

How to Find Great Shutters and Blinds In Charlotte



Finding the Best Blinds and Shutters In Charlotte

Questions you should ask

Faux Vs. real Wood

Are they Certified By The BBN?



How to find Great Blinds and Shutters in Charlotte NC.

So you have decided it is time to update your window coverings. This simple report will help you choose window fashions that are timeless and built to last. Whether you are doing 5 windows or a whole house there are many things to consider when making this important decision.

Questions to ask:

- 1.) What's the difference between real wood and faux wood shutters?
- 2.) What's a Hybrid Shutter?.
- 3.) Are shutters made in China any good?
- 4.) What's the difference between faux woods and real wood blinds?
- 5.) What about blinds from large hardware stores?
- 6.) Is Augusta Shutters and Blinds Certified by The BBN?

Some good questions to ask:

Q1) What is the difference between real wood shutters and faux wood shutters?

In the past 10 years shutters have changed dramatically. A shutter purchased just 10 years ago is nowhere near the quality of today's shutters. Today's shutters offer many choices in color, materials and options. The finishes are far better today, and the workmanship is simply outstanding.

We've all heard that Bass wood is the best material for making shutters. Have you ever seen a Bass wood tree? Basswood is actually from the American Linden tree. It makes a big difference whether the wood is quarter sawn or ripped; quarter sawn being far superior and more expensive. It also makes a difference where the wood is kiln dried. The moisture content of the wood is critical to the finish and the stability of the product.

Q2) What about a Hybrid shutter?

The WoodLore from Norman Shutters is, I believe, the best shutter in the world. It's an engineered wood covered in polypropylene. Polypropylene is what's inside your dishwasher and refrigerator. There are several very good poly wood shutters on the market and several very nice solid celuka materials also available. Your consultant will be able to help determine which is best for your project.

Several shutters are made from polymer. The polymers are made by GE and shipped here to America. Then the shutters are made to the ordered size. This does increase the cost, however it also cuts delivery time in half. Poly wood shutters do have some limitations such as colors and sizes. One of the biggest limitations is door width. You can get a wider door using real wood or reinforced composite which are lighter in weight.

This is a poly wood material with aluminum reinforcements. The aluminum allows us to have a wider door. It has a good price point, a fantastic insulator and is easy to clean. I have a similar product in my own home, and I was surprised by how cool my home stays on hot days with this product.

So, if you're looking for a shutter with a fantastic stain or a well built composite shutter, there are several excellent choices.

Q3) Are shutters made in China any good?

Shutters made in China have better finishes, better workmanship and are less expensive. The delivery time is about 6-8 weeks. Shutters made in America take 3-8 weeks to get and come in two different categories. First, if the shutter is made from materials imported from China, you'll get a very good shutter. If the shutter is milled and painted here in the US you get an inferior finish due to EPA regulations. The cost is greatly increased due to the higher cost of doing business in the US. Shutters made in Mexico take 3-8 weeks and cost the same as US made shutters. The units I have seen have some pretty serious quality issues.

Q4) What's the difference between faux woods and real wood blinds?

Faux and composite wood blinds have come a long way in the past 10 years.

A faux wood purchased today is more stable, won't discolor and is 30%-40% less expensive than real wood.

If you're looking for a stained wood blind, they are now available in composite (faux) wood blinds. Many manufacturers offer composite wood tones that look great. One of the best benefits of faux wood blinds is the durability. You can leave your windows open and not have to worry about the blind being damaged. Never do that with a real wood blind because it will warp and damage the finish.

Today's 2" wood blinds now come with upgraded 3 ½ inch valances. The most popular upgrade is called a Top Hat. This is a process in which the blind is mounted inside and the valance looks like a little cornice box.

Wood blinds come in many colors and stains. They make any room warm and inviting.

Q5) What about the blinds from large hardware stores?

These are called cut downs. They buy a boat load of blanks and keep them in stock. You measure your own window and they will cut the blanks to your required width. You'll install it and then you'll have to cut the blinds to the desired length. I haven't seen a high quality product available yet, however there are some on-line companies selling cut downs that are of good quality. Again you have to measure and install yourself. Believe it or not, it's usually less expensive to hire a professional window covering consultant to do the whole job for you and have it done right the first time with a wider variety of choices.

Q6) How do I find a Certified Shutter Consultant?

Fortunately Blind and Shutter Depot is Certified. Contact them at 704-723-6712.