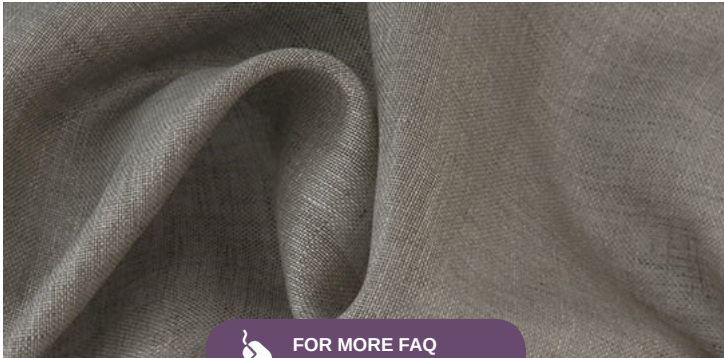


## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*What should I be aware of before I choose a Linen Fabric?*

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Linen has been a popular choice of fabric for some time. Often chosen for its natural and organic look, there are some unique characteristics that you should be aware of before investing in this natural fibre.

Linen definitely receives a tick if you are looking for an environmentally friendly choice. Linen grows well with minimal chemicals and requires significantly less chemicals in production than most other textile fibre crops. The resulting fabric is very strong, and has amazing 'living' characteristics.

While these 'living' characteristics provide the natural look we love, it is important to understand how this raw state will behave over time.

- > Linen has a loose weave and softens with use, particularly on folded edges. This will result in a non-uniform appearance to the surface of the fabric and means it will not hold its shape as well.
- > Linen will crease and wrinkle very easily.
- > Because linen as a fibre is very absorbent, linen fabrics are more prone to movement. When there is a lot of moisture in the environment (e.g. due to cooking, gas heating or washing), the moisture is absorbed by the linen. As the fabric gets heavier, it will cause curtains to drop and the ribs on Roman Blinds to bag. As the environment dries out, the moisture will leave the fabric, causing curtains to shrink, and ribs on Roman Blinds to tighten. This process can occur over the course of a day. To make this movement less obvious on curtains, we recommend linen curtains be designed to sit on the floor.
- > The natural fibre content makes linen more susceptible to mildew.

All of these characteristics are part of linen's natural 'behaviour' and are a sort-after look by many designers. However, if you are after a structured look, then linen may not be the best choice for you. We recommend you try a polyester linen-lookalike that will emulate the look of linen but will provide a more flawless finish.