

Internal (Plantation) Shutters

This document has been produced by the British Blind and Shutter Association (BBSA) to highlight the key characteristics of internal shutters to help you make an informed choice when buying your shutters.

The product characteristics detailed below represent the state of the art and any relevant standard.

General

Frames can be fixed to the window directly (face fixed) or fixed to the reveal/wall (side fixed). Different frames allow shutters to be fitted either inside, outside or on the edge of the recess. The frame choice will dictate how the shutters will hinge open.

Shutters are available with either a visible tilt bar (front centre) or a hidden tilt system (at back of the shutter).

Full height shutters may have mid-rails to add rigidity to the panel and allow split operation of the louvres. Depending on the louvre size and number of louvres required, the mid-rail may not be directly central on the panel and could be 19-51mm higher/lower than centre.

Shutters over doors will usually require to be in a track frame. These will come with wider stiles, more hinges and wider top/bottom rails.

Tier on Tier shutters with a separate top panel (like a stable door) can lessen the amount of light coming into the room. A gap between the tiers is normal and is around 3mm.

Matching shutters to the window design and keeping the panels as wide as possible can help with maximising the amount of light coming in.

MDF and composite shutters are heavier than wooden ones which can lead to the panels dropping more so than wooden shutters if left unsupported. Shutters are designed to be supported by a frame and left closed most of the time.

Light machining marks and finger joining may be visible on close inspection within the assembly of the shutter and the frame.

Wood is a natural material

If your shutter is made of wood, it is likely to display its natural characteristics such as knots and grain patterns.

Painted finishes may display minor imperfections on the surface which are caused by natural characteristics such as

grain or knots in the wood. On stained finishes natural shade variation can occur.

Absorption of moisture and drying of the wood over time may result in slight warpage or twist and therefore it is not recommended to use wooden shutters in high moisture areas.

Dimensions

When opened, the shutters will protrude into the room.

The panels (especially when two or more are hinged together) are likely to dip slightly when the panel is opened. This requires the user to slightly lift the panel when closing. Shutters made from faux and vinyl material are less rigid than wood shutters and are therefore more likely to drop slightly further when opened.

Dim-out

The level of privacy and light control is also dependent on louvre size; large louvres allow for more light and small louvres provide better privacy.

There will be light coming through where the slats of the shutters meet and the edges of the opening frames. Tracked shutters will have light gaps where the tracks are.

The level of light may not be consistent across the entire shutter.

Due to their design and operation, shutters are a light diffusing product rather than a blackout.

Reveal (recess) not dimensionally consistent

A shutter is made square however in reality reveals are often not. The head of the window or cill can be uneven and the distances between the side walls throughout often vary.

A filler strip may be required to mask any difference in the reveal and/or mastic or caulk used to seal gaps.

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Visual Product Inspection

When checking the visual characteristics of any blind/shutter, the following should be observed:

Viewing distance and lighting

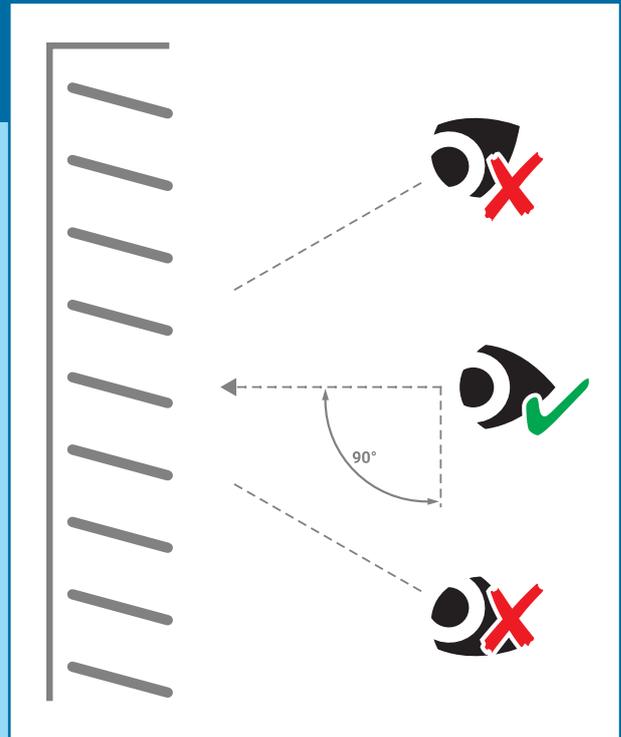
3m for exterior products in diffuse daylight;
2m for interior products with lighting suitable for normal room use.

Viewing angle

Perpendicular to the surface being checked.

Viewing aids

Naked eye (and any corrective glasses if applicable).



Always ensure you read and carefully follow the operating and maintenance instructions.