

How to Measure for Custom Window Shades

Print-Friendly Customer Guide

Measure carefully before ordering.

All custom shades are made to the measurements you provide. Measure at the exact bracket installation points and record measurements in inches. Do not deduct for an Inside Mount - Solar View will make the required factory deductions.

Before You Measure

- Use a steel measuring tape only.
- Measure width left-to-right, height top-to-bottom, and depth front-to-back.
- Measure the window opening or bracket locations - never the existing shade, fabric, or bottom bar.
- Check for handles, locks, sensors, trim, molding, or other obstructions before ordering.
- Record measurements carefully and verify them before placing the order.

Inside Mount (IM)

Inside Mount shades are installed inside the window frame for a clean, built-in appearance. Provide the exact window opening measurement; the factory will make the necessary deductions for the brackets, roller tube, and operating mechanism.

Step 1: Measure the Window Width

Measure from left to right at the exact location where the mounting brackets will be installed.

- Measure across the top.
- Measure across the middle.
- Measure across the bottom.
- Record the smallest width measurement.

Step 2: Measure the Window Height

Measure the opening from top to bottom in three locations.

- Measure the left side.
- Measure the center.
- Measure the right side.
- Record the largest height measurement.

Step 3: Measure the Mounting Depth

Measure from the front edge of the window frame to the glass or nearest obstruction.

- Standard-size shades: minimum 3 in. depth for a fully recessed installation.
- Shades over 76 in. wide: minimum 4 in. depth for a fully recessed installation.

Inside Mount Light Gaps

Factory deductions are required for proper operation. Small light gaps will remain at the sides of an Inside Mount shade. If side gaps are not acceptable, consider an Outside Mount for greater coverage.

Outside Mount (OM / OB)

Outside Mount shades are installed on the wall, trim, molding, ceiling, mullion, or another solid surface. No factory width deductions are made; the shade is manufactured to the ordered bracket-to-bracket width.

Step 1: Choose the Mounting Location

Choose a flat, structurally sound surface that provides enough room for the brackets and allows the shade to operate freely.

Step 2: Measure the Width

Measure from the exact location of the left bracket to the exact location of the right bracket.

- The bracket-to-bracket measurement is the width you should order.
- For better light control, consider extending the shade 2-4 in. wider than the window opening when space allows.

Step 3: Measure the Height

Measure from the top of the planned bracket location to the desired bottom of the shade.

- You may extend below the windowsill, to the floor, or to another desired stopping point.

Step 4: Verify the Mounting Surface

Confirm the surface is flat and solid, provides enough bracket space, and clears handles, locks, trim, and other obstructions.

IMPORTANT - Material Splice for Shades Over 72 in. High

Shades ordered over 72 inches in height require a material splice. The splice is located at the top of the shade and will be visible on the finished shade. This is a normal part of fabrication for taller shades.

Final Measurement Checklist

- I measured at the exact bracket installation points.
- I measured width and height more than once.
- I checked the mounting depth for an Inside Mount.
- I checked for handles, locks, sensors, trim, and other obstructions.
- For an Inside Mount, I did not make my own factory deductions.
- For an Outside Mount, I ordered the exact bracket-to-bracket width I want.
- If the shade is over 72 in. high, I understand that a material splice is required.

Need Help?

Before ordering, contact Solar View if you are unsure about the mounting location or measurements. Photos or additional measurements may be requested to help confirm the best fit.