



HOW TO: SURVEY WINDOWS & CALCULATE FABRIC

A practical guide to surveying windows and calculating fabric requirements for Roman blinds and curtains complete with survey templates.

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OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Understand how to use and implement survey measurements in order to calculate your fabric requirements for Roman blinds and curtains.

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THE SITE SURVEY

You will need:

A good quality metal measuring tape 8m long (5m minimum) and (until you become experienced and confident in your own skills), use a Window Survey Template for each window.

For large windows a telescopic measure and / or a laser measure is recommended.

Attached templates:

Straight Window Survey Sheet (Basic)

Straight Window Survey Sheet (Detailed)

There are some rules and principles to remember and it is important to ensure that you have prepared your survey information thoroughly and accurately otherwise your calculations will be flawed.

You also need to decide the design details of your window treatment and good survey notes are vital in order to prepare your quotations, workroom and fitting instructions.

Remember to take photos too.

Other resources to help you:

For bay windows:

- The Bradley Collection have developed an APP which is free to download.
- Curtain pole companies that supply tracks and poles for bay windows will supply a measuring guide to ensure that all of the angles are correct.
- If you produce a template (on the floor) make sure that you note 'glider side down this side' of the template.

STRAIGHT WINDOW SURVEY TEMPLATE (BASIC)

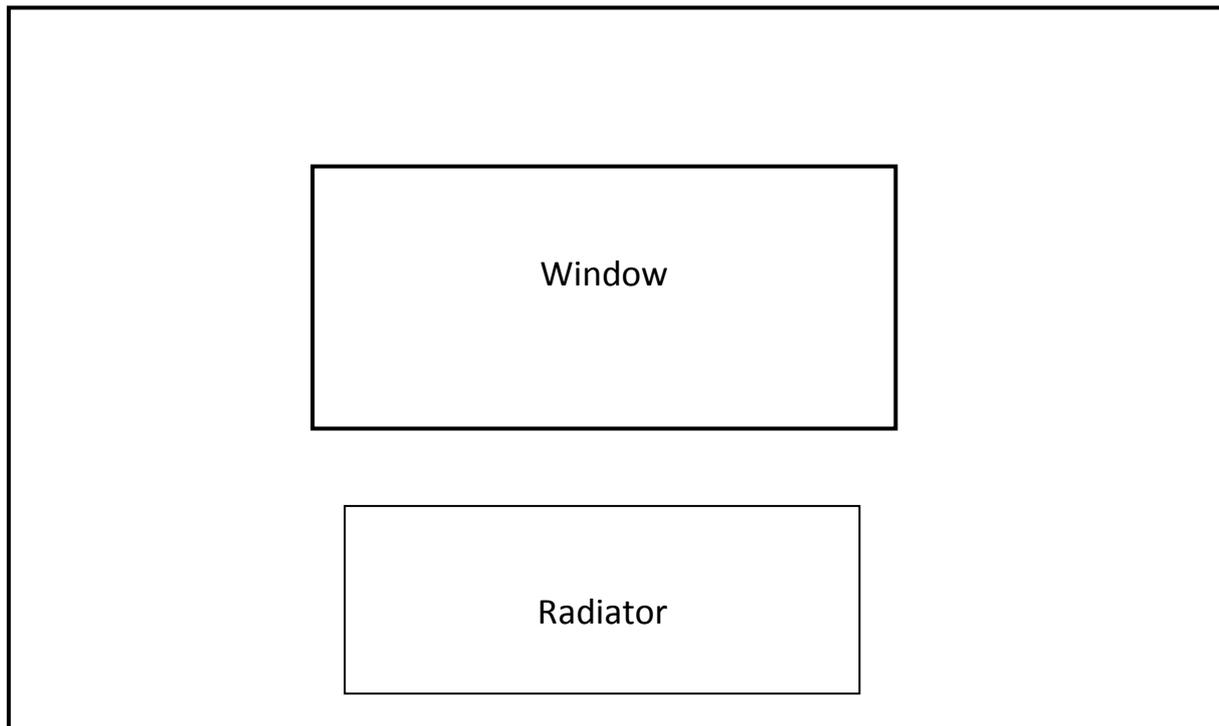
Window Survey Sheet

Project.....

Date.....

Client.....

Room.....



Window number:	
Width of recess:	Height of recess:
Depth of recess:	
Width of window board:	Top of recess to ceiling/ coving:
Space for left hand stack back:	Space for right hand stack back:
Height floor to window board:	Height floor to ceiling/ coving
Light / switches/ sockets?	Radiator under window Y/N
<u>Notes/ proposed treatment</u>	

STRAIGHT WINDOW SURVEY TEMPLATE (DETAILED)

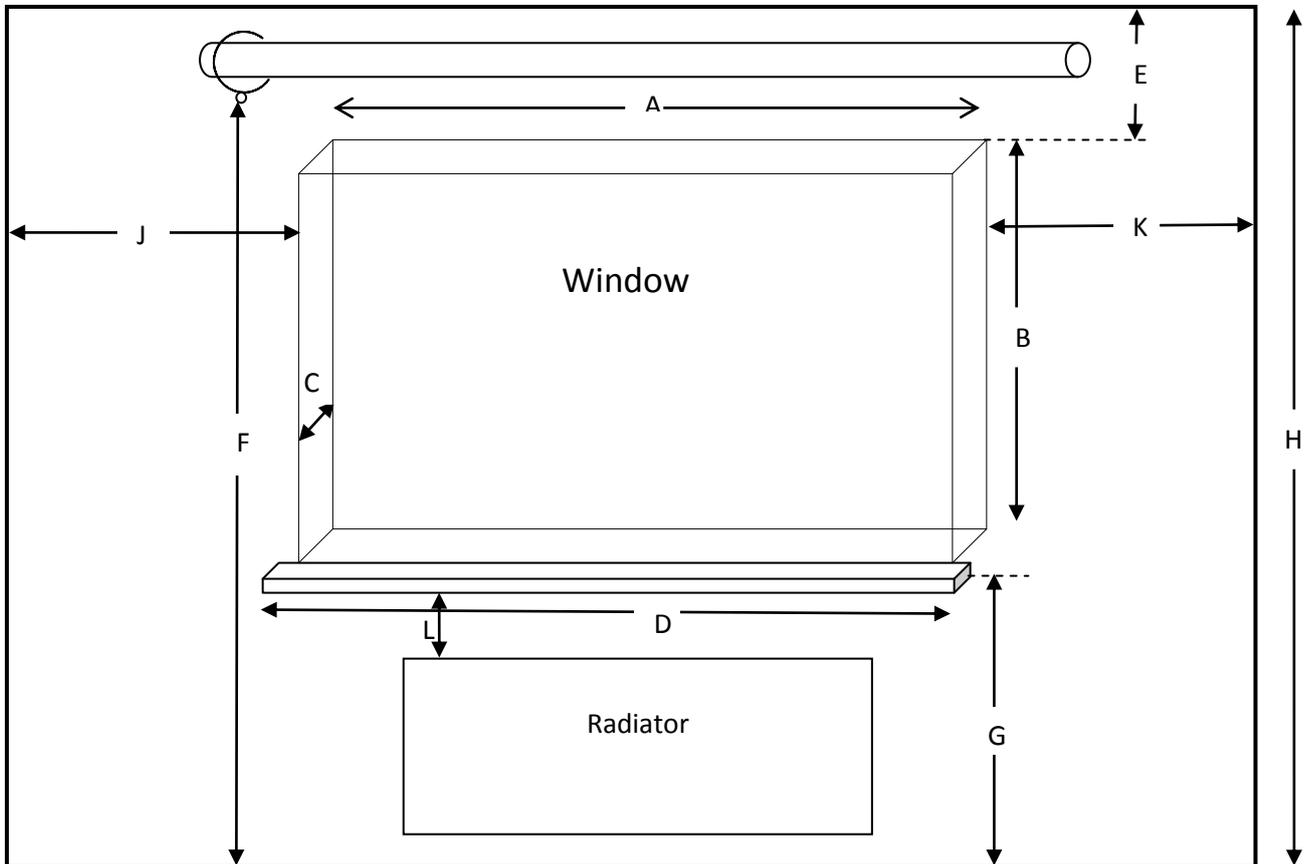
Window Survey Sheet

Project.....

Date.....

Client.....

Room.....



Window number:	
A. Width of window recess:	B. Height of window recess:
C. Depth of recess:	D. Width of window board:
E. Top of recess to ceiling/ coving:	F. Existing pole or track to floor:
G. Height floor to top of sill:	H. Height floor to ceiling/ coving:
J. Space for left hand stack back:	K. Space for right hand stack back:
L. Radiator - Height from floor to top:	Breaking /Pooling on floor?
Light switches/ sockets? (Pls mark on sheet)	Carpets fitted?

Notes/ proposed treatment

CURTAIN SURVEY HINTS & TIPS

In addition to the recess size:

Measure the wall space either side of the recess to assess the amount of stack-back you can have. (The stack-back is the amount of wall space the curtains will take up when drawn back).

If you write your measurements like this:

Example: 20cms + 150cms + 20cms = 190cms

Both you and your work room will understand this to mean:

‘20cms stack-back left hand side + window recess width of 150cms
+ 20cms stack-back right hand side to give a total pole or track width of 190cms.’

- Measure from floor to ceiling or the underside of the coving.
- Measure from the floor to the underside of the window board.
- Measure from the top of the recess to the ceiling/ underside of the coving.
- Note if there is a radiator under the window and how much it protrudes from the wall as you will need to calculate the depth of the bracket in order for the curtains to pass in front of it if they are to be full length.
- Note presence of light switches and electrical sockets especially if they are in line where the curtain pole bracket is to go.
- Note presence of alarm sensors particularly if curtains are wall to wall and/or ceiling track mounted.
- Note if the floor is hard finish e.g wood/ tile/ laminate/ vinyl or carpet/ finished or unfinished.
- Measure your desired finished curtain length, this is known as the **‘Finished Drop’**.

It is the finished fabric length of the curtain you require *excluding* turnings, but *includes* the amount you wish to allow for pooling on the floor or *less* your allowance for clearing the floor.

ROMAN BLINDS

For each window measure:

- 1. The width and height of the recess:** this is the inside recess measurement 'ISR'
- 2. The width of the window board:** you need to know this for blinds fitted outside the window recess 'OSR'. It is usual to add 1 -2 cms each side so that the blind completely covers the window board when it is lowered. Also measure your required drop OSR.

A judgement then needs to be made to specify your finished blind size - this is also known as *the finished fabric size*. NB The width is always stated first and then the drop.

For OSR, the total drop will be from how far above the window recess you will site the top of the blind to where you want the blind to finish - either below the window board or on top of it.

Note the following in accordance with your design requirements:

- Cassette head rail. (Standard timber batten, cord and cleat mechanisms are rarely used since 2015 due to blind cord safety regulations and requirements).
 - Colour of chain, chrome, silver, white, brass, bronze.
 - Motorised systems -mains or battery operated. Compatible with home management system.
 - Which side of the blind the control cord to be: left (LHS) or right hand side (RHS)
 - To be: unlined, lined, lined and interlined, lined with blackout lining or bonded blackout lining.
- To calculate how many 'widths' of fabric you require in each blind: add 10 cms onto your blind width for side seams and divide by your fabric width - usually 138cms. (Round the resulting figure up to a whole number).
 - To calculate the 'cut length' of fabric required for each 'width': to the finished length of the blind add 25cms for the top turning and hem.
 - For blinds of more than one width and the fabric is patterned, divide this cut length required by the pattern repeat and round up.

Example:

175cms divided by 30cms pattern repeat (straight match) = 5.8 Round this up to 6.

6 x the pattern repeat of 30cms equals the total length of fabric required: 1.8m
Multiply this by the number of widths in the blind and add one pattern repeat.

(The extra pattern repeat is allowed as you have no way of knowing where the first pattern will start when it is cut off the roll and you may have a specific requirement for the pattern placement).

CURTAINS

The same method is applied to all curtain styles whether long or short.

To calculate how much fabric is required in total, the number of 'drops' (also known as 'widths') and the 'cut length' need to be established.

To establish how many **drops** of fabric you will need to make up your curtains will depend upon the style of the heading and width of the track or pole.

First, multiply the width of the pole or track by:

- 2.5 for triple pinch (French) pleat, double pleat (butterfly), cartridge and goblet headings.
- 2.2 for eyelet and wave,
- 2 for pencil pleat heading subject to fullness required.
- For voiles by 2.5 or 3 depending on fullness required.

Calculate number of drops and cut length example for triple pleat headed curtains:

Example: Pole width 180cms, fabric width 138cms, triple pleat heading

Calculate number of drops; Pole width $180 \times 2.5 = 450$ cms divide this figure by the width of the fabric (138) = 3.2 drops

Round down only if you are within .2 or .3. Anything more than .4 it's best to round up.

Next calculate the amount of fabric required including turnings for each drop. This is known as the 'cut length'.

Start with your curtain 'finished drop'.

Example: 225cm (NB for eyelet curtains this is from the top of the pole plus 4cms upstand)
Add 15cms for hem and 15 cms for top (30 cms in total) $225 + 30 = 255$ cms

Divide this figure (255cms) by your pattern repeat (straight match)

Example: 255cms divided by a 72cms pattern repeat = 3.5
Round this up to 4 (same rule applies - anything .4 or above you should round up)

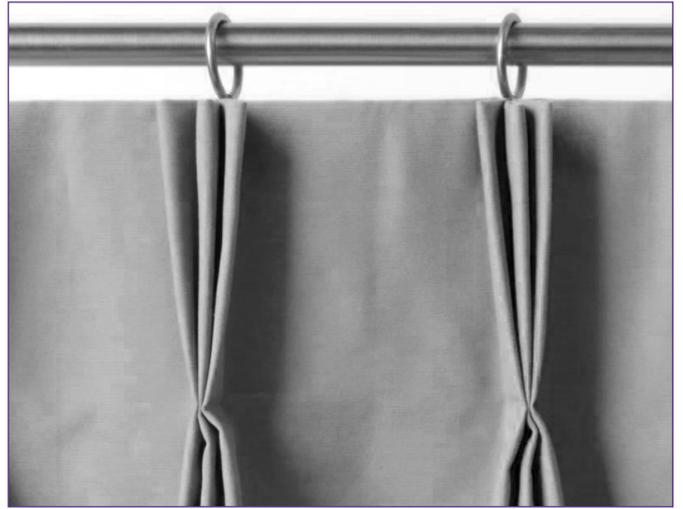
4 x the pattern repeat of 72cms equals the total cut length of fabric required per drop: 288cms

Therefore, the total fabric required = 3 (number of drops) x 288cm (cut length of fabric required for each drop) = 864cms plus one extra pattern repeat : 9.3m

TYPICAL CURTAIN HEADING STYLES



Double Pleat



Triple Pleat



Wave



Eyelet



Pencil

HALF DROP PATTERN REPEATS

Care and attention needs to be paid when calculating fabric quantities with a 'half drop pattern repeat.'

When you place the second width of fabric against the first to match the pattern, you will have to move the fabric up half of the vertical pattern repeat distance. You also need therefore, to make up the shortfall at the bottom.

You will always have wastage between cuts equivalent to half of the pattern repeat, top and bottom on **every other drop**.

To calculate how much fabric you need calculate the number of widths as usual and add an extra pattern repeat to every other width:

Example: Pole width 200cms, fabric width 138cms, triple pleat heading
Pole width 200 x 2.5 = 500cms divided by width of fabric (138) = 3.6 widths (4)

Round down only if you are within .2 or .3. Anything more than .4 round up.

Calculate the amount of fabric per cut length:

Start with your curtain 'finished drop'.

Example: 230cms finished drop
Add 15cms for hem and 15 cms for top (30 cms in total) 230 + 30 = 260cms

Divide this figure (260cms) by your pattern repeat 72cms

Example: 260cms divided by a 72cms pattern repeat = 3.6 pattern repeats

3.6 (round up to 4). 4 x 72cms = 288cms per drop

To the second and fourth drop add one more pattern repeat : 72 + 288 = 324cms

You will have 2 x drops at 288cms and 2 x drops at 324cms.

Add one extra pattern repeat (72cms) to allow for pattern placement.

Total fabric required: 13 metres

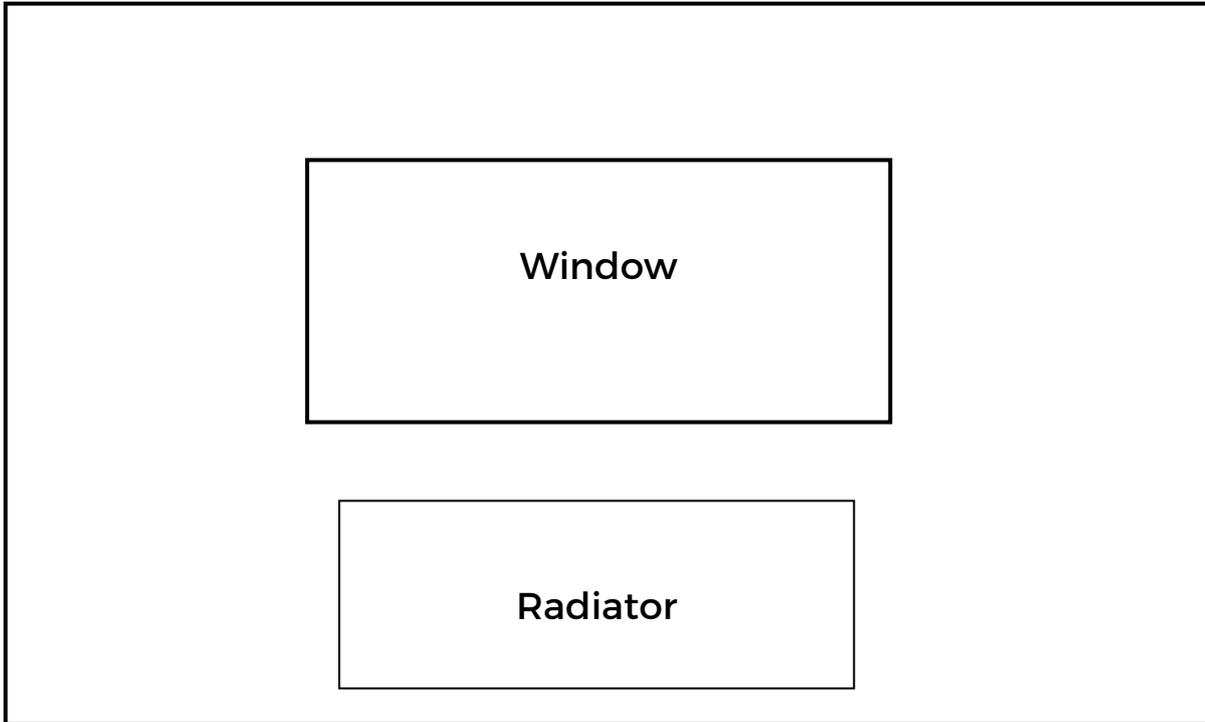
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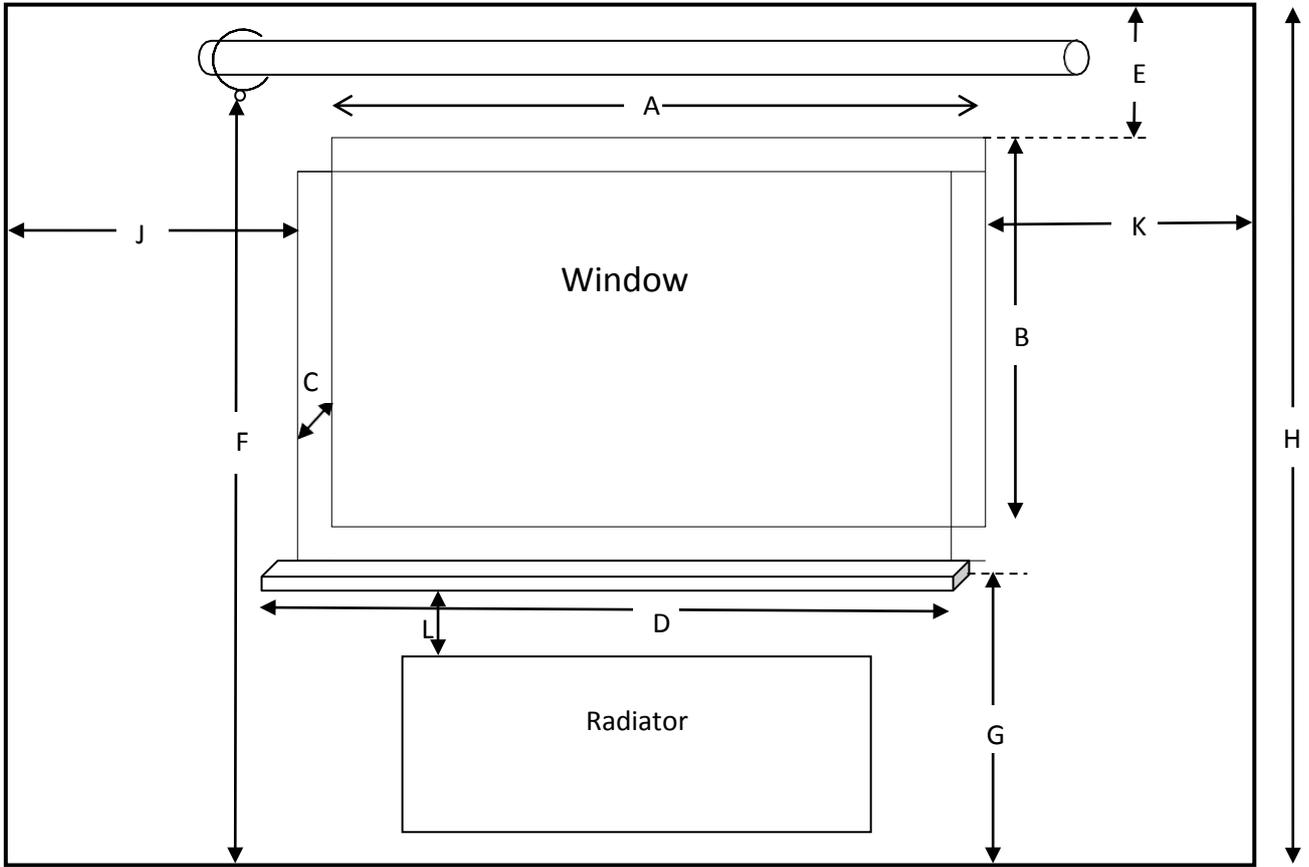
Window Survey Sheet Detailed

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