

Taking care of your curtains and blinds

TO KEEP YOUR WINDOW FURNISHINGS LOOKING GREAT AND FUNCTIONING WELL, KEEP THIS GUIDE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

Russells
Curtains & Blinds



Caring for your fabric window furnishings



Curtains

Your custom-made curtains will be a little stiff having just come from our Nelson workroom. They can take up to six weeks to hang properly but as the fabric settles into place, any packing creases should naturally smooth out. The space between pleats at the top of the curtain will also need to be trained whenever they pop out of place, and it's important to ensure everything is shaped nicely before putting your curtains into tiebacks or holdbacks.

How to clean

- Use a low suction on your vacuum cleaner.
- Spot clean minor stains with a damp sponge or microfibre cloth.
- Do not machine wash or dry clean.

Roman blinds

You may need to manually adjust the pleat to ensure your new blinds sit nicely during the first couple of weeks. Otherwise, your only major concern should be to ensure the blind isn't caught in the cord when you raise or lower them.

To stop this from happening, make sure you only pull the cord parallel to the window, and be sure that the bottom of the blind doesn't get caught on the cleat that's screwed to your architrave.

How to clean

- Use a low suction on your vacuum cleaner.
- Spot clean minor stains with a damp sponge or microfibre cloth.
- Do not machine wash or dry clean.

Roller blinds

To prevent the fabric fraying on the sides, ensure that you only pull the cord vertically, parallel to your window so the chain doesn't rub against the fabric. By raising the blind before opening or closing your windows, you can also prevent unnecessary creasing from occurring.

How to clean

- Remove dust with a brush or your vacuum.
- Hold the bottom rail for stability.
- Spot clean with a damp sponge or cloth.

Did you know?

You can use a low suction on your vacuum to clean dust off curtains, roman blinds and roller blinds.

Fabric care

New Zealand has some of the strongest sunlight in the world and with our extreme UV rating, customers should be aware of certain precautions when selecting window furnishings.

- All fabrics, regardless of the dyes used will deteriorate under direct sunlight or reflected ultraviolet light.
- Where possible a quality sun filter is recommended when fabrics are in direct or reflected sunlight, even if through double glazed or tinted windows.
- A superior quality lining is always recommended.
- Leading edges of curtains (those facing the windows) are particularly vulnerable to sunlight degradation. To help minimise this effect, it is recommended that curtains be rotated periodically, i.e. the left-hand curtain swapped to the right-hand position.
- Ensure sufficient 'stack back' is achieved to minimise direct sunlight when drawing the curtains off the window during the day. Although closing curtains may keep the interior cooler, it is highly destructive to curtain fabrics and the temperatures between the glass and fabric can be extreme causing fabrics to become more susceptible to tearing and disintegration.
- Please note that all fabrics washed or dry cleaned have the potential to shrink up to and above 3%. Therefore, we don't recommend either process.

Fabric movement

- Fabrics are susceptible to changes in atmospheric conditions. An acceptable industry standard allows for up to 3% movement in most fabrics and with certain others e.g. Acrylic, Polyester, Cotton, Linens and Acetates, 5-6% shrinkage is considered normal.

Caring for your blinds



Venetian blinds

It's important to remember that venetians are not designed to be raised and lowered regularly as this may lead to premature deterioration of the blind. If they must be raised, ensure slats are in the open position and gently/slowly pull on the cord before stabilising it into position. Then, when lowering the blind, gently release the cord lock and let the blind slide down slowly.

How to clean

- Wipe Wood Look slats with equal parts white vinegar and water.
- Dust wooden slats with a cloth. Keep them as dry as possible.
- Gently scrub or wipe vinyl or aluminium blinds with soapy water.



Honeycomb blinds

Standard cord honeycombs operate the same as venetian blinds. Clutch system honeycombs can be raised and lowered like roller blinds. If your blinds are cordless, simply use your hand to raise or lower the blind using the bottom rail. For top-down/bottom-up honeycombs that move in either direction, move the bottom of the blind into position first before moving the top.

Take care to only raise or lower one blind at a time for day and night blinds.

How to clean

- Blow away dust inside cells with a hairdryer on cool.
- Dab minor stains with a damp sponge or cloth.
- Any dusting or cleaning should follow the horizontal lines of the blind cells.



Vertical blinds

When drawing your blinds, be sure to rotate the panels so they're fully open (90 degrees to the window) first. Keep them away from openings on windy days, and open your blinds before adjusting doors or windows.

How to clean

- Dust the surface with a soft cloth.
- Dab stains with a damp cloth.
- Lubricate the tracks and mechanism once a year with a silicon spray.



Elegance Blinds

Your 'clever curtains' operate much like vertical blinds, except you can rotate the panels using the traverse wand. To ensure their longevity, it's important to only operate one mechanism at a time. And if it's particularly windy outside, draw and tie your shades to prevent the panels from becoming damaged.

How to clean

- Panels can be lightly hand washed and dried; use a cool iron or steamer to remove creases.
- Tracks can be cleaned with a feather duster, or a slightly damp microfibre cloth.
- Lubricate the gears with silicone spray at least twice a year (be sure to slide the panels over to one side or cover to avoid overspray).
- CAUTION: If spraying insecticides or harmful chemicals place blinds in the open position; chemicals MUST NOT contact the blinds.
- NEVER use harsh cloths or abrasives, chlorine or ammonia-based chemicals or cleaners.



Caring for your shutters

How to clean

- Dust blades with a soft cloth, feather duster, microfiber wand, or gently vacuum with a soft bristle brush attachment; dust cracks with a small soft brush/feather duster.
- Spot clean internal shutters (if necessary) with a soft, damp cloth and quickly wipe dry; only use pH neutral soap and lukewarm water with if absolutely necessary.
- NEVER allow water to remain standing on the shutters to prevent warping, cracks, or finish damage.
- NEVER use silicon-based products or abrasive/harsh cleaning products.
- Regularly vacuum bi-fold and sliding tracks to keep them free of grit.
- Apply an anti-corrosion coating such to all metal components (stainless steel hinges, pivots, wheels, etc) and clean regularly.

Minimising fading

- Please remember, all finishes will fade over time; to reduce appearance of fading, regularly rotate blades for even UV exposure; use transparent UV window film also for extra protection.

Longevity and repairs

- Ensure panels are properly fitted to catches or supports at all times
- Always tilt blades with tilt rod to reduce staples pulling loose and NEVER open by pulling centre tilt rod
- When opening bi-fold or sliding panels, close blades to prevent damage (unless sliding panels are designed to slide with blades open)
- Slight hairline paint fractures appearing in the stile and rail joints are normal. To fix:
 - Slide fingernail or blunt knife along joint to reseal.
 - For larger fractures, repeat initial step, then apply a very small amount of white or coloured water-based gap filler to fill fracture; wipe away any excess with a slightly moist cloth.



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Book your free in-home consultation
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