



## *Making Decisions When Ordering Custom Window Treatments*

Ordering custom window treatments can be a daunting task and most people are unsure of where to begin. A good window treatment specialist can take the fear out of the decision making process and help you choose window treatments that will make you happy for years to come.

Before you bring in your specialist it helps to do a little homework. Below is a list of questions to answer before meeting with your specialist. By doing a little research your appointment will go much smoother and the decision making process will be much faster. The faster you have your decision the faster you have your custom treatments.

Questions to ask:

1. What do you want your window treatments to do?
  - a. Do your treatments need to be functional or are they going to be strictly decorative?
  - b. Do they need to block out light and/or air leaks?
  - c. Are you trying to block out a view or enhance it?
  - d. Do you need it to shade the window from the sunlight?
2. How do you want the window to look when it is dressed?
  - a. Do you want it to look larger or smaller?
  - b. Is it okay to cover the decorative molding or does it have to show?
  - c. Are you trying to cover part of the wall as well as the window?
3. How long will you have the treatments?
  - a. How long will you be in your house? 5 to 10 years? Longer? Will you be moving in 2 to 3 years?
  - b. Do you get bored easily and change your room décor every couple years or do you pick a design and stick with it for the next 10 years.
  - c. Are you buying new furniture soon or are will you stick with the furniture you have?
4. What's your budget?
  - a. Is it limited or wide open?
  - b. Are you willing to spend more on labor or do you want to put the real money into the fabric and trim?
  - c. Do you like to bargain shop for fabric and trim?
  - d. Will you be ordering the fabric and trim through your window specialist or do you want to buy it yourself?
  - e. Are you doing several jobs at once or a room at a time?
5. What do you like and what do you hate?
  - a. Do you despise plaid, but love floral?
  - b. Do you like bold colors or neutral shades?
  - c. Is texture more important to you than pattern?
  - d. Do you like to have everything; plain, plain, plain or the more pattern the better?
  - e. Not sure what you like? Pick up a couple magazines such as the *Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications*. Some good choices are *Window and Walls*, *Bedroom and Bath* or *Decorating*. *Veranda* and *Traditional Home* are also good magazines to look through for custom window treatments.
  - f. Still not sure what you like? Go through and note what you dislike. Everyone knows what they don't like. Sometimes the process of elimination can help you come to a decision.

Once you've taken a few minutes to answer the above questions write them down and show them to your window treatment specialist. The answers can be the difference between treatments you love and those you're not really sure of.