

Think ahead on windows

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WHEN you're preparing to build a new home, it pays to think about the window treatments you would like to have.

You will need to consider everything from sunlight, to privacy, sleeping requirements and aesthetics. Ideally, you need to bring in an expert to assess the best treatment for each window.

Thinking about this at the planning stage could help avoid costly oversights, and ensure you get exactly what you want.

For example, a corner window is most likely to have light bleed, where light comes around the edges of blinds. So you need to decide early on how important that may be and if you need to change the window type, or if the room is suited to having curtains rather than blinds.

You may also need to review the depth of window recesses to determine if there are issues with having a window winder added to it. It's easier to come up with a solution at the planning stage, be that using a different window type, or a change of the mechanism used to open and close it.

If you really want to have curtains, a review at the planning stage might show there is not enough wall on either side to draw the curtains back entirely away from the glass. This may impact light penetration into the room. Catch this early on and you can move the window to allow for this.

Built-in pelmets should also be considered as these hide the hardware of blinds and curtains and create a seamless look. Installing a pelmet later on might also affect walls and the ceiling, so it is important they are in your plans early on.

Motorisation for blinds is also something ideally decided no later than the framing stage. Electricians are installed at this stage, so it's important to ensure a provision for any motorised blinds. In some instances, this will be required due to regulations whereby a chain must be fixed to the wall.

If you have a wide window, and no fixing point, you must have motorised blinds.

Frances Cosway is an interior designer with WhitePebble Interiors and the author of *Your Forever Home*.



Thinking about your windows and what treatments you want to give them should be considered during the planning stage of a home's creation.

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- Curtains act as great insulators by keeping the heat in during winter and blocking the sun in summer. They also block out light completely, so are great in bedrooms. There are many modern styles available
- Sheer curtains "dress" a window and soften window frames, which can provide a beautiful aesthetic as well as creating privacy
- Blinds are often installed throughout a home, with double blinds able to manage privacy and sleeping
- Sheer blinds create privacy, but allow you to see out and light to come into the home
- Translucent blinds allow light to come in, but it is not possible to look through them in either direction
- Block out blinds completely stop light from coming in

Source: *WhitePebble Interiors*

