Guide to Blinds Concealment

Ideas • Options • Considerations

A guide by Grants Blinds to inspire and inform anyone working on new build residential projects.

Windows & Doors
How to conceal blinds in floor-to-ceiling glass, bi-folding and sliding doors and windows.

Skylights
How to conceal blinds in modern and traditional rooflights.

Gable End Windows
Options to conceal blinds in gables and shaped windows.
Grants
Guide to Blinds
Concealment

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For Inspiration
Two sets of doors with no corner post have blinds concealed within the ceiling.
For Inspiration
A complete home with concealed motorised blinds in every window opening.
For Inspiration
Cinema room with corner feature windows and blackout blinds for maximum control of light.
For Inspiration

Every window has hidden blinds for a consistent design throughout.
For Inspiration

Renovated and extended London Home has concealed blinds within traditional wooden architrave detail.
Renovated & extended London Home has concealed dual blinds in all the glazed areas shown here.
For Inspiration
Renovated & extended London Home has fully concealed lantern blind.
"I wish I had known about this earlier."

The growing trend towards minimalism, larger windows, glass doors and skylights, together with motorised window treatments have all resulted in a growing demand to hide blinds when not in use.

Provision for blinds within the structure of the building requires early planning and involvement from the architect.

With multi-purpose rooms and the ability to future-proof windows, knowing of the right concealment products will enable you to decide what blinds to install at a later date without affecting the room design.

If you have the option, why wouldn’t you?

Disclaimer - In this guide we have tried to give as much general information as possible however it is essential that you get any drawings signed off by your chosen supplier prior to any building work being actioned.
In order to conceal blinds it is important that any blinds are easily accessible if access is ever needed to change blinds, carry out maintenance etc.

When designing a new build it means simply changing the structural detail around the windows. This can be by lifting the lintel, designing a split lintel detail or something similar.

Once the detail has been established this can usually be adapted for all the windows around the new build.
Single Roller Blind

The most popular blind to be concealed is the single roller blind, most often motorised. The blind can be concealed within the ceiling or wall, with the blind towards the window or towards the room.

Is cavity needed?
For standard windows, floor-to-ceiling glazing, sliding and bi-folding doors, a 100x100 mm concealment box can be used. To have more blinds options, easier installation and the ability to go wider, a 110x130 mm box can be used.

Concealment boxes can be provided in any size and very large blinds, such as 6m wide or 9m high, box size can be 210x270 mm.

Things to consider for single blind installations.
- Will a single roller blind with no side channels be enough for the window?
- Will a standard roller blind with no side channels be installed towards the room or towards the window?
- What wiring provision is needed for a motorised blind in the future electric blinds?
- Should the single roller blind be combined with a recessed curtain track?
Blackout Blinds

Some rooms such as, Bedrooms, Cinema Rooms often need maximum blackout blinds.

Standard roller blinds have approximately 20mm side gaps resulting in a significant light ingress around the edges.

Using the concealment system you also have 50mm deep side frames, reducing these light gaps.

Maximum blackout blinds (Zip or similar) however do require side channels & these can be housed within the side frames leaving a slot for the blinds to operate when required.

What space is needed for maximum blackout blinds?
A 110 x 130mm head box will work with an opening size up to 2900mm wide or 3000mm high with maximum blind area of:

- 110 x 130 – 2900 wide or 3000 high with maximum blind area of 6.4m²
- 135 x 155 – 3900 wide or 4200 high with maximum blind area of 13.1m²
- 175 x 235 – 4800 wide or 6100 high with maximum blind area 28.2m²

Larger size window solutions available on request.

Side & Sill Frame dimensions
The width of the frame always matches the headbox, ie 110, 135, 175 etc by a depth of 50mm.
Dual Blinds

There are many reasons that you may install more than one blind in each window.

- Roller Screen and Roller privacy blinds
- Roller Screen and Roller blackout blinds
- Roller blind & Roman blind

What space is needed for dual roller blinds?
A 110 x 130mm head box will work with an opening size up to 2900mm wide or 3000mm high with maximum blind area of:

**Headbox only - side by side blinds**
200 x 100 for windows up to 2700 wide x 3000 high
220 x 130 for windows up to 4000 wide x 4000 high

**Headbox only – one blind above the other**
110 x 180 for windows up to 2700 wide x 3000 high
140 x 210 for windows up to 4000 wide x 4000 high

**Standard Roller blinds with maximum Blackout Roller blind (Zip or similar)**
220 x 130 for windows up to 2700 wide x 3000 high

Larger size window dimensions available on request.
Blinds and Curtains

Whilst there is a demand for blinds that completely disappear and work at the press of a button there is also often the need to bring in some soft furnishings such as curtains to provide some dressing and homely feel to your design.

If you like the minimalistic style it can work to apply the principle of controlling the light and privacy with concealed roller blinds and then bring in curtains as necessary.

Wave voile curtains can be very effective in softening the room with the visibility through the Voiles retaining the minimal style. These curtains can often be ineffective at reducing solar heat gain from the large expanses of glass but when used with screen, privacy or blackout roller blinds work well.

What dimensions are needed when using both curtains and concealed blinds?
A minimum of 150mm is required between the operating line of the blind (slot) and the center of the curtain track – it is best to check these details with your supplier.
Skylight Blinds

Roof windows are an excellent way of allowing light into living spaces however it is extremely important that you can control the amount of light and heat that can come in through the areas directly facing the sun.

Often included over workspaces such as Kitchens these roof areas can become a source of light, glare, heat and privacy issues.

Where lightwells are designed for basement extensions, bedrooms and home cinema’s blackout blinds may be required.

A well planned roof shading system may include a dual day/night solution to give the best of all situations. These will sit within a concealment blind frame which will hide the blinds when not required.

**What space is required for skylight blinds?**

A 110 x 130 headbox both ends and 2 side frames 110 x 50 will do a skylight 1900 x 2900 opening size.

A 135 x 200 headbox with 100 x 135 on remaining 3 sides will do a skylight 2800 x 2800 opening.

Blinds vary from supplier to supplier and it is best to establish your supplier before deciding on the boxes sizes or your choices will be limited.

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1. 2.4m x 4.5m lantern with concealment frame to conceal Screen Zip Roller blind when not required.
2. Large 5m x 5m lightwell with Screen blind made using Glenheim Screen 15 material.
3. Dual skylight blinds for opening roof light. Insect screen as well as Glenheim 3% Screen material.
4. Blinds are completely concealed when not in use.
5. Lutron Blackout and screen blinds have been installed in this family come Cinema room.
Gable blinds, top down, no wires

Gable windows are easy to build into a design but not so easy to find a cost effective blind solution for. These large shaped feature windows areas are often in bedrooms where light exclusion is often a requirement.

Top down blinds are popular for not needing any permanent wires across the glazing but they do allow extra light seepage around the edges and irregular gaps between blinds.

What space is required for top down gable blinds?
A 110 x 180 headbox both angled sides will be suitable for most gable blinds.

Blinds vary from supplier to supplier and it is best to establish your supplier before deciding on the boxes sizes or your choices will be limited.

It is best to get expert advice prior to deciding on the glazing bar configuration as this will affect the options you have available to you.
Gable blinds, bottom up with minimal wires

Gable windows are easy to build into a design but not so easy to find a cost effective blind solution for. These large shaped feature windows areas are often in bedrooms where light exclusion is often a requirement.

Bottom up gable blinds are the only way to get maximum blackout solution and for best results a light exclusion frame is built in around the window during construction.

**What space is required for bottom up gable blinds?**
A 120 x 125 S ox is needed to be installed across the horizontal line of the glazing.

Blinds vary from supplier to supplier and it is best to establish your supplier before deciding on the boxes sizes or your choices will be limited.

It is best to get expert advice prior to deciding on the glazing bar configuration as this will affect the options you have available to you.

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1. Feature window left unaffected by blind installation when blinds are not required.
2. Blinds emerge from above and below the horizontal custom made S shaped pelmet when the motors are activated.
3. Upper blind works upwards towards slot within light exclusion frame built in during construction.
4. Other windows in the same room are treated in a similar way.
5. Close up of the custom made S shaped pelmet powder coated to match window structure colour.
Whist in theory any blind can be concealed given time and consideration before construction situations do occur that call for a surface fit concealment solution.

When the structure does not allow for the blind to be concealed with the structure. This may be down to the design detail, the stage of the project on site or simply not planning for blinds ahead of the time.

Very neat retrofit concealment solutions are available which will hide cables, protect blinds etc once installed.

**What space is required for surface mounted blinds?**

There are 2 standard box sizes available in the M series modular concealment solution. These come with black anodised interior and the covers can be powder coated to any standard RAL colour.

- 100 x 100 for windows up to 2700mm wide and 3000mm long
- 135 x 135 for windows up to 4000mm wide and 4000mm long
Act now!

If you like the idea of fully integrated window solutions the time to look into what is possible in your project is now.

We recommend the following process to be followed where time permits.

Initial client/architect meeting

Detailed product & price proposal

Include architect or builder as appropriate

By including for concealment from the outset your project can run without interruption. Services can be run to the window areas.

Final detail decisions can be left until the survey stage at a time when your project is coming together and you are ready to focus on style, colouring etc.
Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for looking at this design guide, we trust you found it helpful and inspirational.

Your project deserves the highest attention to detail and it is important that you get the right detail and drawings for your project. We can provide a cost and product proposal from plan.

We recommend a client meeting to discuss what are the best solutions for you and your project as the next step.

We have showrooms in Chelsea, Amersham and Swindon where a meeting can be arranged by appointment with one of our team.

To contact us to discuss your project please call 0800 652 2190 or email enquiries@grantsblinds.com and we can decide the next steps.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards

Gaius Guest
Managing Director