
Why call a Blinds Specialist

After many, many hours learning about all the blinds out there, after taking tons of courses, after installing hundreds of blinds and helping countless people choose blinds — and seeing the results of their choices, I am an expert on blinds.

This guide should help you. If nothing else, you will be more informed and better prepared to ask the right questions, and know if the answers are reasonable. The Check List will change just because new blinds and shades are being developed all the time. I'll try to keep up. And the blank columns are for you to add things you find which I don't know about. If you'd like to keep up with things along with me, get on my email list. [Here is the link to my website. Signup is the little form on the right.](#) (It looks like the picture below but this picture here is NOT clickable, I can't figure out how to do that here...) And if you do that, I'll also send you one of my books. "25 Design Mis-Guidelines" I send something out no more often than twice a month. Period. Unless something earth-shaking comes along. I promise.

..... Get the column via email.

Join the email list and get the new column link twice a month. AND I'll send you a copy of this little book. Just cause....



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Hard Window Covering Wish and Check List

	Wish List	Cell Shade	Cell Shade Vertical	Horizontal	Horizontal Sheer	Pleated shade	Shutters	Sun shade	Solar Shade	Vertical
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Privacy		x	x	x	x	x				x
Black-out (levels vary)		x	x	x	x	x				x
Light filtering		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cordless controls		x	x	x	x	x				
Inside mount		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Outside mount		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Low stack-up		x	x		x	x				
Easy cleaning				x			x			
Easy installation (brand dependent)		x		x	x	x		x	x	
Easy removal (brand dependent)		x		x	x	x		x	x	
Available at budget prices		x		x						x
Available in retail outlets		x		x						x
Sun filtering (furniture and floor protection)		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ability to change light exposure levels -- slat tilt				x	x		x			x
2 shades on one i.e. sheer and blackout as one shade or in 1 shade		x			x	x				
Keep the heat in during the winter		x	x		x					
Keep the heat out during the summer		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Add insulation to windows		x	x		x					
Fabric /faux-fabric		x	x		x	x				x
Metal				x						
Wood/ composite				x			x			x
Plastic / vinyl				x				x	x	x
Motorization option		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Quiet operation		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Over 80 x 80 availability (brand dependent and special order only)		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Measure Your Window

*Measure to .5mm or 1/8-inch.

*Use a metal tape measure, NOT fabric.

*These are the 'tight' measurements. YOU do not take deductions for clearance; the blind manufacturer will do that.

-Even the big box stores take deductions; if the box says the blind fits a 72-inch wide window, the blind itself may be 71 1/2-inches. ASK.

* Measure how much room you have for bracket mounting. Take a picture, if necessary. The minimum is about 1 1/2 inches, but some brackets need up to 3 or 4.

