



Newsletter 2: When and why you should update your window treatments.

With everything going on during this hectic time of year, replacing your window treatments is probably last on your list. But, you may be surprised to know that certain situations call for new shades (or at least an evaluation). Besides, do you want all your family and friends to see what's been hanging in your window? Here's when you know it's time to update your window treatments.

1. Your current solutions have accumulated wear and tear.

According to Hunter Douglas, "Just as sunscreen protects our skin from the sun's damaging ultra-violet rays, window treatments protect our room interiors." Old treatments are more than out-of-style: they may be causing unwanted damage to your furniture and floors. And, if the sun can do that to your belongings, you know it's having an impact on your skin.

As window treatments age, they not only accumulate wear and tear (if your kid has ever played Tarzan from the curtains, you know what I'm talking about), they gradually lose their effectiveness as UV barriers. The result? Dry wood floors, faded fabrics, and lack-luster artwork. To protect your belongings, it's wise to update your windows with coverings that offer UV protection. Depending on your needs, you can find treatments that filter 75-99% of the sun's rays.

2. You're getting ready to sell your home.

In this market, you need every advantage when you put your house up for sale. Adding new window treatments is an inexpensive and easy way to accentuate the features your home has to offer (or to hide its less-than-flattering characteristics). The right window treatments can make small windows seem bigger, highlight the drama of large windows, or define the space for small or odd rooms. In addition, the right treatments can save you from painting. For instance, if you have white walls you can add floor-length drapes in earth tones to add a sense of depth and warmth to the space. On the following page is a before and after example by Lisa Kauffman Tharp, a home stager in Boston:



before



after

Ultimately, window treatments can dramatically change the look and feel of your rooms, help buyers imagine living in your space, and often increase the perceived value of your home.

3. You need a change. Do a makeover! (Your shades have been the same since 1980.)

These days, giving your home an entire interior makeover might seem slightly self-indulgent. However, with new window décor, you can change the look, feel, and shape of your space at an extremely cost-efficient price.

4. You've recently had a child or have pets.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, over 140 children have died by strangulation from window treatments since 1981. And, an untold number of pets have also suffered from unsafe window products. As a parent or pet-owner, you have enough to worry about without worrying about your curtains. Older window treatments sometimes lack child and pet safety features that provide peace of mind and safe living spaces. Update your window treatments with products that offer built-in child safety features like cord-tensioners and break-through safety tassels and enjoy a safer home.

5. You'd like to disguise or address some of the architectural features of your home.

Do you have small windows? A small room? A very tall room? All of these features can be addressed with the right window treatments. Here are some quick tips to help you best accentuate your rooms' features:

1. Small Windows: Place hardware above the frame and extend it beyond the width confines of the window. Use curtain panels and valences to "blur" the edges of the window frame.

2. **Small Room:** Using neutral or light curtains allow more light into the room and make it appear larger. In addition, these shades can add the illusion of height to rooms with low ceilings.

3. **Very Big/Tall Rooms:** Sometimes, having a big space can seem less-than-cozy. To overcome these challenges, add window treatments in bold colors. The strong color can draw the eye to the windows as a centerpiece, while bringing down the room's loft.

If you we're looking for an excuse to splurge for new window coverings, you now have five good reasons. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact Lavish-Interiors for assistance.

Happy Holidays!