

# Practical Guide to Making Curtains 1!

Measuring guide, curtain tape & fabric requirements, linings, weighting tape estimation & help on choosing your fabric

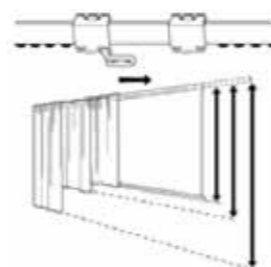
## Preparation:

When measuring for curtains, it may be helpful if the hardware (poles and tracks) is in place before you begin, including carpets or any other flooring for full-length curtains. Always use a steel or wooden rule as cloth tapes can stretch and decide on the type of heading you will be making, because it can affect the location of the pole in relation to the top of the window or the trim.

## Measuring your window:

You require two measurements for your window;

1. The width of the curtain pole or track. When measuring make sure you include any overlap arms in the middle.
2. The length of the curtains. There are three standard lengths; a. The sill, b. The radiator, c. The floor. Whichever you choose always measure from the hook point on the track to your chosen length then add the height of your chosen heading tape. For sill and radiator take 1.5cm off. For floor length take 2.5cm off.



## Working out tape requirements:

Multiply the width of the track/pole by the fullness of your chosen tape, e.g. 2 1/4 .

e.g

Width of track/pole: 183cm (72")  
 Multiply by 2 1/4: 2 1/4 x 183cm (72")  
 Total tape required: 412cm (162")

Remember to add on required amount of tape if using a track with an overlap arm.

## Working out fabric requirements:

The width of your curtains can vary depending on which curtain tape you use or how loosely or tightly you make the pleats, see our curtain tapes section for details of your chosen heading, then follow this calculation.

1. To calculate the number of fabric widths required, multiply the total width of the track by the fullness of your chosen heading tape e.g 2 1/4. Then divide by the width of your chosen fabric - 137cm (54"). Round up to the nearest full number.

e.g

Width track/pole: 60"  
 Width of chosen fabric: 54"

$60" \times 2.25 = 135"$  then divide by 54" = 2.5 widths  
 i.e 1.25 widths of fabric for each curtain.  
 (If necessary round up)

Drop: 85"  
 Multiply curtain length by number of fabric widths.  
 $85" \times 2.5 = 212.5"$   
 Add 8" for hems and 2.5" for shrinkage = 223"

Therefore total fabric required = **5.75 metres**

(Don't forget to add on any extra fabric for pattern repeats if required)

2. Multiply the curtain length by the number of fabric widths, adding the following allowances to each fabric width:

i. 10cm (4") per fabric width for hems and heading.

ii. 2.5cm (1") approximately, per fabric width for shrinkage.

3. Allow additional fabric for pattern matching - the general rule is one full pattern repeat per fabric width. For example, curtains requiring 4 fabric widths need additional fabric for 3 pattern repeats.

## Lining your curtains:

It is a good idea to line your curtains for the following reasons:

1. To protect the face fabric from the effects of sunlight.
2. To add bulk to the curtains which improves drape and gives a more luxurious appearance.
3. To provide light, heat and sound insulation.
4. To give a uniform appearance to the outside of your home.

There are two types of lining, sewn-in or loose. Rufflette Lining tape is ideal for loose linings which can be separated from the curtains for cleaning. If using sewn-in linings, the amount of fabric required is virtually the same as for the main curtains, although you don't need to allow for pattern matching. If you use loose linings, you will need 1-1.5 times fabric fullness with Rufflette lining tape.

## Curtain weighting tape estimation:

The draping of any curtains, sheers or nets will be significantly improved if the hems are weighted.

Rufflette curtain weighting tape is the ideal way to weight hems. There are five weights available to suit all requirements and they are so simple to use. The amount of curtain weighting tape required is the same as the total flat curtain width. Simply tack the tape in place in the hem of the curtain.

An alternative to using lead weight tape or to use in conjunction with lead weight tape are Rufflette 25mm Penny Weights. These are also really simple to use, just sew one into the corner of every fabric join to ensure your curtains hang evenly.



## Choosing your fabric:

For attractive looking curtains which will remain in good condition over time and use, purchase your fabric from a reliable retailer/outlet. Fabric should have good stability to light, minimal shrinkage during the cleaning process and be fit for purpose. With the exception of upholstery fabric, almost all fabrics are suitable for making curtains, so you need to consider not only your own taste, but what properties you want from your curtains. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do you want the curtains to block out the light? *If so, you need a densely woven fabric or a blackout lining used in conjunction with a standard weight of fabric.*
2. Do you need a curtain to provide privacy during the day? *If so, consider nets and voiles which will let in light but provide privacy, or use as a secondary curtain in conjunction with heavier curtains or with blinds.*
3. Have you chosen an intricate heading tape such as Smocked pleat? *If so, a plain fabric will show the heading off to its best effect.*
4. Does the fabric drape easily? *A fabric with a good handle & drape is better for decorative headings, as the tape will hold its shape of pleat more successfully. For more modern styling tapes such as Universal tempo or Solar tape, fabrics with a slightly stiffer handle across the width are a better option, as they retain their shape more successfully when in use.*
7. Are there any special sewing or cleaning instructions you may need to consider?

The thread you use can be important - make sure you purchase suitable thread for use with your chosen fabric. Rufflette recommends using a well known brand or make.

## Contact us:

If you experience any problems while using these instructions or making your curtains do not hesitate to contact our Customer Services Dept. (via any of the methods below) who will be happy to help you out.

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