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WT Shade[®]

Glossary of Terms

A

AC (Alternating Current): An electric current that reverses direction in a circuit at regular intervals.

ANSI/WCMA: The child safety standard. Stands for American National Safety Institute/Window Covering Association of America.

Automation System: A computerized system that sets automatic functionality of the system components, such as shades and lighting.

B

Band: The portion of a shade that is made up of a fabric and chosen hembar.

Basketweave: A plain weave with two or more yarns woven together in a checkered pattern (over/under) resembling that of a woven basket.

Batten: A stiffener that is used to give more structural stability to the fabric of a shade.

Bead Stop: A small chain attachment that prevents the chain from passing further through the clutch, and thereby stopping the shade at the set position (upper or lower limit).

Blackout: An opaque fabric that completely stops light from passing through it.

Bottom-up: A shade that is mounted at the bottom of the window, and when unrolled, will travel from the bottom of the window to the top.

Bottom Closure: Bottom Closure or just Closure is small flap that is used to cover the bottom of a shade in an aluminum pocket or with closure mount.

Bracket: Mounting piece attached inside or outside of the window frame to attach the shade. Available for single shades or Dual Shades, and as SoloMount or Pocket brackets.

Brush Insert: A fringe of bristles at the edge of a channel or bottom of a hembar which assists with preventing light leakage.

C

Cable: (A) A bound or sheathed group of mutually insulated electrical wires (B) a thin metal rope.

Catch Pin: Part of a bracket engineered to prevent a large roller tube from falling down should it become dislodged from the bracket.

Center Support: A hardware piece designed to connect two shade bands and allow for operation by one drive. See Coupled Shade.

Chain: AKA Drive Chain or Bead Chain. Refers to the string of beads that loops through a Clutch, and when pulled by hand, spins the tube, and causes the shade fabric to move.

Chain Connector: A small connector that clips two ends of bead chain together to create a loop.

Channel: A small gutter that overlaps the fabric of a shade along the SILL or SIDE and combats light leakage but does not assist in the functionality of the shade.

Child Safety Tension Device: Used to put tension on the chain of a shade and prevent the loose cord from posing as a hazard to small children.

Closure Mount: AKA Hanger, this piece is used as a point of attachment for Bottom Closure in cases where an extruded shade pocket has not been used (ex. site built pockets).

Clutch: A manual drive system that moves a shade when the attached bead chain is pulled, which turns the drum and spins the tube, allowing the fabric to wrap or unwrap around the tube.

Communication: Refers to the way a motor receives and sends operation commands.

Coupled Shade: AKA Multi-banded Shade. A shade comprised of two pieces of fabric (or more) on separate tubes but joined together with a specially designed center support and operated simultaneously by one drive.

Composition: Describes the raw materials used to create the finished fabric or component.

Control Side: AKA Drive side. Refers to the desired location of the shade drive. Can be Right or Left.

Control: Refers to the remote control or wall switch used to operate a motorized shade. Sometimes used as a synonym for Drive System.

Curtain Wall: An outer covering of a building in which the outer walls keep the weather out and the occupants in, often seen as large expanses of glass connected together with extruded aluminum framing.

Cut-Out: A term used to describe the bottom of a shade which has been cut to an irregular shape to allow the shade to bypass an obstruction when fully extended, such as a convector (HVAC).

D

Daylighting: Using natural daylight to provide efficient interior lighting.

DC (Direct Current): An electric current flowing in one direction only.

Decora Switch: In motorization, Decorator style or Decora switches sit almost flush with the wall and are operated by pressing the flat paddle up or down. Trademark of Leviton®

Deflection: A term used to describe the behavior of a roller shade tube where in the weight of the fabric in the center of the tube causes it to bow or sag.

Depth: The distance from the front to the back.

Digital: A form of motor communication using data in the form of digital signals to control a motor.

Double Shade: See Dual Shade.

Dual Shade: Dual or Double Shades are two individual shades hung in the same window area. They can use specially designed dual brackets (single bracket holds two shades, staggered one on top of the other, generally taller than they are wide; spacing engineered to ensure neither shade interferes with the other's operation). A second option is Tandem mounting, butting two single brackets together (consider window depth for inside mount), allowing you to hang two shades as close to the window as possible. Typically used with a blackout fabric on the back shade, and a screen or sheer fabric on the front shade.

DPDT (Double Pole, Double Throw): The number of poles on a switch defines how many separate circuits (motors) the switch can control. A switch's throw-count defines how many directions the switch's poles can be connected to; therefore, a DPDT switch can operate two motors, in two directions (up and down).

Drive System: Drive System or just Drive refers to the device used to operate the shade. It can be manual (like a clutch, a spring, or a gear), or motorized. It can be on the right or left side of the shade.

Dry Contact: A form of power and communication for Low Voltage motors in which a set of contact relay circuits (which do not make or break the primary power current) are used to indicate to the motor the direction in which it should turn.

Duplex Shade: A single shade band with two pieces of fabric on one tube, connected at the bottom with a specially designed hembar.

E

EcoFabrix: Former name for WT Shade program fabrics.

Edge Clearance: The room left on either side of a shade fabric which allows space for the shading hardware.

End Cap: A cover used to finish the end of something, such as a hembar, or as a decorative cover, such as for brackets.

External Hembar: A hembar style in which a decorative hembar is exposed on the bottom of the shade.

Extruded: A term indicating that something has been created by pushing material through a die (like an open ended mold) and allowing it to harden as it comes out the other end in the shape of the die.

F

FAB: Indicates a shade should be made using the given width as the width of the actual fabric band itself, not the finished shade which will be wider when the hardware is added.

Fascia: A detachable cover that masks the roll of a shade from the front or the back by clipping onto a SoloMount Bracket.

Fixed Frame Shade: AKA Wrapped Frame Panel. A non-operable fabric panel comprised of fabric attached to an aluminum frame. Magnetic attachment, demountable.

Fixed Shade: An unframed, non-operable fabric panel.

G

Glare: To shine with a harsh, uncomfortably brilliant light. A negative effect of the sun.

Greenguard: The GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certification Program identifies low emitting materials, finishes and products for indoor environments and is certified by UL.

Group Controller: A device which allows the user to control 2 or more standard motors as a group.

Guide Cable: A stainless steel cable that provides a discreet solution for sloped windows, and can be installed along the sides or up the back of any shade with our External Hembar.

Guide Track: An extruded aluminum channel/track that allows a wheeled hembar to ride inside the track to guide the Hembar on its path.

H

Hard Wire: A type of power for motors in which the electrical wires for the motor are directly connected to the buildings power lines by splicing.

Heat Seal: A process that uses heat to bond two materials together.

Heavy Duty: A term used to describe a robust component, typically intended for larger shades.

Hembar: Indicates the finishing method for the bottom of a shade, typically comprised of a stiff bar across the width of the shade that is internal or external.

Hembar Weight: A weight that is used on the hembar to increase the functionality of the shade by allowing the fabric to be pulled taut due to the hanging weight.

High Voltage: AKA Line Voltage. In shading terms, used to describe the standard electrical voltage found in residential and commercial buildings, typically 120V (US) or 220V (EU).

Home Run: An electrical cable that carries power from the main circuit breaker panel directly to a motor.

Hourglassing: Describes the behavior of a shade wherein the fabric may curl inward slightly along the edges, causing it to look like an hourglass.

I

IB (Inside Bracket): Indicates a shade is to fit inside of the measurement that has been given.

Idler: A term used to describe the pin end of a shade (opposite of drive end). Does not participate in the operation of the shade, but instead remains "idle" as the drive performs its operation. May be spring-loaded and retractable.

Install: To set up for use or service.

Integrate: To connect two items of hardware or software so that they can be operated jointly or communicate with each other.

Interface: A device or program for connecting two items of hardware or software so they can be operated jointly or communicate with each other.

Intermediate Position: A "stop" position for a motor which is somewhere between the upper and lower limits.

IP (Internet Protocol): Used to indicate a connection to a network.

J

Jamb Mount: When a bracket is installed with screws projecting into the vertical sides of a window or other opening.

Jog: A fast up and down movement of a motor, like a nod, indicating the motor has received a stationary command.

L

Lead: An electrical connection consisting of a length of wire that comes from a device.

LEED: Abbreviation for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. A rating system for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of green buildings, homes, and neighborhoods. Regulated by the USGBC.

Length: AKA Height. Indicates the measurement typically taken on the vertical plane (top to bottom).

Light Gap: Refers to the small amount of light which leaks around the edges of the shade's fabric due to the Edge Clearance.

Limits: A term used to describe the end of a shade cycle. May refer to the Lower (Bottom) Limit or Upper (Top) Limit.

Line Voltage: See High Voltage.

Low Voltage: In shading, describes an electrical voltage which requires a transformer to step-down the high voltage from the main power source, typically to 12V- 24V.

M

Maintained Switch: A switch used in motorization that locks into position (maintains), the last button pressed by the user and does not disconnect the circuit, or return to neutral, until the user does so manually.

Manual: A window treatment is operated by hand.

Momentary Switch: A switch used in motorization that will close a circuit while the user is pressing it. Once released, it snaps back to neutral and disconnects the circuit.

Motorized: A motorized treatment is one that has a motor which is controlled by a remote control, wall switch, third party automation or building management system.

Mullion: A vertical or horizontal element that forms a division between units of a window, or is used decoratively.

Multi-Banded Shade: AKA Coupled Shade. A shade comprised of two pieces of fabric (or more) on separate tubes but joined together with a specially designed center support and operated simultaneously by one drive.

MY button: A special button on Somfy remote controls that acts as a STOP button or sends the shade to an intermediate position if one has been set.

N

Natural Light: Light produced naturally by the sun.

Newton Meter: A unit of torque. 1 Nm = 8.8 lbs in.

Non-Woven: A material made by a production process other than weaving threads together.

O

OB (Outside Bracket): Indicates a shade is to fit outside of the measurement that has been given.

Opaque: A fabric that is not able to be seen through.

Openness Factor: Openness Factor, or just Openness, refers to the amount of light a solar fabric allows to pass through into the space. The openness is represented by the percentage of light allowed to penetrate through the fabric.

P

Photovoltaic: AKA PV or PV Panel. Relating to the production of electric current when exposed to light.

Piggyback Shade: Former name of a Dual or Double Shade.

Pocket: (A) An enclosure that houses all shading components and is mounted above or below the ceiling line. (B) an envelope created by folding over the edge of a fabric and sealing all three open sides.

Pocket Bracket: Formerly Slim Bracket. A non-decorative metal bracket designed for use in pocket installations where brackets are not exposed or used with fascia. Available in single or dual version.

Power: Indicates how a device is supplied with mechanical or electrical energy.

Privacy: A fabric not visibly transparent, but will still allow some light to pass through. Will also allow shadows and shapes to be seen through the material.

Program: To input instructions or "set up" a motor.

PVC (Polyvinyl chloride): A common substance used in solar fabrics as a durable, protective coating over polyester or fiberglass yarns.

R

Radio Communication: A form of motor communication that uses radio waves to send a command signal between a transmitter (remote) and a receiver (motor) in order to operate the shade.

Railroading: AKA Railroad Cut. A term used to describe a production technique wherein a shade is produced by turning the fabric sideways from how it comes off the roll to make shades wider than the fabric roll width.

Rear Fascia: Fascia used on the back side of a shade (towards the glass).

Reflective: Having the ability to throw back light or heat, without absorbing it.

Regular Roll: When the fabric of the shade rolls off the back of the tube (toward the glass).

Remote Control: A hand-held device that controls a motor from a distance.

Repeater: A device used to extend the distance of a radio signal by echoing any received signal back out again.

Residential: A smaller project that typically involves a space for people to live.

Reverse Roll: Fabric is rolled off the front of the roller tube, away from window.

Rocker Switch: An on/off switch that rocks when pressed, which means one side of the switch is raised while the other side is depressed much like a rocking horse rocks back and forth.

Roller Shade: A type of window treatment that allows a fabric to roll around a tube and can be unrolled to protect against damage from the sun.

Roller Tube: The long cylindrical tube connected to the shade fabric, which is responsible for supporting the width of the shade.

RPM: Stands for "Revolutions (or Rotations) per minute." A speed measurement used for motors.

RS-232: A type of serial communication.

RS-485: A type of serial communication.

RTS: Stands for "Radio Technology Somfy," a proprietary radio control for Somfy motors.

S

Seam: The joint where two pieces of fabric are bound together.

Sensor: A device that detects or measures a physical property, such as heat or light.

Sheer: A fabric that is transparent.

Side Channel: A type of CHANNEL that runs along the side of a shade.

Sill Channel: A type of CHANNEL that runs along the bottom of a shade.

Single Banded Shade: A shade is made with one continuous piece of fabric.

Slope: In shading, a window which is tilted, and not 100% perpendicular to the floor, is considered sloped.

Solar: Of or having to do with the sun.

SoloMount Bracket®: WT proprietary bracket designed to accept fascia at the time of order or at any point in the future. Metal contact points ensure a sturdy connection, field adjustable from ceiling mount to wall mount, or extend the bracket away from the mounting surface. Safety set-screw ensures secure manual shade installation.

Somfy: An international manufacturer of components for motorized shades, such as motors, controls, and sensors.

SPDT: Stands for “Single Pole, Double Throw.” The number of poles on a switch defines how many separate circuits (motors) the switch can control. A switch’s throw-count defines how many directions the switch’s poles can be connected to. Therefore, a SPDT switch can operate one motor, in two directions (up and down).

Specialty Shades: Shade solutions for unique or non-standard window applications.

Specification: Specification (often abbreviated as spec) may refer to an explicit set of requirements to be satisfied by a material, design, product, or service during the construction of an architectural/construction project.

Spline: A material used to create a hard edge on fabric or a small metal bar which may be inserted into a groove (such as on a hembar or a roller tube) in order to attach the fabric.

Spring Assist Mechanism: A mechanical piece which is attached to the clutch (manual shades) and is inserted inside the roller tube in order to assist with the operation of the shade. The spring reduces the torque required by the drive to lift the shade.

Spring Lift: An old fashioned type of shade in which a spring, which locks, operates the shade when the user pulls the fabric down and allows it to lock in the desired location.

SSP: Stands for “Sealed Side Pocket” and is a style of hembar in which a stiff piece of metal is inserted into a pocket that has been created at the bottom of the fabric by heat sealing on three sides.

Standard Fabric Direction: A term used to describe a production technique wherein a shade is produced using the fabric in the direction it comes off the roll.

Submittal: Submittals, in construction management are shop drawings, material data, samples, and product data provided to the architect and engineer to verify the correct (specified) products and quantities will be installed on the project.

T

Tandem Shade: A type of Dual/Double Shade. Tandem shades are single shades hung one in front of the other at a preset distance and are wider than they are tall, allowing you to hang two shades without blocking too much of the window opening.

Telescope: AKA Tracking. A term used to describe the behavior of some roller shades where the fabric rolls up unevenly, causing the edges of the fabric on the tube to be misaligned.

Tile Support: A small aluminum skirt found on pockets and closure mount which can be used to support a ceiling tile (in drop-ceiling installations) or can be mudded over when installing directly into the ceiling.

Torque: A measure of the turning force on an object, often expressed in Nm.

Transformer: A device used to raise or lower the voltage as it makes the transfer of electrical energy from one circuit to another.

Transmitter: A device which sends out a radio signal.

Trim: A term referring to additional decoration, typically along the edges of something and in contrasting color or material.

Twill: A fabric woven so as to have a surface pattern of diagonal parallel ridges.

U

USGBC: Stands for “United States Green Building Council.” A membership-based non-profit organization that promotes sustainability in how buildings are designed, built, and operated. USGBC is best known for its development of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating systems and its annual Greenbuild International Conference and Expo.

UV (Ultraviolet): Indicates the wavelength of light emitted from the sun which, if exposed in excess, can be harmful to surfaces, people and animals.

V

VOC: Stands for Volatile Organic Compounds. Airborne chemicals can be common in indoor environments from building materials, interior furnishings, and cleaning products. Materials can be certified as low or no emitting for improved indoor air quality.

W

Warp: The lengthwise set of yarns that are stretched in place on a loom before weaving and run parallel to the fabric edge.

Weft: The yarns drawn perpendicularly through and inserted over and under the warp to create woven fabrics.

Width: Indicates the measurement typically taken on the horizontal plane (left and right).

Windowcraft/Windowtex: Former names of WT Shade.

Wired: A term in motorization used to indicate the communication and operation of the motor comes directly from the power wires, and not from a transmitter.

Wireless: A term in motorization to refer to a form of communication, such as RTS, which transmits a signal to a receiver in the motor and does not require a separate wire for communication with the motor.

Woven: A fabric formed by interlacing long threads passing in one direction with others at a right angle to them. There are many different types of weaves or weave patterns.

Wrap: The term “Wrap” refers to the extra fabric that gets wrapped around the tube during production of a roller shade. Typically expressed as “+”.

Wrapped Frame Panel: A non-operable fabric panel comprised of fabric attached to an aluminum frame.



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