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## The advantages of motorized window *treatments*



Photo: Stephani Buchman



### pro-tip

Start with the end in mind. When planning a project that includes motorized window coverings, consider the infrastructure early. Partner with a reputable window treatment professional or automation specialist to help determine the best solution based on window placement, usage needs and the desired control system.



Photo: Stephani Buchman

# CURTAIN *cap*er

by JESSICA CINNAMON

One of the most exciting shifts in recent years has been the integration of motorized window coverings into residential and commercial spaces. What was once considered a luxury reserved for high-end homes, has now become a practical and stylish solution, one that is increasingly

embraced by designers and homeowners alike. From a design and stylistic perspective, the right window treatments can completely transform a space. With the introduction of motorization, you are no longer limited to aesthetics alone. There are now solutions that can enhance your lifestyle, optimize natural light, and contribute to energy efficiency, all

with the touch of a button or a simple voice command.

### Why motorization matters ■■■

At its core, automation is about adding seamless functionality to window treatments. It eliminates the need for manual operation, making it ideal for hard-to-reach windows,

large-scale glazing, or homes with numerous coverings that require daily adjustment. But beyond convenience, motorized window coverings offer safety benefits, particularly in homes with children or pets. By removing dangling cords and chains, you reduce the risk of accidents while creating a cleaner and more streamlined appearance

Motorized systems also offer precise control over lighting and privacy. With programmable settings, you can schedule blinds to rise with the morning sun or lower during peak heat hours to protect interiors from UV damage. It is a subtle yet impactful way to influence mood, comfort and sustainability.

### Trends shaping the future ■■■

Technology is advancing rapidly, and window covering solutions are keeping pace. One of the most exciting developments is the integration of smart home systems that connect seamlessly with platforms such as Amazon Alexa, Google Home and Apple HomeKit. This means you can control your blinds and curtains using voice commands or through centralized smart home apps that manage lighting, temperature and security in tandem.

Another trend worth noting is the rise of solar-powered motors. These systems harness sunlight to keep the motors charged, making them ideal for lowering your environmental footprint. It eliminates the need for hardwiring or frequent battery changes, offering a maintenance-friendly alternative.

App-based customization is also helping to revolutionize the experience. Many modern systems now offer real-time light sensors and geofencing capabilities. This allows blinds, drapes and curtains to respond to external conditions or your home's location.



Imagine your shades lowering automatically when you leave the house or adjusting based on the sun's position throughout the day.

Design-wise, manufacturers are listening closely to what designers and clients want. Motorized shades now come in a wide variety of fabrics and colours, from sheer linens to blackout rollers. The hardware is becoming increasingly discreet, too, with low-profile tracks and quiet motors that do not disrupt the ambience of a room.

## Design integration

In every space, function should enhance, rather than detract, from

the aesthetic. The beauty of modern motorized systems is how seamlessly they can be integrated into any design scheme.

For rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows or vaulted ceilings, motorized drapery systems offer the perfect blend of luxury and practicality. In media rooms or bedrooms, blackout shades with programmable settings ensure privacy and optimal rest. In open-concept homes, synchronizing window coverings across multiple rooms creates visual cohesion and enhances the flow of light throughout the day.

The ability to group controls or create custom zones means you can effortlessly adapt your environment.

Finally, don't underestimate the value of seeing a demonstration of the technology to experience the ease and elegance of motorized operation in person.

## More than an upgrade

As our homes continue to evolve into smarter, more responsive environments, motorized window coverings are no longer a novelty – they are becoming the norm. They truly represent the intersection of technology and design. Consider motorized window treatments not as an upgrade, but as a foundational feature of modern interior living.



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