

Valance Style Selector

Valances have traditionally been used to conceal hardware or to add a finishing touch to a window or window treatment. The incorporation of valances into modern design is a testament to their versatility and enduring appeal. Gone may be the days of over the top, festooning, valances, with a move towards cleaner lines, but valances still have a place in the design style of today.

There are so many valance styles out there, it's easier to break them into categories. The design options are endless, but here are some basics:

- **Cornice** – Tied for first place in popularity today, cornices are the essence of simplicity. Fabric is upholstered and pulled taut across a custom sized wood “box”. These can be padded or not, welted or knife pleat, simple or adorned with trim.



- **Sculpted Cornice** – Similar in construction to a straight cornice, this style lends a contemporary feel to a room due their architectural design and geometric shapes.



- **Roman Style Valance** – Tied with the cornice for first place, a roman style valance is made to look as if a shade is pulled up and set on the window. This can be made of any style roman shade.



- **Sculped Valance** – Here fabric is pleated or scalloped and mounted to a board but hangs loose for a less structured, more flowing appearance.



- **Scarf or Swag valance** – these valances look like they sound. They generally consist of a long piece of fabric that is draped over a rod or board mounted and sometimes hanging down on either side of the window, giving a space a whimsical, romantic look.



- **Gathered valance** – This is a more traditional valance made with an excess fabric that is bunched or gathered to cascade around the top of the window.



The aesthetic appeal of valances, when thoughtfully selected, can enhance the ambiance of a room, adding warmth and character. They can be paired with drapery, blinds or shades, or left on their own to serve purely as a decorative addition to your window. We often see this on windows where privacy may not be an issue, but a decorative touch is needed.

Valances are also popular choices as a layer over a roller shade, especially a wired motorized shade. This is a more customized option to conceal non decorative hardware such as bracketing and wires, especially when the décor calls for something more than a standard metal pocket and/or a millwork pocket is not an option.