



Buying Custom Treatments on a Budget

- 1) Choose treatments that do not require a lot of fabric.
 - i) Examples:
 - (a) Valances with flat faces
 - (b) Cornice boards
 - (c) Stationary panels in only one width (don't make panels out of ½ a width they look silly)
 - (d) Swag treatments that don't need to be cut on the bias.
- 2) Choose fabric without a large repeat
 - i) (A repeat is the space from one design to the next on a piece of fabric.)
 - ii) Choose very small patterns with little repeats
 - iii) Choose solid fabrics
 - iv) Choose sheers in place of drapes to cover the entire window and frame the sheers with stationary panels. Sheer fabrics tend to be relatively inexpensive to make and buy.
 - v) Use a more expensive fabric or one with a large repeat as an accent piece in the treatment.
 - vi) Cut out one large picture and frame it in the center of the valance. Use it as the flip over on the top of a panel.
 - vii) If you love an expensive fabric with a fairly small repeat use it as the accent piece under a bell or a jabot.
 - viii) Make the treatment in 2 or more solid colors to make it stand out.
 - ix) Put a band of printed fabric on a solid treatment.
- 3) Trim:
 - i) Use trim and Tassels to dress up a treatment.
 - ii) Use covered buttons or rosettes in place of trim.
 - iii) Choose self welt in a contrast fabric rather than a premade trim.
 - iv) Put trim only across the top of a treatment rather than all the way across the bottom.
 - v) When making drapes attach the trim across top or bottom of the drape rather than down the sides.
 - vi) Put a band on the leading edge of your drape rather than trim for a nice contrast.
- 4) Hardware:
 - i) Choose functional rather than decorative hardware
 - ii) Choose treatments that are board mounted rather than on a decorative rod.
 - iii) A traverse rod
 - iv) A rod pocket panel

5) Decorative hardware

- i) Choose treatments that can be mounted on knobs instead of across a rod.
- ii) Go with a thinner rod.
- iii) Choose wood rods and resin finials rather than carved wood finials
- iv) Use innovative ideas such as PVC pipe covered in fabric or painted.
- v) Put your money into the finial rather than the rod

6) Don't Skimp on:

- i) Your lining. The proper lining can make a treatment look far richer than it really is.
- ii) The labor. This is a non-negotiable aspect of making a treatment. To get a lower price change to an easier to make treatment or eliminate extra aspects of the treatment.
- iii) Your design consult. Have your window treatment designer help you get the treatment right the first time.
- iv) If forced to choose always pick the best fabric you can afford or the one you love the most.
- v) Sometimes you think you're saving money, but in the long run may only cost you 20 or 30 dollars more and make you much happier in the long run.
- vi) The installation. A professional installer will dress the treatment so it looks the way you and your designer intended.