

Pleated & Honeycomb Blinds

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

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

Fabrics

The pattern on the fabric may not match adjacent blinds and may not be centralised on the blind.

With pleated fabrics unless the pleats are held in place (called pleat equalisation), gravity will cause them to become flatter at the top of the blind and more gathered at the base.

Pleated and honeycomb fabrics should be retracted for a few hours each week to help preserve their pleated shape.

Fitting in a bay window

When fitted in a bay window, there will be some gaps where the neighbouring blind headrails meet each other. The amount of any gap will depend on several factors including the shape of the bay, the style of the window and the specification of the blind system.

Similarly, at the edge of the bay there may be light gaps/potential loss of privacy depending on the angle of the bay and adjoining walls.

Fitting inside the reveal (window recess)

To allow for operating clearance, the width of the blind must be narrower than the width of the reveal. If there are any obstructions in the reveal, for example tiles at the base or a dado rail, the blind will need to be made to accommodate the narrowest width.

Reveal (recess) not dimensionally consistent

Pleated and honeycomb blinds are 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.

The distance from the edge of the reveal to the window may also vary, so blinds will either be fitted to run parallel to the window or to the edge of the reveal.

Roof Blinds

Roof blinds will have holes through the fabric for operating cords and tension wires; these will be visible when the blind is retracted. When in the extended position, the cords/cables will be more visible on single pleat fabrics than on honeycomb shaped pleated fabric.

With shaped blinds the top rail used to raise/lower the blind is limited to a minimum size, so the blind may not pull to the top of shaped glazing.

Shaped blinds will fan up when retracted unless a layflat system is used.

Unless the pleats are equalised (held in place), gravity will cause the pleats to gather at the base of the blind and the fabric will be flatter at the top.

Dim-out

Pleated and honeycomb blinds are available in blackout fabrics but there will always be light ingress around the extremities of the blind (reduced if fitted in a frame or with side channels).

Pleated blinds have holes in the fabric for the operating cords and so these will emit some light.

With honeycomb fabrics the cord runs in the cell of fabric and so there are no visible holes.

Due to their product specification these blind styles do not offer blackout.

Motorisation

There is a wide range of motorised solutions available for your comfort and convenience and each system will have its own characteristics. Some points to consider are:

- **Speed and alignment** - due to mechanical and electrical tolerances, blinds in the same installation may not travel at the same speed and may not line up if stopped during the travel of the blinds.

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- **Noise** - being operated by a motor, some noise will be emitted. Quiet motors may be an option.
- **Wiring** - some surface wiring may be required. Where 240V mains power is involved, a competent person will be required to provide a power feed unless the blinds can be powered from a plug inserted into an existing socket.
- **Motor protection** - most motors are fitted with a thermal cut-out to protect them from getting too hot (usually from over-use). When cooled sufficiently, the motor will start working again.

Child safety

All blinds with cords or chains which could pose a risk of strangulation to young children **must** be fitted with safety devices. The device required will be determined by the blind type being used.

For further information on window blind safety visit: www.makeitsafe.org.uk



Visual Product Inspection

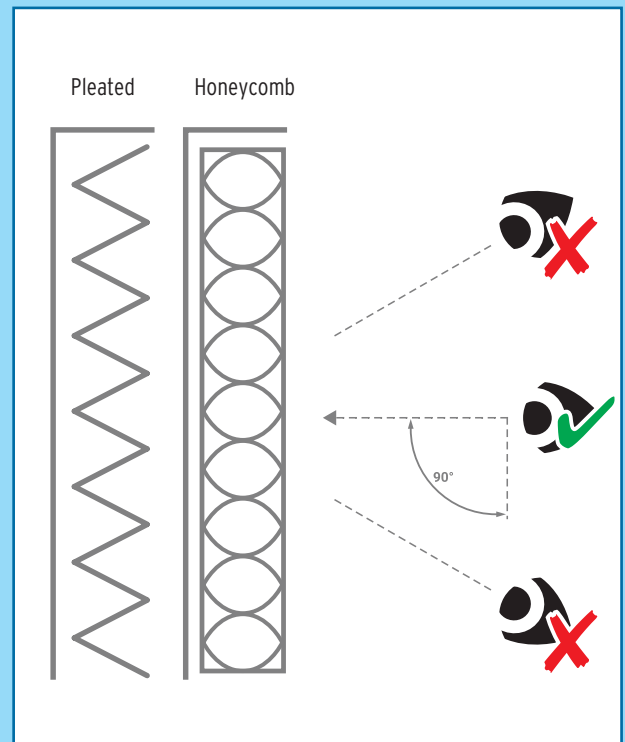
When checking the visual characteristics of any blind/shutter, the following should be observed:

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.