

## **Blind Blogs for Pleasanton Shutters & Shades**

### **Three Little-Known Reasons for Having Your Blinds Cleaned**

Putting off your annual blind cleaning again? Sure, they'll look nicer, and it will be nice to have it done, but if you're like most people, you could use a little more incentive to get those blinds, shades or shutters in for their professional pampering a little sooner. Here are three more reasons to get it done:

*Allergies.* You don't have to be reminded how dusty your blinds can get, but are you aware how many allergens lurk in that dust? Professional, ultrasonic blind cleaning eliminates all the dust and contaminants that lurk on your blinds.

*Professional Attention.* Bringing your blinds in to have them professionally cleaned puts trained eyes and hands on your blinds. If caught early, any repairs your blinds may need can cost significantly less. Even if no repairs are necessary, your blinds will function more smoothly after the care they receive that is part of the cleaning process.

*Longevity.* Blinds and shades that are kept clean and well-maintained will last longer, and require fewer costly repairs and won't need to be replaced as often.

**READ MORE**[<link to "Don't Give Up...">](#) about how much longer your window coverings will survive when they're properly maintained.

*Like these ideas? If you're in the San Francisco East Bay Area, there's an independent one-stop blind-cleaning, repair and sales center that can help. Contact Pleasanton Shutters & Shades, a reputable, Hunter Douglas-certified business that has been doing all this and more since 1987. Same-day service available.*

### **Don't Give Up on Your Blinds or Shades Yet**

We've all seen it. Some people even avoid blinds because of it. The crooked slats, the frayed cords, mechanisms that don't run smoothly. It seems every house has at least one window covering that causes frustration, even embarrassment. Before you give up and throw away your money for another shade that will eventually have the same problem, you should look into having it repaired. You may be surprised how many common, seemingly unfixable blind and shade problems can be repaired by a knowledgeable technician. Most blinds and shades can be re-corded, restrung and maintained in ways that will significantly extend their life. And for a cost that is a mere fraction the cost of replacing them.

*Restringing.* Did you know that a qualified blind and shade specialist can completely replace all of the cords in your blind or shade? It is called restringing, or re-cording, and not every place that sells window coverings can do it. But it's like getting new tires on your car, everything runs smoothly afterward and you'll ask yourself why you ever considered throwing your blind away. And some places have same-day service.

*Tilt-Gear or Cord-Lock Replacement.* Another quick repair that can dramatically extend the life of your blind or shade is replacing the tilting or cord-pull mechanisms, called the tilt-gear and the cord-lock. The tilt-gear may no longer adjust the slats properly, which is one of the easiest things to fix, or the cord-lock may no longer run smoothly. The cord-lock does a lot of work, especially for larger and heavier blinds and shades. The first sign of this wearing out is

when it locks or unlocks when you don't want it to as you're raising or lowering the blind or shade. We've all been there and made the decision to put up with it because you get it to work eventually. Don't wait! Get that mechanism repaired immediately, before it starts to fray your cords, causing a more expensive repair situation.

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## **Time for a Change? Things to Think About When Shopping for Blinds, Shutters and Shades**

It was bound to happen, you couldn't avoid it forever: you've decided to add window coverings to your interior decoration plans. Maybe you've been ignoring curtains you don't like, or you just moved into a new home with uncovered windows and you don't know where to begin, or you've always wanted to put shutters on that one set of windows where they'd be perfect.

Perhaps you're dreading shopping for new window coverings because you think you're stuck with those stereotypical 1-inch aluminum horizontal blinds, or those vertical blinds you see in front of nearly every sliding glass door since the 80s. As functional as those options were, these days there are infinitely more options available. Blinds, shades and shutters come in many more styles, colors, and designs than you could ever imagine. In fact, there are so many options available, you may be overwhelmed at first. Here are some questions you should ask yourself as you begin to shop for the perfect window treatment.

Do you need privacy, sun protection, sound or temperature insulation? Most people don't realize that modern shades are tailor-made to let more or less light through, to block sound, and the proper shade can even reduce your electrical bill.

Are there colors in your home you would like to accentuate? Blinds aren't all beige anymore. After all the trouble you've gone to choose just the right paint for your walls, you'll be relieved to know that your blinds or shades can be synchronized with your paint scheme.

What is the overall "feel" you're going for? Casual, elegant, playful? A knowledgeable blind, shade and shutter salesman will work closely with you to anticipate your needs.

What is your budget? Ok, so you've picked out your dream window covering installation, but you're starting to worry that maybe you can't afford exactly what you want. With so many options available, there's always a way to create a reasonable approximation of your dream.

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