



Go Green! Energy Efficiency

Considering the environment and being energy efficient is a large factor these days when buying a home or taking on renovations. Window treatments are a very effective area to be energy conscious in the home. You can reduce your energy bills significantly just by purchasing the appropriate window covering!

During the cold winter months, when you want those pesky drafts to stay out, the measurement to refer to is called the R Value. This measures a products ability to resist heat flow – i.e. the loss of your heat through the windows. When you are looking at R Values, the higher the number the better the product will insulate your home. Your typical low-e double glazed window in an average, well built home will allow up to seven times more energy to escape than any other part of your home (ie: doors, walls etc.) Meaning that although windows are beautiful to have, they may also set you back in your energy bills! Our blinds range in R-Value from 0.15 (being poor) to 3.68 (very efficient).

During the summer months when you want the cool air to stay inside, the measurement to refer to is called the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC). This is a measurement of a window treatments ability to reduce heat gain from the sun. This measurement is shown in a scale from 0 – 1 where the lower the number, the less solar energy is transmitted through the window. Our window treatments range in SHGC from 0.63 (being poor) to 0.15 (very effective)

One of the best choices for an energy efficient window treatment would have to be the Hunter Douglas Duette Architella. If purchased in an opaque fabric, you can have one of the best R-Values at 3.68 as well as one of the best SHGC at 0.18 (based on a ¾” pleat size) The Duette, which is a cellular blind, has superior energy efficiency qualities because of the honeycomb shape design which traps the air. It is that much more effective in the Architella line because of the double cell construction (one cell within another cell).

Going motorized can also help heighten energy efficiency in your home, believe it or not. By using motorized systems it is possible to program the blind to raise at peak sun times in the winter to heat your home naturally, or lower the blind at peak sun times in the summer to keep the space cool – all during the day while you’re at work!

The other aspect of creating an environmentally friendly space is the fabric and materials chosen. Many of our blind fabrics as well as fabrics for drapery, upholstery and cushions are Greenguard certified and/or certified by Confidence In Textiles, which means that they meet the standard for indoor air quality guidelines.

Come and visit us at any of our locations to speak to a sales representative about environmentally friendly options for your windows today!