

# Smart Words for Smart Homeowners

THE EXPERIENCE OF EXPERTS AND THEIR ADVICE ON RELEVANT HOMEOWNER TOPICS

## Shutter It Right

### Shutter Styles

There are many shutter styles so don't get strangled by all the choices. Find the set that will complement the house design, your window type, and the trim style around the windows.

Comparing the variety of styles will help you make the best decision.

I know you want a fast and easy answer and I hate to disappoint you, but there are none unless we examine your needs, your house and your existing shutters.



We're not discussing true storm shutters in this issue. True Storm Shutters are put to a full test during severe weather. Storm Shutters or Hurricane Shutters are typically a reinforced shutter with appropriate and tested locking hardware that can be closed and locked. They are for protection in strong winds. This variety pulls tight to enclose and protect windows from flying debris churned and hurled by hurricane force winds.

In this issue we are focusing on decorative (*non-functional shutters*) that most people favor. Pictured are the popular styles:

1. Louvered.
2. Raised Panel.
3. Classic Panel with Mullion.
4. Framed Board & Batten.
5. Arch Top.



### What Shutters Say

Well, for one thing the right shutters say "this is a warm and inviting home." They are the open arms of a house. Shutters declare, "this house is

well cared for and well maintained." Most homes with shutters, the right shutters, simply look much better than homes that have no shutters.

### Colors

Custom ordered shutters come in many standard colors from white through cranberry to black.

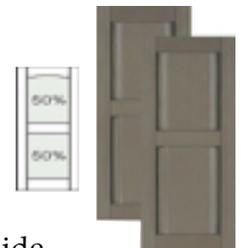
Some of the available colors may fit your needs. All shutters can be painted to match and complement the color and style of your home.



### Prices

You should budget between \$69.00 and \$135.00 per pair of vinyl shutters plus the cost of priming and painting if needed plus the cost of hanging. Custom wood shutters (usually made of Red Cedar) cost from \$175.00 to \$595.00 per pair, plus the cost of shutter hardware.

True storm shutter costs begin at \$500.00 per pair, plus hardware. Hurricane Shutters are expensive because they are custom fit to seal and protect each window, move on functional hinges and can be closed and locked from inside the window. They act as a storm shield.



### Materials

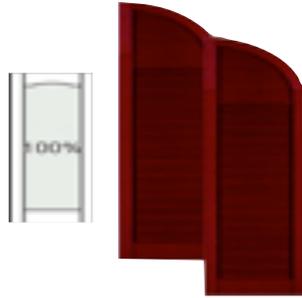
Shutters are made in a wide variety of durable materials. Aluminum, vinyl, fiberglass and wood of all kinds top the list. Except for the "storm states", that deploy true storm shutters, most homeowners use wood or vinyl to enhance the style of their homes.



## Cost Of Installation

The installation costs will vary based upon:

- ✓ Distance off the ground (height to the top of the window brick molding trim),
- ✓ What has to be removed from each window, including extracting old hardware and screws,
- ✓ How much cleaning has to be done before the new shutters can be installed,
- ✓ The number and kind of holes that need to be patched and filled (from the old shutters),
- ✓ The cost to trash/dump/recycle the discards,
- ✓ The size/weight of the new and old shutters.



It typically takes, for the average shutter, about 30 - 45 minutes to drill, align and install one new vinyl shutter correctly. Some take longer because of shingle alignment, trim thickness and window frame height. That's the time to move and secure the ladder, lean it against the house (without breaking a window or your neck), removing the old shutter and its screws and hardware, filling in the old holes with Phenoseal®, carrying the old shutter down and the new shutter up (without dropping it, breaking a window or your neck), holding the new shutter to align, drilling the new screw holes that must be drilled, installing the new shutter at the right height and level, securing the shutter to the shingles, sealing the new screws so no moisture gets behind the siding or shingles.



## Tools You'll Need

A good ladder and a good understanding of ladder safety. Stay secure.

Screw driver bits and an electric drill / driver. I like battery drills better for this work since you'll be up on a ladder most of the time.

Sharp drill bits.

The proper color and length exterior screws or PVC push-in fasteners if they are not provided with the shutter.

Plastic or rubber Dead Blow Hammer to coax the shutter and fasteners into place.

(A dead blow hammer is a specialized mallet helpful in minimizing damage to the struck surface and in controlling striking force with minimal rebound from the striking surface. The head of these hammers are commonly hollow and filled with sand or lead shot, which both absorbs the impact of a strike and concentrates all of the energy of the blow in a focused point.)

An old paint brush to dust away the dirt, dead insects and cob webs.

Pliers to pull the old screws when the screw head or driver fails to remove the old, soft screw. Long nose Vice-Grips work best.

Phenoseal® to fill the old screw holes and seal the new screw holes. Fill every old screw hole so critters can't gain access from behind the shutter.

A caulking gun.

**Doing It Right Has No Shortcuts.**

## Awards For Superior Results

We have been granted awards for superior work performance from our customers and from leading consumer rating agencies like Angie's List®. This is our 7th consecutive consumer award. Less than 5 percent of service companies ever qualify for this award in any single year, so it's quite an unparalleled and rare distinction to be a successive winner SEVEN consecutive years. (For math majors it's a probability of 0.0000000007813 and a very rare occurrence.)

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