

3

Window Coverings Fact Sheet

September 2011

A publication of the Greener Houses Project - 2011



Drapes and Blinds: Warmer In Winter – Cooler In Summer

Windows without curtains or blinds can make your home much colder in winter and much hotter in summer:

- Up to 40% heat loss from your home in winter
- Up to 50% of heat gain in summer

Close fitting curtains drapes and blinds can be a good way to protect your home from this unwanted heat loss in winter at night. With reflective lining, curtains and drapes can also help keep your home cooler in summer.

Box pelmets or solid strips (of wood or perspex) are essential to stop cold air circulating up behind the curtains and out into the room. Professional curtain makers also run the curtain all the way round the end of the curtain track to the wall - so that a seal is created giving better insulation.

Unlined drapes or Holland blinds are a small improvement over vertical and venetian blinds. But heavy lined drapes with a pelmet are the best – they can reduce winter heat loss from the windows by more than a third. With double glazing as well the heat loss can be reduced by over half.



Sustainability
Fund



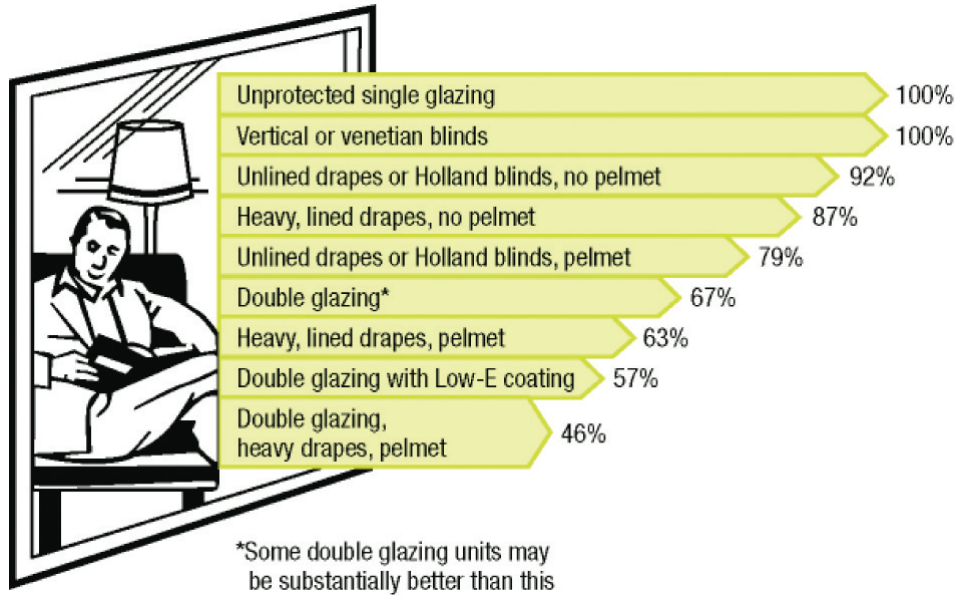
Helen
Macpherson
Smith
Trust



Sunlight can be blocked by adding drapes to a window, but this makes the room darker. A third of the window can be taken up by hanging drapes. If windows are very large then this can be acceptable. But for smaller windows it is important to make the curtain tracks much wider than the window, so that when the drapes are open they don't block out any light.

Choice of drapes or blinds can also be affected by the furniture and where it is placed in the room. If furniture is under window then shorter drapes or roman blinds might be needed.

Outside blinds or shutters can help with summer sun – see separate fact sheets on Windows and External Shade.



The effect of window treatments on winter heat loss

Thanks to:

Sustainability Victoria Window protection fact sheet

http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/Window_protection.pdf



What happened at Watsonia Neighbourhood House, and how it works

“We wanted to get the maximum insulation possible for the windows from our drapes and blinds. We chose drapes with “3-pass lining” for the front meeting room and the dining room, and roman blinds with “3-pass lining” for the computer room.

“Three pass linings gave us 100% block out of sunlight and excellent insulating properties. Three pass linings have three layers – closest to the window is suede or rubber backed fabric. Inside that is a black film layer. Between this and the curtain fabric is a white, cotton layer.

“We also chose pelmets for the windows with drapes. In the meeting room, our volunteer, John, has made wooden pelmets – much like you could at home if you are a handy person. In the dining we chose professionally-made lined pelmets to match the drapes. The pelmets mean cold air cannot circulate down the cold glass and over window coverings.

“We also looked at how the rooms are used and what would be functional. In the computer room we chose roman blinds because they are easily drawn up above the windows so we get maximum light when needed. Also because the tables and computers are near the windows we needed to not to take up space with drapes”



For more information call The North East Neighbourhood House Network on 9457 7900, or Jika Jika Community Centre 9482 5100

Greener Houses Growing Greener Neighbourhoods is transforming five Neighbourhood Houses into ecolving demonstration centres. It is a unique collaboration involving community volunteers, six Neighbourhood Houses, five local Governments, and tertiary institutions. The project is supported by the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund, managed by Sustainability Victoria and two Charitable Trusts.

