



FAUXWOOD SHUTTERS TECHNICAL DATA

A BETTER BLIND, INC.
5350 NW 165TH ST. MIAMI, FL 33014
Phone: (305) 623-4855 • (800) 627-7117 • Fax: (305) 623-8139 • (800) 789-4616
Website: www.abetterblind.com E-mail: info@abetterblind.com

Green Assured Technical Data

Background

One of the most potent health hazards found in homes and offices nationwide is formaldehyde, a common indoor air pollutant. This emitting gas can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs, and experts believe exposure can cause cancer. The most offensive, are pressed wood products such as furnishings made from plywood, particleboard and medium-density fiberboard.

A Better Blind's shutters have long been recognized as a consistent leader in quality and performance. To maintain these attributes the proprietary and unique formulation used in production has been improved over the years, but since inception, have always been environmentally compatible. Now, as governmental regulatory agencies are about to establish environmental protocols for air toxicity, A Better Blind Shutters can boast that its formulation is also ready to meet or exceed these same protocols.

Manufactured under a GreenAssured® program, A Better Blind Shutters join a growing number of environmentally compatible window fashion products. A Better Blind developed and implemented the GreenAssured program in response to growing awareness of the effects of airborne chemicals including formaldehyde on indoor air quality.

Green Assured Test Methodology

Technical testing was conducted by Air Quality Sciences, Inc., an independent laboratory and an ISO 9001-2001 accredited firm. Using internationally recognized protocols, each product was carefully inspected upon arrival and stored in a controlled environment until testing. Using specific and precise procedures, component parts of each product were loaded into the SA5 environmental chamber with all sides exposed for individual testing. The environmental chamber test follows ASTM D 5116 while the analysis is based on EPA IP-6A and ASTM D 5197 for formaldehyde by high performance liquid chromatography.

Energy Savvy Technical Data

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that louvered window shutters will help prevent heat gain and loss in an interior environment.* A Better Blind shutters are engineered with a closed-cellular composite material featuring an extremely rugged cap stock. The result is a beautiful and functional shutter that helps maintain energy efficiency and prevent unwanted heat loss or gain. Now, with A Better Blind's proprietary Energy Savvy program, A Better Blind shutters are scientifically certified to meet rigorous energy savings criteria. The Energy Savvy program is maintained through rigorous testing using scientifically recognized protocols.

Energy Savvy Test Methodology

The test objective was to measure heat transfer through a fixed-size window covered by a framed A Better Blind shutter. The shutter featured 3.5" louvers in various open positions. Test conditions created a controlled outside temperature while measuring the rise in temperature inside the test chamber. A window of 32" wide x 28" high, with clear single pane glass, was mounted in the wall between the heat and comfort sections, with the heat section warmed by infrared heat lamps of 750 watts. The heat section was brought up to 100°F, +/-1° and maintained there via digital remote thermometer. The comfort section was fitted with a circulating fan for even heat distribution and alternate heat source for elevating comfort temperature to 72°F to start each test. The comfort area temperature was recorded every 10 minutes with a remote digital thermometer until stabilized at 90 minutes.

FR Assured Test Methodology

A Better Blind's FR Assured program covers both hard and soft window coverings, and is supported by rigorous testing in accredited, independent laboratories, using officially recognized protocols. The primary testing methodology is the NFPA 701-89 (2004 Edition) standard of the U.S. National Fire Protection Administration. This procedure measures the ability to test samples of a material to prevent the propagation of fire after exposure to a flame for 12 seconds.

To pass the NFPA 701 test and achieve FR Assured certification, all specimens of the sample material must meet the following criteria:

- **Fragments or residues of specimens that fall to the floor of the test chamber shall not continue to burn for more than an average of 2 seconds per specimen for the sample of 10 specimens.**
- **The average weight loss of the 10 specimens in a sample shall be 40% or less.**
- **No individual specimen's mass loss percent shall deviate more than 3 standard deviations from the mean for the 10 specimens.**

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Consumer Limited Warranty

Limited Warranty & Warranty Period

A Better Blind warrants to the original purchaser of our shutters only that the shutters will be free from manufacturing defects resulting in peeling, blistering, flaking, rotting, or fading under normal use and service, for a period of 10 years from the date of original purchase. Any resale or other transfer of the shutters voids this warranty.

Replacement & Repair

If our product fails to meet our limited warranty during the warranty period, we will, at our option as our sole obligation to you, either repair or replace the defective product. You must return the defective product to us before we are obligated to repair or replace it. We will not be responsible for the cost to remove the defective product, the cost to reinstall the repaired or replacement product, or shipping charges. THESE ARE YOUR SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES FOR ANY AND ALL CLAIMS YOU MAY HAVE ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PRODUCT.

What Our Warranty Does Not Cover

We offer NO WARRANTY for damage due to transit, improper installation, inadequate or improper care, neglect, abuse, abnormal use, misuse, accidents, normal weathering and wear and tear, damage due to environmental or natural elements, failure to follow our product instructions, unauthorized repairs or replacement parts, components or coatings applied to the product by anyone other than A Better Blind, alteration of the product, or motorized devices. We have no responsibility for any damage to the frame, glass or any other portion of a window in which the product is installed.

Disclaimers of Other Warranties

THE EXPRESS WARRANTIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE EXCLUSIVE. WE PROVIDE NO OTHER WARRANTIES AND DISCLAIM ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND WARRANTIES AGAINST LATENT OR HIDDEN DEFECTS. However, to the extent applicable law does not permit certain implied warranties to be disclaimed shall be limited to a period of ten years from the date of original purchase.

Limitation on Damages

IN NO EVENT WILL WE BE LIABLE TO YOU OR ANY OTHER PARTY FOR DIRECT, INDIRECT, GENERAL, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, EXEMPLARY, PUNITIVE, OR ANY OTHER DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRODUCT, RESULTING FROM BREACH OF WARRANTY OR CONDITION, OR UNDER ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY, EVEN IF WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. IN NO EVENT WILL OUR LIABILITY TO YOU EXCEED THE AMOUNT YOU PAID FOR THE PRODUCT. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

How to Care for your Shutters:

RECOMMENDED CLEANING METHODS

Dusting: Regular dusting will help maintain a "like-new" appearance.

Vacuuming: Using a brush attachment, regular vacuuming will provide a deeper cleaning.

Compressed Air: As long as the air is not heated (hair dryer), compressed air can be used to blow off any dust.

Spot Cleaning: Shutters can be cleaned with a soft cloth or sponge with mild soap and water. Do not use ammonia based products.

Tension System: Over a period of time, it is possible that the louvers can loosen. A Better Blind shutters have a tension screw installed into the side of each panel. Using a phillips-head screwdriver, the screw can be slightly tightened to increase the resistance level.