

Professionally Calculate and Measure for Window Treatments (Calculating Widths and Yardage)

There are two important factors in calculating the correct amount of fabric (yardage) needed for making drapes:

- 1. The repeat – (does NOT apply to solids and vertical stripes)**
- 2. The width of the fabric**

The repeat is the distance between the same two points on a print fabric. For example; if a fabric has a "flower motif" the repeat would be the distance from a point on one leaf to the same point on the next leaf (above or below it).

Fabric, in general, comes in 48" and 54" widths. Sheer materials (such as lace, tergale, and battiste) usually come in 48" and 60" widths; there are some companies that make sheers and laces in widths up to 118" - this allows for "seamless" panels.

To calculate the yardage of your material, you must have the finished width (or rod width), and finished length of your draperies. Then from there you need to calculate:

- 1. The number of widths used to cover each window, and**
- 2. The amount of yardage for your fabric.**

You must remember that these calculations are different for the various types of window treatments. Your local fabric store can generally provide this service. Just be sure that your measurements are accurate by using a steel tape measure, and you will have perfect window treatments every time!

One of the biggest questions customers ask in any window treatment job is "how much fabric should I buy?" While most fabric stores and designers are able to give you an exact figure, it always helps knowing how to figure yardage for your own information.

The first thing to keep in mind is to ALWAYS have accurate measurements before beginning. We recommend a steel tape measure – a small 25 ft. tape is preferct for almost any home job.

To figure the amount of fabric needed (for a solid or stripe) you:

- 1. Take the finished length of your draperies**
- 2. Add 16"**
- 3. Multiply this figure by the number of widths (previously calculated)**
- 4. Divide by 36**
- 5. This gives you the number of yards of material you need**

So if your finished drapery length is 92" , and you have a window that takes 5 widths; you would take:

- 1. ex. $92 + 16 = 108$ "**

2. then $108 \times 5 = 540$

3. then $540 \div 36 = 15$

So you would need 15 yards of a solid fabric for that window. If we had ended up with an odd figure in this example (such as 15.376) we would round up to 15.50 or 15 1/2 yards of fabric.

For a print fabric with a pattern the calculation is a little different, but still easy.

You simply follow steps one and two above, then divide this figure by the amount of the repeat.

Take that figure and round up. This is important.

Take that figure and multiply by the repeat. This gives you the finished cuts.

Multiply that by the number of widths, then divide by 36.

This gives you the amount of yardage needed, as in the example below.

If your finished drapery length is 102" , your repeat is 27" , and you have a window that takes 5 widths; you would take:

We suggest with fabrics that have prints and patterns - that you add an extra 1- 2 yards for pattern/print) variation.

Always look flaws when purchasing fabric at the store. Once fabric is cut, there are generally no returns.

1. $102 + 16 = 118$

2. then $118 \div 27 = 4.37$

3. then round up to:

4. 5 then $5 \times 27 = 135$ "

5. So 135" is the length of your cuts.

6. then $135" \times 5 = 675$ "

7. then $(675) \div 36 = 18.75$ yards

So in this example you would need 18 3/4 yards of fabric.

Hints:

- We suggest with fabrics that have prints and patterns - that you add an extra 1- 2 yards for pattern/print) variation.
- Always look flaws when purchasing fabric at the store. Once fabric is cut, there are generally no returns.
- When purchasing fabric that has to be ordered, whether from a website or through a store or designer, ALWAYS request a "cutting for approval" from the same dye lot. This ensures that your fabric matches the rest of the colors in your project AND that you are getting the color you want.
- And as always, use a steel measuring tape for accuracy. Remember:

"Measure twice, cut once"