



Our Interior Designers have put together some tips and techniques for the general, day-to-day care of your new McKenzie & Willis window furnishings as a quick reference for when life happens...

Curtains Installation

Train your curtains to hang in folds – when hung on tracks, pleated headings (i.e. Pinch Pleat, Inverted or New York Pleat) need to have the heading pushed forward between the pleats to hang their best. After a week or two the buckram inside should form a ‘memory’ of how to sit. For pleated curtain that are hung on rods (i.e. Single, Double or Triple Pleat) the pleat part of the heading should be sitting to the fore and the flat space between the pleats pushed back behind the rod.

When the curtains are hung, the outside edges of the curtains should be ‘wrapped’ around the ends of the track to hide them from view.

Give your curtains time to settle – the fabric often needs 3 to 4 weeks to relax into its folds and any light creasing to drop out.

Roman blinds need to be pulled up slowly, keeping the cords behind the blind and may need encouragement to sit in their folds perfectly.

Once the blind is pulled up, ensure the cords sit behind the folds, not pulling across the front of the fabric.

Creasing

Some creasing in your new curtains is unavoidable, however, with warmth from your home and sunlight most creases will drop out in 3 to 4 weeks.

Fabrics with a high percentage of natural fibre, or ‘crunchy’ taffeta type fabrics will show creases more readily than others. It is not always possible to remove all creasing from these fabrics and you should regard it as an inherent part of their look.

If you are concerned about creasing in your new curtains, please contact us as we may be able to resolve the issue for you.

Fabric Movement

Natural fibres such as linen, cotton, rayon or hemp will both rise and fall depending on atmospheric conditions.

Under floor heating or heat through floor to ceiling windows may also have an effect on fabric movement.

While we will have advised you of the possibilities of fabric movement when you are selecting your fabric, it is not always possible to predict the reaction a particular fabric will have to the conditions of your home.



Some movement may be unavoidable, but please contact us if the movement appears extreme and is of concern.

Minimising Fading

All fabrics with natural fibres as part of their composition will fade.

Fading can be lessened by hanging sheers, voiles or sunscreen blinds to protect your curtains and other furnishings. Where possible, you should swap your curtains from side to side on the tracks or rods to share the exposure to sunlight and thus slow the fading process.

Fabrics with a high polyester content should stand up to sunlight better than those in mainly natural fibre.

UV tinting of glass does not completely protect against fading.

Cleaning Advice

Vacuum your curtains regularly. Always use an upholstery attachment to prevent damage to your curtains and lower the suction.

Allow air to move around your curtains by regularly opening windows and door – mildew loves damp, dusty environments.

Spot clean marks as they appear but always test on a hidden areas first. Spot-clean shades and blinds with soft cloth or sponge moistened with lukewarm water, add a mild detergent if needed. Blot gently to avoid creasing or damaging the fabric – do not rub. Spot cleaning may result in a cleaner appearance in that area and always test on a hidden part of the fabric first.

Dry clean with caution – washing or dry cleaning your curtains may cause them to shrink and discolour.

Please Note: The individual manufacturers care instructions are available to your on request if you require them.

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Luxaflex Products

There are full care instructions available for all Luxaflex products on the Luxaflex website – www.luxaflex.co.nz/faq as well as a full list of approved cleaners and repairers for their products.

Dusting

Regular light dusting with a feather duster or soft cloth maintains a like-new appearance of most blinds, shades, sheers, shutters and window panels.

Vacuuming

For deeper cleaning, vacuum gently with the brush attachment of your vacuum cleaner. Most products can be vacuumed using vertical strokes; however do not use a brush attachment on Luminette® Privacy Sheers.

Spot cleaning

Spot-clean curtains and blinds with soft cloth or sponge moistened with lukewarm water, add a mild detergent if needed. Blot gently to avoid creasing or damaging the fabric – do not rub. Spot cleaning may result in a cleaner appearance in that area and always test on a hidden part of the fabric first.

Please Note: Certain Duette fabrics should not be spot-cleaned, please see us for more information.

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Wallpaper

The care instructions for wallpaper will depend on the type of wall covering you select. Most modern wall coverings have an easy-care vinyl coating which is designed to withstand normal day-to-day activity however, some wallpapers are designed simply for their aesthetic value, and are not vinyl coated so must be treated accordingly. The type of paper and the care it requires will be identified on the roll label, we recommend keeping the label for future reference.

Any marks should be removed as soon as possible. If it remains on the paper too long, permanent discolourations could occur.

Washable Wall Coverings

Can be washed with warm water, soap and a soft sponge. If your roll of paper is 'scrub-able' you are able to use a soft brush when cleaning.

For best results always wash from the bottom of the paper to avoid any dirty water running down the wall, taking care not to over wet the surface of your wallpaper, rinse thoroughly with clean warm water and blot dry with a soft, lint free cloth. Do not use any products that contain bleach or solvents of any kind.

Before cleaning, always ensure you test on a small, inconspicuous area first.

Delicate, Non-Washable Wall Coverings

Only clean delicate, non-washable wall coverings when it is absolutely necessary. To clean this type of product use a dry-cleaning sponge or eraser.

Before cleaning, always ensure you test on a small, inconspicuous area first.

Paintable Wall Coverings

Once the wall covering is painted clean only when it is absolutely necessary and follow the paint manufacturers care instructions.

Before cleaning, always ensure you test on a small, inconspicuous area first.

By following this simple advice you will get the most out of your McKenzie & Willis fabric, wallpaper and window furnishings. Our sales consultants are always available to offer further advice on any of our furnishings should you need it, simply call your nearest McKenzie & Willis showroom.

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