



*The Definitive  
Guide to*

# EXTERIOR SHUTTERS





For centuries, exterior shutters have been a prominent fixture on American homes. Colonial-era homes and businesses used shutters for practical purposes of light control, privacy, ventilation and protection from wind and rain.

Modern architectural advances (air conditioning, window screens, and large energy-efficient windows) have rendered the operable aspects of exterior shutters nearly obsolete. However, homeowners across the country still install exterior shutters to add focal depth, color, and interest to windows. Shutters are offered in an array of styles, materials, colors, designs, and mounting options. This guide, along with the accompanying Measuring Worksheet, will help assist you in ordering just the right shutters for your home.



*Exterior shutters add focal depth, color and interest to windows.*



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# Chapter One

## Styles

American architecture utilizes four primary styles of exterior shutters.

### Louvered Shutters

Louvered shutters are the most versatile and therefore the most widely employed. They add depth, texture, and symmetry to any façade using angled horizontal louvers equally spaced and secured between the side stiles. If hinged and closed over the window, louvered shutters allow air transfer through the slats. Limited space between louvers does make this style of shutter the most difficult to prime, sand, and paint.

### Board and Batten

Board and batten shutters are simple in composition and construction. The rustic panel utilizes vertical boards joined with horizontal battens. The board and batten style fits logically on a country farmhouse, but also can be installed on a contemporary dwelling for a surprising juxtaposition.





### Paneled Shutters

These rigid shutters provide a structured appearance that is desirable on many homes. Raised panel shutters incorporate solid tapered panels that lock between the stiles and rails. The raised panel style is favored in many regions along the East Coast, but is certainly not limited to that region. Flat panel shutters have flat panels between the stiles and rails, while grooved panel (sometimes called Shaker style) have vertical grooves in the panels. Paneled are considerably easier to finish than louvered shutters.

### Combination

Combination shutters merge louvered and paneled styles, separated with a divider rail. The most common configuration utilizes louvers on top with a raised panel below. However, this can be reversed.

**Louvered**



**Board & Batten**



**Raised Panel**



**Combination**



# *Chapter Two*

## **Colors**

Of all the variables in selecting exterior shutters, choosing a suitable color may be the most vexing. Following a few general guidelines may help determine the best solution.

Exterior shutters should be used to highlight or accent other features of the house, not as the primary focal point. All of the exterior design elements need to work together, so outlandish colors specifically to draw attention to the shutters should be avoided. This technique may work well with a front door, but multiple bold shutters are overwhelming.







Most buildings use one or two accent paint colors. Exterior shutters are commonly painted the same color as the window trim. A contrasting tone insures the shutters are not too similar to the primary house color. The most widely used color combination is black exterior shutters installed on a white or light gray house.

Major paint manufacturers have sets of professionally formulated exterior color schemes. Use of these free resources helps develop a well conceived whole-house color arrangement.





## *Chapter Three* **Materials**

A variety of choices awaits when selecting an exterior shutter construction material. Each has pros and cons, and all are worth consideration. Selection depends on the use, longevity, application, price, and appearance desired.

Any homeowner seeking to purchase exterior shutters should initially consider wood. This natural resource is time tested and more historically authentic than any other option. Wood is strong, relatively light weight, and functional if installed with proper hinges. The lifespan is indefinite, but wood does require regular inspection of the finish and occasional maintenance. There are various species and grades of wood shutters that impact life expectancy.







Composite shutters are constructed with densely-pressed sawdust adhered with a marine-grade resin. Assembly results in a dense, weather resistant, extremely durable shutter. Composite shutters can be quite heavy and cannot be functional because they have only one presentable side.

Vinyl shutters are composed of a hollow back with five thin-walled sides that create a front-facing shell. They are flimsy prior to installation, but gain rigidity from the structure to which they are affixed. The molded material is dyed a stock color which is resilient in the harsh outdoor environment, requiring minimal upkeep. Vinyl results in the least expensive exterior shutter currently on the market. Vinyl shutters cannot be hinged, and under scrutiny do have a somewhat plastic appearance.



## *Chapter Four*

# **Measure Twice – Cut Once**

Ideally, exterior shutters should appear to have the ability to swing, or pivot, from a position beside the window to completely cover the window opening. But many modern American homes are built with exceptionally wide, bay, or side-by-side windows that prohibit installing functional shutters. Exterior shutters that logically cannot cover the full width or configuration of the window are installed for aesthetic purposes only, and measurements can be approximate.

Of course, shutters can still be installed as functional architectural elements. Some historic communities mandate that structures have operational exterior shutters. Functional shutters require more precise measurements than stationary panels. In addition, the type of hinges and available mounting surfaces need consideration to be historically accurate and operate properly.





## Width

Measure the window width from the inside edge of window trim to the same spot on the opposite side. Window widths narrower than 64 inches can appear to have functional shutters by installing panels half the width of the window size. Windows larger than 64 inches, while unable to appear functional, should use panel sizes between 30% and 50% of the window width. Consider panel widths of narrow windows when determining the same for larger windows. Do not exceed a panel width greater than 50% of the window width.

Observe obstructions on either side of the window which may prevent proper installation of shutters (downspouts, building corners, roof lines, etc.). Pay particular attention to the space between neighboring windows to ensure proper proportions and possible overlaps.

## Height

Measure each window height from the top inside edge of the window trim to the bottom inside edge of the window trim. If there is a sill at the bottom of the window, measure to the top of the sill. Shutters require about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above the sill for clearance and ventilation. ShutterLand exterior shutters are sold in  $\frac{1}{4}$ " increments to provide the right fit for any window.



*Use our Measuring Worksheet on page 15 to help prepare your order.*

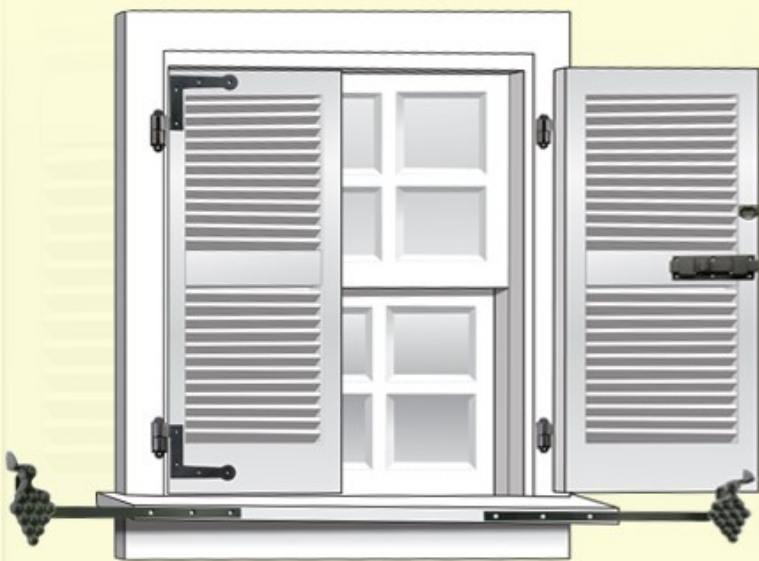
## *Chapter Five*

# **Install for the Long Haul**

The method of exterior shutter installation primarily depends on appearance and application. Functional, or swinging, shutters require hinges that pivot from the edge of the window. The type, shape, and size of the appropriate hinge is dictated by the window configuration. Exterior hardware suppliers are often willing to consult and recommend the proper hinge.

Nonfunctional shutters may be attached with stainless steel or other rust resistant screws inserted through the face of the shutter. The screw heads can be painted to match the shutters. At least a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch space between the building and the shutter is required to allow moisture to evaporate. Some homeowners opt to still attach hardware to embellish the project.

### **Functional Shutters**





## Hardware Selection



S-Pattern Shutter Dog

Shutter dogs, or “tie backs,” are used to hold shutters in place while open. Shutter dogs attach to the building just under panels to secure in an open position. They rotate to release the panel to freely swing. This particular accessory is offered in several decorative designs. In addition to the popular s-pattern shutter dog are the rat tail, star, shell, grape, and flower patterns.

A shutter bolt slides between two panels to affix the panels in a locked position from the inside of the home. Shutter bolts are required for fully functioning shutters.



Shutter Bolt and Ring Pulls



*The method of installation primarily depends on appearance and application.*

## *Chapter Six*

# Maintain to Sustain

ShutterLand suggests yearly inspection and maintenance of installed exterior shutters. Paint has a limited life and will eventually weaken and crack. More concerning than the depreciated appearance is the breach of protection from rain and snow. Wood is the most susceptible to damage and requires the most attention. Extended exposure to moisture will allow wood grain to saturate and rot.

Simple paint touch-up will prolong the life of any shutter. Peeling paint may indicate time has come to refinish the panels entirely.

Hedges, vines, and other vegetation that comes in contact with the shutters may rub, scrape, or impale the finish. It is recommended that all plant life be trimmed at least a foot away from the shutters.



Shutter Caps on Functional Shutter Panels



# Measuring Worksheet

## Wood or Composite Shutters

Use this form to prepare an order to place online at shutterland.com. Follow the measuring instructions provided online to measure accurately and receive the right shutter fit for your windows.

### SHUTTER DETAILS

<b>Style</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Louvered	<input type="checkbox"/> Raised Panel	<b>Finish</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unfinished, Paint Grade	<input type="checkbox"/> Factory Primed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Shaker Panel		<input type="checkbox"/> Unfinished, Stain Grade	
<b>Material</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Combination	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat Panel		<b>Factory Painted</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Red Grandis	<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar	<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> White	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pine	<input type="checkbox"/> Mahogany	<input type="checkbox"/> Chrome Green	<input type="checkbox"/> Cottage Red	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Extira™ Composite		<input type="checkbox"/> Charcoal Slate	<input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton Blue	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Country Redwood	<input type="checkbox"/> Tudor Brown	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Black Forest Green	<input type="checkbox"/> Custom Color	

	Window Location (for your reference only)	Shutter Quantity (NOT Pairs)	Shutter Width	Shutter Height	Divider Rail (measure from bottom of shutter to center of divider)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					



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# Measuring Worksheet

## Vinyl Shutters

Use this form to prepare an order to place online at shutterland.com. Follow the measuring instructions provided online to measure accurately and receive the right shutter fit for your windows.

### SHUTTER DETAILS

<b>Style</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Louvered <input type="checkbox"/> Raised Panel <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Combination	<b>Color</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Bedford Blue <input type="checkbox"/> Brick Red <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Colonial Blue <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Green <input type="checkbox"/> Sandalwood <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Sage <input type="checkbox"/> Ebony Green <input type="checkbox"/> Sienna Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Potter's Clay <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolate Chip <input type="checkbox"/> Lunar Blue <input type="checkbox"/> Burgundy <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Green <input type="checkbox"/> Dove Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry <input type="checkbox"/> Paintable
	<b>Configurations</b>  Multiple configurations available for each style of vinyl shutter. Visit us online to view all of the options.		

	Window Location (for your reference only)	Shutter Quantity (Pairs)	Shutter Width	Shutter Height	Configuration
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					



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# Enhance your Home Today!

Visit us online to price shutters, view colors and materials available, and place your order for the most beautiful custom shutters available delivered directly to your door.

