

Re-entering the building, best practices for your window shades and blinds.

As you welcome back staff and students to your campus, checking the operation and safety of window shades and blinds is an important part of your checklist. Many of these treatments haven't been operated in over a year. Just like a car (or lawn mower) that has sat in a garage for some time, a bit of TLC may be required to get shades and blinds operating smoothly once again. Dust can settle on them, especially with corded blinds, and cause the blind mechanism to stick. If pulled on too harshly, it could come crashing down. Power surges can cause motorized shades to lose their upper and lower limits. Simple reprogramming is most often the fix. If you come across a shade or blind that appears to be broken, or a motorized treatment doesn't move at all, have it inspected first, as many repairs are simple and much more cost effective than purchasing a new treatment.

“Did you know...?”

Clutch roller shade fabrics can often be replaced while keeping the other components of the shade system.

Do you have damaged shade fabrics, or have the requirements of a room switched from the need of light filtering to a room darkening or privacy fabric? Shade fabrics on the popular clutch roller or motorized roller systems can be changed out to obtain the desired need, at a cost savings. A qualified shade repair technician can measure the existing and install new fabrics. They can also inspect shades to switch out clutches, idle ends, or chains if broken or missing.

Dual shade systems are available to offer both a light filtering and room darkening shade.

If your existing shade fabric is in good condition and you need an additional shade, whether a room darkening or light filtering fabric, there are options to reuse what is already in place. A second shade can often be installed in front of or behind the existing shade, or a qualified technician can often reuse the current fabric and add it to a new dual roller bracket system. The elements of the window will dictate what options could be available, but being friendly to the environment and saving money by re-using are a win-win.



A shade fabric can also be used as a room divider.



Repurposing a room is a common function today as campuses work to socially distance students and staff. Roller shade fabrics can act as hanging panels to divide a space and allow a sense of privacy, or create a separate space. Chains and hooks allow these panels to hang from the ceiling. Opaque fabrics hide the view completely where light filtering fabrics minimize the view. Digital printing is also available and would allow for special signage, logos or images. Consider custom printed panels for future use in other spaces when the needs change.

CMC Shades and Specialties is a supplier on MHEC
contract C04: Windows, Window Treatments,
Specialized Curtains, Noise Reduction Products, Service
& Supplies and has technicians ready to help.