



POLARIS SHUTTERS

How to Measure for Decorative Shutters

Tools Required

- Tape Measure
- Ladder
- Pencil



Measuring your windows properly is an important step to ensure your installation goes smoothly and that the end result looks great.

There are 3 ways to measure for Decorative Shutters.

First and most popular-- Install decorative shutters to add color and a touch of personal style to their windows. In this case, it is best to find a single width of decorative shutters that works for all of your windows.

However, some people like decorative shutters to look like they can close over the window (even though decorative shutters will not). While the goal here is slightly different, it is still perfectly acceptable.

A third and more encompassing goal is architectural uniformity. It is important to understand that architecture is a regional science. To truly add value to your home and give it curb appeal, it should look like it belongs in your neighborhood. In some parts of the country, it is common to install 12 inch wide decorative shutters on windows that are 8 feet wide. In other areas, it is common to measure the glass of the window and install exterior shutters that look like they will cover the glass entirely, but not the window trim.

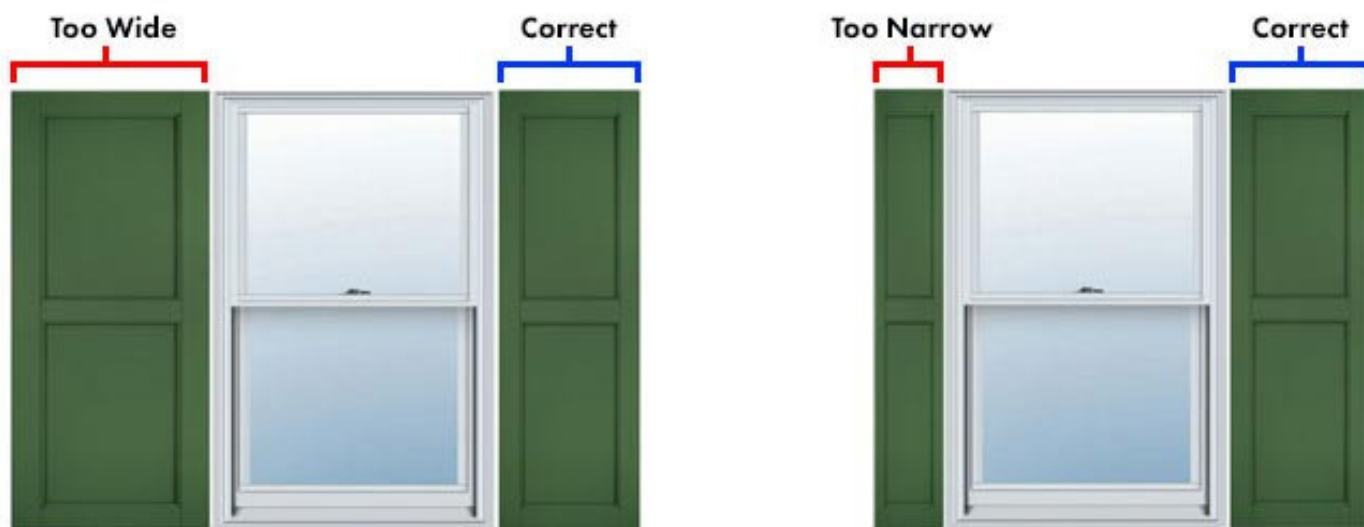
The most common way to measure for decorative shutters is to measure the window trim and install shutters that are the entire height of the trim. The best advice we can give you is to start by taking a walk or a drive around your local area to determine just how to make your home "fit in", paying careful attention to the homes that are constructed of similar materials and design to your own.

If you happen to be the first in your neighborhood to install decorative exterior shutters, as a rule of thumb it is best to start by measuring the entire window including the window trim both vertically and horizontally.

Shutter Width

When choosing the width of your exterior shutters, take into consideration the width of the window and the distance the windows are spaced apart. It is generally best to find a single width that works for all of your windows. The width that usually works best is between 25% and 33% of the total width of your window including the window trim.

If you prefer to make your outside shutters look like they will close over the windows, find a width that is close to 50% of the size of the glass and window frame only, excluding the window trim. Since vinyl shutters don't have that much flexibility in terms of shutter width, it is best to err on the side of the exterior shutters being narrower than 50% of the window width



Shutter Height

In most cases, the height of decorative shutter that is most appropriate is from the top to the bottom of the window trim. If there is a sill at the bottom of the window and you are installing vinyl shutters, it is important to leave a gap of at least 1/4 inch to allow the vinyl material to expand and contract. This of course does not apply to other shutter materials.

Many homes are constructed with different heights of windows on the first floor than on the second floor. Be sure to measure every window before placing your order for exterior shutters.

