DRAPERY
MEASURING INSTRUCTIONS

BASIC DRAPERY TERMS

The **AREA TO COVER** is the width to be covered by a drapery panel or valance.

The **ROD WIDTH** is the same as the area to cover when used for traverse draperies. However, when side accent panels are hung on a decorative rod, the rod is sometimes wider than the panels.

A **PANEL**, or **ONE-WAY DRAW**, is a single fabric panel, of any finished width, that opens in one direction only.

A **PAIR**, or **SPLIT DRAW**, is two fabric panels, of any finished width, that open from the middle.

A **TWO-LAYER** drapery is a drapery window treatment with two layers of drapery, one behind the other.

An **OVERDRAPE** is the front layer in a two-layer drapery treatment.

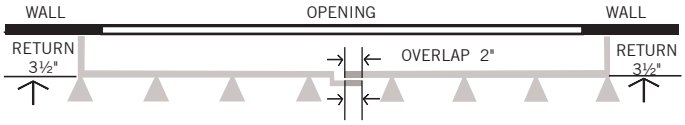
An **UNDERDRAPE** is the rear layer in a two-layer drapery treatment.

The **RETURN** is the distance a traverse drapery must "return" to the wall to cover the gap at the end of the drapery created by the projection of the brackets.

- The standard return for a single-layer drapery is 3½".
- The standard return for the overdrape in a two-layer drapery is 5½". You must specify return depth when ordering.
- The underdrape in a two-layer drapery does not require returns.

The **OVERLAP** is the amount of additional width required so that the left and right panels in a pair of traverse drapery panels can overlap each other in the center. The overlap, which is 2" for each panel, ensures privacy and light control. One-way panels do not overlap.

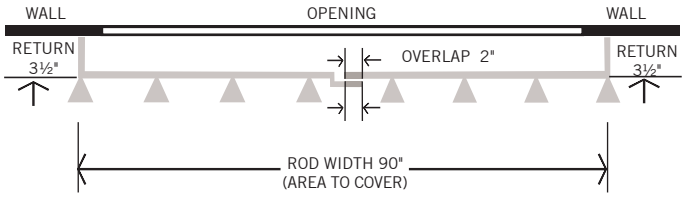
PAIR OF DRAPERY PANELS



The **PLEAT-TO** is the finished width of a drapery, or the total width a drapery is "pleated to" including its returns and overlaps.

- For a pair of drapery panels, the "pleat-to" is the sum of the rod width plus the returns and the overlaps.

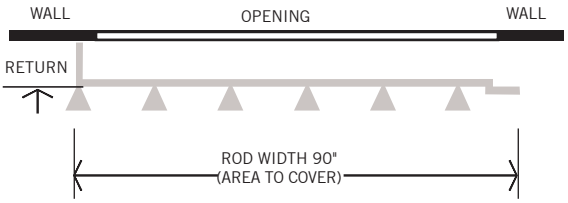
PAIR OF DRAPERY PANELS



ROD WIDTH + BOTH RETURNS + BOTH OVERLAPS = PLEAT-TO
90" + 3½" + 3½" + 2" + 2" = 101"

- For a one-way drapery panel, the "pleat-to" is the total of the rod width and the return.

ONE-WAY DRAPERY PANEL



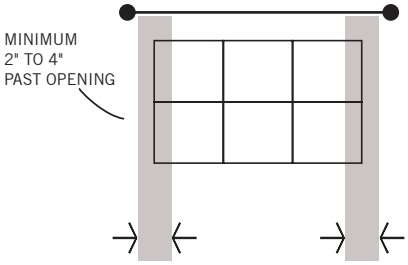
ROD WIDTH + RETURN = PLEAT-TO
90" + 3½" = 93½"

DRAPERY PANEL MEASURING INSTRUCTIONS

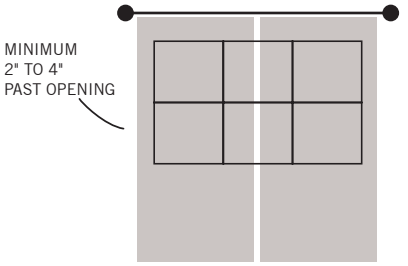
Measure the width and height of a drapery panel as follows:

STEP 1 Determine the rod width and area to cover

Decide how far past the opening the drapery should go. The minimum is typically 2" to 4" on each side, unless there is an obstruction. Where possible, however, draperies are often made enough wider than the glass width to allow room for the fabric to stack off the glass when they are open.

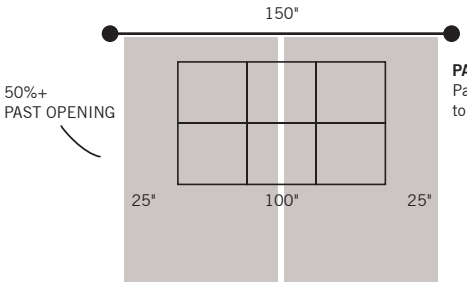


SIDE ACCENT PANELS
Used as stationary accents to frame the windows. Not intended to close for privacy.



FULLY CLOSEABLE PANELS
Panels intended to be closeable for full privacy and light control.

As a rule of thumb, draperies stack in approximately ⅓ of their width (a little more for heavy fabric, a little less for sheers and lightweight fabric). Therefore, in order to allow sufficient stacking space to clear the glass area, add approximately 50% to the width of the opening.



PANELS TO CLEAR GLASS
Panels 50% wider than window to clear glass when drawn open.

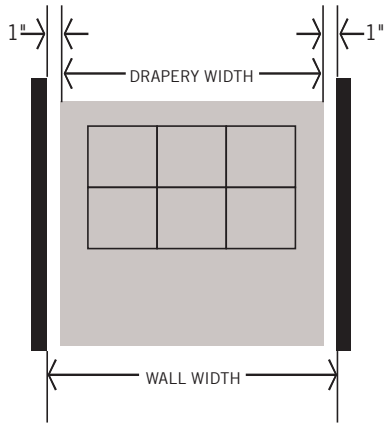
Take-Up Allowance For Panels

	DECORATIVE ROD DIAMETER			
	¾"	1⅜"	1½"	2"
(POCKET SIZE)	1½	2¾	3	4
PANEL STYLE	(Height of a given panel will be reduced by the amount shown below.)			
Rod Pocket Panel	½	⅞	1	1⅛
Tab Top Panel	½	⅝	⅝	1
Camisole Panel	½	⅝	⅝	1

If the drapery is intended to cover a wall-to-wall area, measure the area to be covered at the height where the rod will be located (not the floor). Deduct 2" from this measurement to determine the width of the rod.

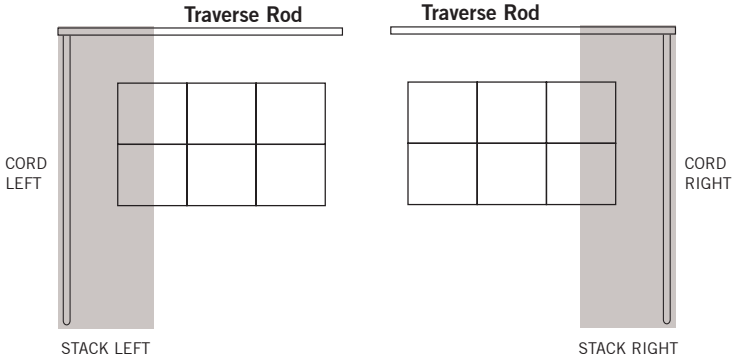
WALL-TO-WALL DRAPERY PANELS

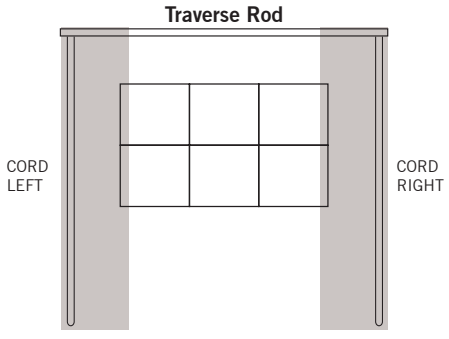
DEDUCT 2" FROM WALL-TO-WALL WIDTH



STEP 2 Determine direction of draw, and stack location

Looking at the opening to be covered, decide whether the drapery should open from the middle (split draw) and stack on both sides of the opening, or whether it should draw toward, and stack, on one side or the other (left or right, facing the opening).



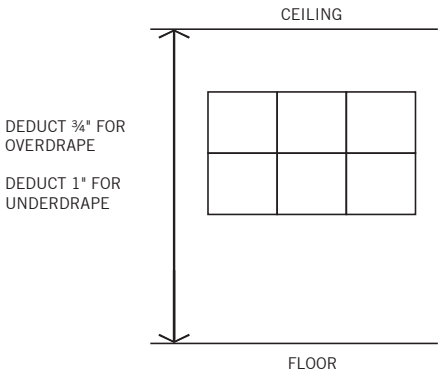


STACK LEFT AND RIGHT (SPLIT DRAW) WITH CORD ON RIGHT OR LEFT OR BOTH
(Two cords, left *and* right, are usually used only on very large pairs of drapery panels that are too heavy to pull with one cord.)

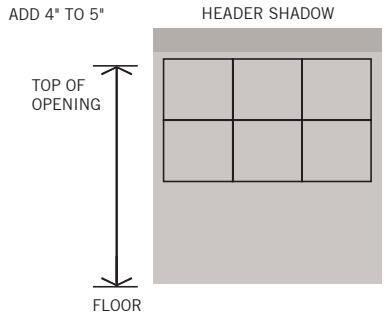
STEP 3 Next page...

STEP 3 Determine the height of the drapery panel

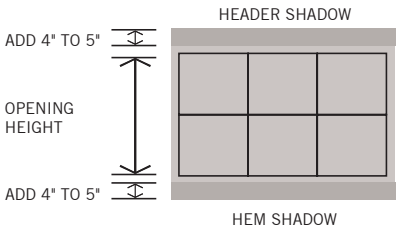
Floor to Ceiling: Measure the distance from floor to ceiling at the tightest (shortest) point. (Allow for acoustic ceiling unevenness, carpet pile, or other unevenness.) For an overdrape, deduct ¾" for operating clearance. For an underdrape, deduct 1".



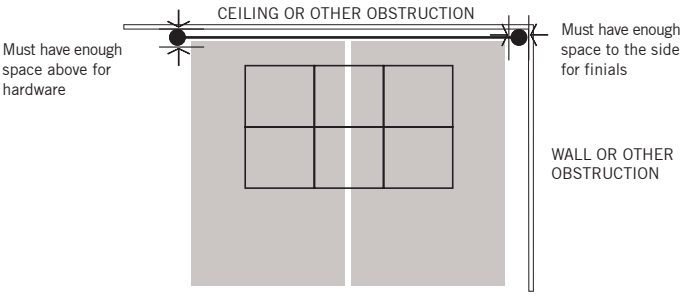
Top of Opening to Floor: Measure the distance from the top of the opening to the floor. Add 4" to 5" in order to avoid a shadow line created by the header, and to allow sufficient wall space above the opening for the rod brackets.



Above and Below Opening: Measure the opening height and add 8" to 10" in order to avoid shadow lines created by the header and the bottom hem. (The bottom of the header should be above the opening and the top of the bottom hem should be below the opening.)



Decorative Hardware: If decorative drapery hardware is being used, the drapery will hang below the rod and rings. Be sure there is enough wall space above the top of the drapery for the decorative hardware, and enough wall space to the sides to allow for the finials.

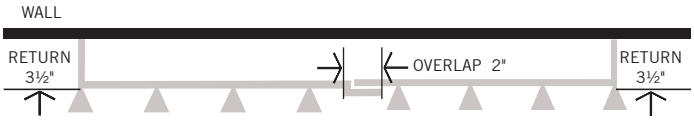


STEP 4 Determine return size

Returns: Traverse draperies often require returns. The return is the distance the drapery panel must "return" to the wall.

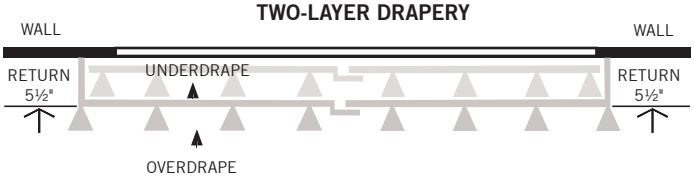
- The standard return size for a single-layer drapery is 3½" on each side.

SPLIT-DRAW DRAPERY



- The standard return size for an "overdrape" (front layer) in a two-layer drapery treatment is 5½". The underdrape (rear layer) in a two-layer drapery, when the overdrape has returns, does not require a return.

TWO-LAYER DRAPERY



STEP 5 Determine the "pleat-to"

The finished width of pleated traverse drapery panels is always wider than the rod width. The additional width is caused by the "returns", explained above, and the "overlap", which must be added to the rod width in order to determine the finished width, or "pleat-to" (i.e. the width the panels will be "pleated to").

Remember:

- The pleat-to for a one-way drapery panel is the rod width plus the return.

- The pleat-to for a two-way drapery (a pair or split draw) is the rod width plus both returns and both overlaps (the overlap is always 2" per panel).