

# **MEASURE BLINDS FOR WINDOWS & DOORS**

Skill Level: BEGINNER These how-to's are suitable for people who are new to DIY and who have a basic knowledge of tools. If you've painted a room or re-potted a plant, you can probably complete one of these projects by yourself in a few hours or less.

## MATERIALS

- Metal Tape Measure
- Pencil
- Paper
- Small Ladder

New window blinds can give any room a great new look, control light coming in, and provide privacy. Selecting the best type of blinds and measuring for your installation are easy first steps toward enjoying decorative and functional window blinds in your home.

After you've measured for your blinds, check out the installation video and instructions at Lowes.com/Videos.

### SELECTING WINDOW BLINDS FOR YOUR HOME

- There are numerous types of window blinds from which to choose:
  - Horizontal blinds have tilted slats to control sunlight.
  - Vertical blinds are popular installations for sliding glass doors and large windows.
  - Energy-efficient blinds keep cool air in during the summer and cold air out during the winter.
  - Blackout shades block nearly 99% of sunlight from entering a room.
  - Cordless blinds are available for child safety.
  - Some blinds have remote controls to easily adjust for more or less light.
  - TIP: Lowe's can cut many blinds to custom-fit your windows at no additional cost. Bring in your measurements and we'll prepare your blinds while you shop. You can even special order just about anything you need for your installation.
  - There are two ways to install window blinds:
    - Inside mounted blinds are installed within the window.
    - Outside mounted blinds are installed to cover the window frame or attach to the wall.
    - If the window frame is sufficiently deep to attach the mounting brackets inside the window frame, you can choose inside or outside mounting. If not, you'll have to use an outside mount.
    - Outside mounts require a sturdy wall surface or trim for attachment, which makes it the ideal installation method for standard doors. Inside mounted vertical blinds won't work on standard doors.



How To:



#### IMPORTANT

Before you begin this project, read the all of the following instructions. If you're not comfortable measuring and installing window blinds, discuss the job with a Lowe's associate—we measure and install blinds as a service to you.



### SELECTING THE WINDOW BLINDS FOR YOUR HOME (cont.)

- The following is a chart of minimum inside mounting clearances for many popular blinds. Refer to your window blind packaging and instructions for specific measurements or requirements for the blinds you choose. Or ask a Lowe's associate for assistance.

### Minimum Inside Mounting Clearance (for most brands)

CELLULAR SHADES	
Standard & Top Down/Bottom Up	5/8"
Cordless/Continuous Cordloop	1/2"
ROMAN SHADES	
Standard & Top Down/Bottom Up	5/8"
Cordless/Continuous Cordloop	1/2"
NATURAL SHADES	3/4"
ROLLER SHADES	3"
METAL BLINDS	1/2" or 5/8" depending on design

VERTICAL BLINDS	2-7/8"
WOOD AND FAUX WOOD BLINDS	
1" slat	1/2"
2" slat	3/4"
2-1/2" slat	1-1/4"
PANEL TRACK	
2 panels	1-1/2"
3 panels	2-1/4"
4 panels	3"
5 panels	3-3/4"

### Measuring for Inside Mounted Horizontal Blinds

- **01** Measure the width inside the window frame at the top, middle, and bottom to allow for variances in construction.
  - Use the smallest measurement as the window width to make sure that the blinds clear the sides of the window frame.
- **02** Measure the height inside the window frame at the left, middle, and right to allow for variances in construction.
  - Round the measurements down to the nearest 1/8".
  - Use the largest measurement as the window width so the blinds cover the entire opening.
  - Make a rough sketch of your windows to give to a Lowe's associate.
- **03** Take these exact measurements to Lowe's to select your inside mounted horizontal blinds.
  - The Lowe's associate will make any necessary clearance adjustments.



How To:



Lowe's 02



### How To: MEASURE BLINDS FOR WINDOWS & DOORS

#### **Measuring for Outside Mounted Horizontal Blinds**

- 01 Measure the width to the nearest 1/8" between the outer-most points where the blinds will be placed.
  - TIP: For optimum light control, the blinds should extend 1-1/2" beyond the window opening on each side.
- 02 Measure the height to the nearest 1/8" between the upper- and lower-most points where the blinds will be placed.
  - TIP: For optimum light control, the blinds should extend 1-1/2" beyond the window opening.
- **03** Take these measurements to Lowe's to select your outside mounted horizontal blinds.
- **04** If you plan to mount your blinds on wallboard, you might need extension brackets. Ask a Lowe's associate for assistance.

#### **Vertical Blinds**

- Vertical blinds work best for a window that is wider than it's height or for sliding doors. They can be installed either inside mounted or outside mounted.
- Inside mounted vertical blinds will not work on doors. Use an outside mount installation.

### **Measuring for Inside Mounted Vertical Blinds**

- 01 Measure the width inside the window frame at the top, middle, and bottom to allow for variances in construction.
  - Use the smallest measurement as the window width so the blinds clear the sides of the window frame.
- **02** Measure the height inside the window frame, from the top of the opening to the sill, at the left, middle, and right to allow for variances in construction.
  - Use the smallest measurement as the window width so the blinds fit within the opening.

**03** Take these measurements to Lowe's to select your inside mounted vertical blinds.











### How To: MEASURE BLINDS FOR WINDOWS & DOORS

### **Measuring for Outside Mounted Vertical Blinds**

- 01 Measure the width of the window or door.
  - For maximum light control, add 4" to each side.
- 02 Mark the location where the window blind headrail will be installed.
  - Most manufacturers recommend installation at least 3" above the window or door opening.
- **03** Measure the height from the headrail location to the sill at the left, middle, and right sides of the frame.
  - Use the smallest measurement.
- **04** Take these measurements to Lowe's to select your outside mounted vertical blinds.

With your measurements in hand, you're ready to purchase your new blinds. Once you have your new blinds, be sure to check out the video and instructions for *How to Install Window Blinds*, as well as other projects at Lowes.com/Videos.

These "How-To's" are provided for informational purposes only. The information contained in Lowe's "How-To" videos is intended to provide general guidance to simplify jobs around the house. Because tools, products, materials, techniques, building codes and local regulations are continually changing, Lowe's assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained herein and disclaims any liability for omissions, errors or the outcome of any project. It is the responsibility of the viewer to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, rules, codes and regulations for a project. The viewer must always take proper safety precautions and exercise caution when taking on any project. If there is any question or doubt in regards to any element of a project, please consult with a licensed professional.





