



Bring the Beach to the Northland: How to Create a Beach-Like Atmosphere with Window Treatments.

Summer is here and if you're like most Minnesotans (or Wisconsinites) you're excited to get on the water. In addition to getting out on the lakes and rivers, you're probably updating your space for the warm weather.

If you love the beach-house look (or your lake-front view), you might be unsure which window treatments to choose to achieve a breezy, beachy interior. Today, we'll help you pick window treatments that make the most of your view and create a waterfront ambiance that lasts all season long.

To achieve a beach-house look, the key is selecting treatments that work with your space, let in light, and are commonly found on properties near water. Let's discuss some of the more popular solutions:

1. Woven Shades

Woven shades come in a variety of hues and materials, including grasses, bamboo, ropes, wood planks, and jute. These shades are very versatile: they can stand alone and emphasize the architectural details of your space or be paired with sheer panels for a layered effect. Woven shades are neutral, and offer a casual backdrop to other beach-themed decor. In addition, they adjust to your mood. Want more light? Simply pull them up!

2. Plantation Shutters

Common in the Caribbean, plantation shutters are sure to make a design statement. Shutters come in a variety of colors and match any decor. Although wood shutters are considered "a classic," shutters also come in composite wood and PVC varieties. In addition to being a beautiful element of your interior design, plantation shutters are great insulators: they control the sun beautifully without sacrificing light, and offer storm protection during inclement weather.



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3. Sheer panels.

Nothing screams “beach” like sheer white curtain panels blowing in the breeze. A quick and easy update, hanging sheer or linen panels will instantly bring the beach indoors. In addition, these window treatments provide moderate privacy while maintaining the natural light in your space. Another place to utilize white curtains? Your outdoor patio. If you decide to eat outside, simply pull the curtains shut and keep the bugs out.

Not sold on white? Sheer panels come in every shade under the rainbow, and you’re sure to find a solution that matches your mood and design aesthetic.

4. Solar screens.

While not the most fashionable solution, solar screens are perfect if you need to minimize glare, heat, and UV damage. Solar screens can be installed on the interior or exterior of your home and come in a range of opaqueness to fit your light-control needs. You’ll likely save money on energy costs with solar screens. Another bonus? With solar screens, you don’t have to sacrifice your view, they’re totally see-through.

The key to creating a beachy atmosphere is to pick window treatments that highlight your theme and bring the outdoors inside. With the solutions discussed above, you’re well on your way to creating a beach home, even if you don’t live seaside.