



BESPOKE WINDOW TREATMENTS & SOFT FURNISHINGS

## Cleaning your Curtains

Having spent ages looking at various designs and agonizing over your choice of fabric, your beautiful new curtains are now hanging at your window, dressing your room perfectly! And of course that is how you want them to stay.

But life happens, and your curtains, like everything else, will collect dust and dirt. To what extent will depend on how your curtains are used, whether the windows are often open, and even where you live. Inner city air is much dirtier than the countryside air!

One of the questions I am often asked is about cleaning or washing the curtains.

My best advice ~ avoid if at all possible!

Spot cleaning will deal with odd marks, but for general grime and dust, running your vacuum over the curtains regularly will keep them fresh and reduce the need for cleaning.

However, after time, (and by time, I mean years!) if you feel more is needed to spruce up older curtains, then steam cleaning in situ, after a vacuum to get rid of dust, is a good option to give your curtains a lift and freshen up. Steam cleaners can I believe be hired quite reasonably and are not difficult to use. However, even then, some fabrics will distort/shrink a little, so be aware

Only dry clean if absolutely necessary and only take them to very good reputable dry cleaners!! Even then, the chances are the dry cleaners will often ask you to sign a form to say that it's not their fault if your curtains shrink, distort or they are not much cleaner than when you left them!! The actual process of 'dry' cleaning is not completely dry, and the different fabrics in the curtains (lining, interlining, and face) can react differently and distort the shape, or shrink them.

Over time, grime and dust is unavoidable, and damage from the sun may also be an issue, but it is the lining which suffers most which is, after all, part of its job description ~ the lining and interlining are there to protect your main fabric from the rigours of pollution and sun damage. The lining should really be considered as the wear and tear part of the curtain that can be replaced in the future giving your beautiful fabric a new lease of life.