



BESPOKE WINDOW TREATMENTS & SOFT FURNISHINGS

## **Interlining ~ An expensive luxury or a necessary requirement?**

As the night draw in and the temperature drops, we begin to think about turning on that expensive heating to keep our homes warm. In the interests of the environment as well as economy, we are regularly encouraged to reduce our carbon footprint and make our homes more energy efficient and reduce heat loss, and one way to do this is to close our curtains and blinds. They help prevent the cold air from coming in through the glass as well as prevent the warm air leaking out! They are also good at stopping those nasty drafts around doors. The heavier your curtains and blinds are, the more efficient they are at insulating, and adding interlining will achieve this. But what is interlining.

Interlining is a cotton or synthetic layer of fabric, placed between the main fabric and the lining of your curtains. It comes in three weights ~ light, medium and heavy (or bump) and has a soft almost blanket feel about it. The weight of the interlining used is matched to your choice of main fabric, the style of curtain or blind and their use. There also some 'two fold' and thermal linings available, that are interlining and lining bonded together, though in my experience, they add a slightly stiff finish to the overall look of curtains.

As well as its insulating properties, interlining gives the WOW factor to your curtains and blinds. Many fabrics benefit from the use of interlining. It enhances the body and 'drape-ability' of the main fabric, helping it to hang beautifully, giving the pleats and folds presence. It also adds to the luxury and sumptuousness of the whole look. However, for some fabric such as silks, interlining is almost a necessity. This is because, as well as adding body and support to these finer fabrics, the interlining also protects the main fabric from light and pollution damage. Silks in particular are susceptible to light damage.

Your hand made curtains and blinds are an investment, so, although interlining your curtains is an extra cost initially, by protecting your expensive main fabric and helping to keep your home warmer and draft free, it gives excellent value for money in the long term and is very much worth considering.

Remember, you live with your curtains and blinds, so the more you love the fabric and style at the beginning, the longer you are likely to keep and re use them, making them even better value for money!

Karen Rainford

07974510292

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