

Sam's measuring tips

Width

Handles: If you have handles that protrude, measure the window width and height 50mm from in front of the handles, as this will be the final fitted position of the frame.

Tiles: When fitting shutters in bathrooms or kitchens, the reveals are often tiled. Measure the distance between the tiles and use this as your width measurement as this will be the narrowest width.

B.T Points: Telephone/TV points are often fitted inside the recess. These will need to be moved either by you or BT engineer. Follow the wire back outside the window and check if there is any slack on the cable which will allow you to pull some extra cable through the wall. If so, unscrew the face of the socket, unscrew the fixing screws and move the point to the outside of the recess, if possible. All this can be done without disconnecting any cables and don't worry, you won't get an electric shock from either TV or Telephone sockets! If there is no slack in the cable, you will need to get the sockets moved professionally.

Angles: Older houses can have angled reveals. If there are no handles protruding, just measure at the smallest width where the angled wall meets the window frame.

Height

Handles: If you have handles that protrude, measure the window width and height 50mm from in front of the handles, as this will be the final fitted position of the frame.

Air Vents: Air vents can be unscrewed from the windows to allow the shutter frames to fit onto the window. To leave the vents in place, sub frames will be needed to space the shutters frame away from the vents. Fit the sub frames all round the window up to each side of the vent. A bead of flexible filler is then needed between the sub frames to stop any light coming through the shadow gap.

Out of Level: Check the top reveal does not slope down as this will affect your measurement.

Limitations: If your window height is over 1800mm high you will require a horizontal middle rail.

Top opening

Measure from the sill up to the top part of any horizontal rail on the window. Then, when the top half of the shutters are in the open position, you will not see any of the window rail behind.

I suggest the design of the shutters be based on the layout of the window and the room in which they are to be fitted. If the window does not have a horizontal rail, the shutter will not require one.

Examples:

Bathroom: Privacy, air flow and light are all important factors in this room. My recommendation would be the "Standard" shutter due to its water-resistant qualities. Horizontal middle rails and top half opening shutters will be an advantage in this room.

Kitchens: Shutters fitted half way up the window are popular in kitchens where light and the view are important. The "Standard" shutter is well suited in the kitchen.

Bedrooms: Privacy and style is required here. Matching your window features is important.

Sitting rooms: Style, good looks and privacy. One of the most important rooms in your house so consider entertainment, relaxing and blocking the light from your TV screen! If your window is a suitable shape then top half opening shutters will give you all the options.

Advice: Covering the whole of your window with shutters will save you time and money on trying to add extra sections at a later date. Matching all windows as seen from the front of your house adds a fresh look. Another reason most customers choose white shutters, since all will match from the outside, yet each room can retain its individual décor inside. The new fashion in window dressings is a stylish and now affordable option.

Can you handle it

Handles: If you have handles that protrude, measure the window width and height 50mm from in front of the handles, as this will be the final fitted position of the frame.

Extra clearance: Line-up horizontal middle rails with handles, since louvre blades will not protrude here.

UPVC windows: If you do not use your handles, they can always be removed. Remove the white cover cap to reveal the screw.

Casement windows: Try fitting different handles that do not protrude as far.

Sliding Sash windows: Thin brass/chrome handles on the bottom sash can be bent upwards for extra clearance

Battens

UPVC plastic trim: If you have plastic trim fitted around the reveal, you can either remove it, or measure in front of it and use a sub-frame to fix your shutter frame on.