

**MAC**  
*made*



CLEAN & MAINTAIN

# CURTAIN CARE GUIDE

How to properly care for your custom-made curtains

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## WHY REGULAR CURTAIN MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Custom curtains from MAC Window Fashions are a valuable investment, offering a stylish finish, privacy, insulation, and a sense of luxury to your home. These beautifully crafted, made-to-measure Australian-made curtains are designed for performance and longevity—but like all furnishings, they need proper care to stay in pristine condition.

Custom curtains, especially in the Australian climate, face challenges like high UV exposure, dust accumulation, and fluctuating humidity. Proper maintenance ensures:

### ENHANCED LONGEVITY

Curtains that are cared for properly last significantly longer.

### PRESERVED APPEARANCE

Maintain the vibrancy and texture of your fabrics.

### IMPROVED AIR QUALITY

Regular cleaning removes allergens like dust and mould spores.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Extending the life of your curtains reduces waste and conserves resources.





## KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR **CURTAIN MAINTENANCE**

### **FABRIC MOVEMENT**

After installation, curtains may experience up to 3% shrinkage or stretching due to environmental conditions. This adjustment period, typically lasting three months, is a natural process as fabrics adapt to their surroundings. Regular repositioning during this phase helps the fabric settle evenly.

### **UV DAMAGE**

Australia's high UV index can cause light fading or fabric deterioration over time. To mitigate this, consider protective measures like lining your curtains or using UV-protective window film. Drawing blinds during peak hours or layering sheers with blockouts also helps.

### **REFER TO CARE LABELS**

Each curtain comes with a care label outlining specific cleaning instructions. Always consult this label before proceeding with any cleaning method. If the label is missing or illegible, contact MAC Window Fashions or your retailer for guidance.

## THE BASICS

# GENERAL CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

Whether you're fluffing them daily, dusting them weekly, or scheduling an annual deep clean, these tips ensure your MAC Window Fashions curtains stay fresh, clean, and elegant for seasons to come.

For best results, professional cleaning is recommended annually, especially for lined curtains or fabrics prone to shrinkage. Choose services accredited by the Window Shading Association of Australia (WSAA) to ensure quality care.



## DUSTING & VACUUMING

Dusting is the simplest way to keep your curtains fresh.

- Use a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment and low suction to gently remove dust from folds and pleats.
- Dust weekly to prevent build-up.
- Lightly shake sheers from the bottom up each day to keep them fresh.

## SHAKE IT UP

One of the simplest techniques is to gently shake your curtains from the bottom up. Like fluffing a duvet cover, hold the curtain seams and fluff upwards. This technique lifts light dust and resets the fabric naturally.

## FABRIC PROTECTORS

Licensed professionals can also apply fabric protectors like DuPont Teflon or 3M Scotchgard. These treatments help repel stains and extend time between cleans. Always pre-test or confirm suitability with the fabric manufacturer.

## SPOT CLEANING

Address spills and stains immediately to prevent permanent damage.

- Gently mop or scrape the spill without saturating the fabric.
- Use cleaning agents as directed, pre-testing on an inconspicuous area.
- Avoid excessive rubbing, which may weaken fibres or spread the stain.

## LINT ROLLING

Lint rollers are useful for weekly touch-ups, especially for heavier fabrics. Roll from top to bottom to remove pet hair and surface fluff, paying extra attention to pleats and headers where dust collects most.



## SPECIFIC CURTAIN GUIDES

# HOW TO CLEAN SHEER CURTAINS

This detailed guide will walk you through the best practices for washing, maintaining, and caring for your luxury sheer curtains from MAC Window Fashions.

## KNOW YOUR SHEER FABRIC TYPE

Sheer curtains are typically made from lightweight and translucent materials such as:

- Polyester: Durable, affordable, and easy to maintain.
- Linen or Cotton Blends: Natural materials that provide a soft, organic look.
- Voile: A fine, semi-transparent fabric often made of cotton or polyester.
- Silk or Chiffon: Luxurious but delicate options requiring extra caution.
- Lace: Ornate and intricate, lace sheers are fragile and prone to snagging.

Before you begin cleaning, always check the manufacturer's care label for specific instructions. This will tell you whether your curtains are machine washable, hand wash only, or require professional dry cleaning.

## WHEN TO CLEAN SHEER CURTAINS

Sheer curtains, due to their lightweight fabric, attract dust, pollen, and airborne pollutants over time. Cleaning them every 6–12 months is usually sufficient, but you might need to clean them more often if:

- They are in a high-traffic area.
- You live in a dusty environment.
- There are smokers or pets in the house.
- The curtains are exposed to cooking oils or grease in a kitchen.





## STEP ONE

### PREPERATION

#### REMOVE LOOSE DUST

Use a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment to gently remove surface dust while the curtains are still hanging. This step reduces the amount of dirt during washing.

#### CHECK FOR DAMAGE

Inspect the curtains for tears or weakened areas. Washing can exacerbate these issues, so repair small holes with a needle and thread before cleaning.

#### SHAKE THEM OUT

Take the curtains down and give them a good shake outside to loosen dust and debris.

## STEP TWO

### CHOOSE YOUR CLEANING METHOD

#### HAND WASH

For fabrics like silk or any fragile sheers, fill a basin with lukewarm water with a small amount of mild laundry liquid. Allow them to soak for 10-15 minutes. Then rinse thoroughly. Gently press the fabric to remove excess water. Avoid wringing to prevent damage.

#### DRY CLEAN

Delicate fabrics such as silk or intricate lace may require professional cleaning. If the care label states "dry clean only," do not attempt to wash them yourself. Take them to a reputable cleaner experienced in handling delicate curtains.



### STEP THREE

## DRYING SHEER CURTAINS

### AVOID TUMBLE DRYING

The heat from dryers can ruin delicate fabrics. Air drying is the best option.

### REHANG TO DRY

For the best results, rehang the curtains on the track while they are still damp. This allows gravity to naturally smooth out wrinkles and helps retain their shape.

### LAY FLAT

If rehangng isn't possible, lay the curtains flat on a clean towel in a shaded area. Avoid direct sunlight, as this can cause fading.



### STEP FOUR

## IRONING & STEAMING

### LOW HEAT ONLY

Select a delicate or hand-wash cycle with cold water. Hot water can shrink or weaken delicate fabrics. Choose a laundry liquid designed for delicate fabrics or baby clothes. Avoid bleach or harsh chemicals. Consider placing the curtains in a large mesh laundry bag to prevent tangling or snagging in the machine.

### STEAMING

A handheld steamer is a safer option for removing wrinkles while the curtains are hanging.



## HOW TO CLEAN BLOCKOUT CURTAINS

In this guide, we'll cover everything you need to know to keep your blackout curtains looking their best and functioning effectively.

### WHY CARE FOR BLOCKOUT CURTAINS?

Sheer curtains are typically made from lightweight and translucent materials such as:

- Polyester: Durable, affordable, and easy to maintain.
- Linen or Cotton Blends: Natural materials that provide a soft, organic look.

Before you begin cleaning, always check the manufacturer's care label for specific instructions. This will tell you whether your curtains are machine washable, hand wash only, or require professional dry cleaning.

### WHEN TO CLEAN BLOCKOUT CURTAINS

Blockout curtains are heavier fabrics, which lends to trapping dust, pollen, and airborne pollutants over time. Cleaning them every 12-18 months is usually sufficient, but you might need to clean them more often if:

- They are in a high-traffic area.
- You live in a dusty environment.
- There are smokers or pets in the house.





## STEP ONE

### PREPERATION

#### REGULAR DUSTING

Use a soft brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner to remove surface dust. Gently vacuum the front and back of the curtains while they are hanging.

#### SPOT CLEANING

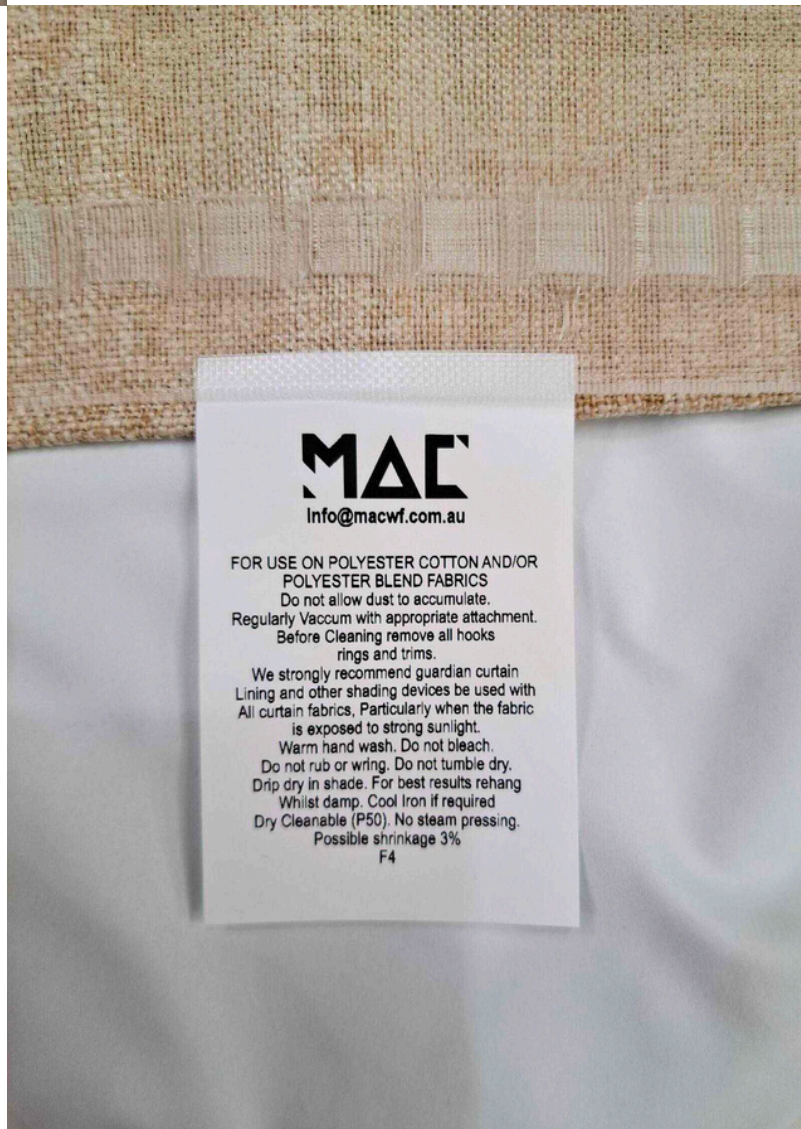
For minor stains or marks mix a small amount of mild or eco-friendly laundry liquid with warm water. Dip a soft cloth into the solution and gently blot the stained area. Avoid scrubbing as this can damage the blackout coating.

## STEP TWO

### CHOOSE YOUR CLEANING METHOD

#### HAND WASH

Fill a bathtub or large basin with lukewarm water and a mild laundry liquid. Gently swish the curtains in the water, taking care not to crease the blackout backing. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and hang them to air dry



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FOR USE ON POLYESTER COTTON AND/OR  
POLYESTER BLEND FABRICS

Do not allow dust to accumulate.  
Regularly Vacuum with appropriate attachment.  
Before Cleaning remove all hooks  
rings and trims.

We strongly recommend guardian curtain  
Lining and other shading devices be used with  
All curtain fabrics, Particularly when the fabric  
is exposed to strong sunlight.

Warm hand wash. Do not bleach.  
Do not rub or wring. Do not tumble dry.

Drip dry in shade. For best results rehang  
Whilst damp. Cool Iron if required

Dry Cleanable (P50). No steam pressing.  
Possible shrinkage 3%

F4

### STEP THREE

## DRYING BLOCKOUT CURTAINS

### AVOID TUMBLE DRYING

Heat from dryers can cause the backing to melt or crack, ruining the curtains.

### AIR DRYING

Hang curtains on a clothesline or shower rod in a well-ventilated area. Ensure they are not exposed to direct sunlight, as this can degrade the blockout coating.

### REHANG TO DRY

For the best results, rehang the curtains on the track while they are still damp. This allows gravity to naturally smooth out wrinkles and helps retain their shape.



### STEP FOUR

## IRONING & STEAMING

### GENTLE IRONING

Set your iron to a low heat setting. Place a protective cloth or towel between the iron and the curtain to prevent direct contact with the backing. Iron the fabric side only and avoid the coated side.

### STEAM CLEANING

Use a handheld steamer or the steam function on your iron to smooth wrinkles while the curtains are hanging. Hold the steamer a few inches away from the fabric and avoid prolonged exposure to one spot.





## ADDITIONAL **ROUTINE MAINTENANCE TIPS**

### **PROTECT FROM PETS**

If you have pets, discourage them from clawing or climbing on the curtains. This not only protects the fabric but also prevents damage to the blackout backing.

### **REMOVE ANY PILLING**

Pilling is the result of loose fibres tangling into small balls. It's not a fault and is usually triggered by friction or contact with certain clothing fabrics. A battery-operated fabric shaver can safely remove pills without affecting performance.

### **TREAT MOULD & MILDEW SAFELY**

In damp environments, mildew can form along the bottom hem of curtains. Prevention is best—keep the space well-ventilated and curtains fully extended after use. Treat mould with a mild vinegar solution (1:1 water and vinegar) and allow to dry out fully.



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