

Couture Dreams

How To Install Our Drapery

There are a variety of curtain styles that contribute to the feeling and décor of a room, from casual to formal, classic to trendy. The style of a curtain, combined with color, pattern and texture, sets a mood and makes a statement about your unique decorative style. Rod pocket and back tab curtains are two simple formats for hanging curtains. Each gives a different look and can be adapted to give a personalized touch to drapery. Here's the lowdown on these two popular styles of curtain headers.

Rod Pocket Curtains



Rod pocket curtains are a classic, and classy, way to hang drapery. A casing sewn onto the back of the curtain panel at the top allows the rod to slip through unseen. Panels bunch in gathers on the rod for a soft look with clean lines. No hardware is required to fix the curtain to the rod.

You can select finials, the end caps of the curtain rod, that complement the color, pattern or style of the curtain. If you want to minimize the appearance of the hardware, try finials in materials such as glass, crystal or acrylic that reflect light rather than draw the eye to the end cap.

To customize rod pocket curtains, attach curtain rings or pin hooks to the back of the panel along the pocket. Draperies are suspended from the rings, which are spaced evenly so that they don't affect the gathers and fall of the material. Rod pocket curtains are more difficult to open and close because the material doesn't slide easily along the rod. Rings or pin hooks make adjusting curtains easier. If you use pins or rings, make sure they are strong enough to support the weight of the curtain.

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Back Tab Curtains



If you like a tailored look without the fuss of clips or pins, try back tab curtains. These curtains, have tabs or loops sewn onto the back of the curtain header. The rod slips through the tab so that neither is visible from the front. This gives the illusion of the curtain floating in space and creates an elegant, clean line. The curtains form pleats over the rod at each tab without using any hardware. The top of the curtain rises above the rod, giving a crisp edge to the top of the drapery.

Back tab curtains are suitable if you don't want to open and close the drapes very often. Because the fabric rests directly on the rod, it may be difficult to slide the tabs over the pole. To help keep the tabs and pleats straight, try flat rods instead of round ones. The tabs lie flush against a flat rod, resulting in a more graceful fall and crisp pleats.

Like rod pocket curtains, you can add clips or rings over the tabs if you want to enhance the look. Rings also add length. If you need a few extra inches, attach rings to the top of the curtain to lower the panel to the length you want. This technique allows you to use standard curtain lengths without the need for alteration. It also enhances puddling, or the pooling of the fabric on the floor.