

# Decorate windows easily with louvered shutters



**FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS** to finish beautiful louvered shutters: 1.) Sand unfinished wood thoroughly. Wrap sandpaper around a deck of cards to simplify sanding around edges. 2.) Apply stain in a color that matches existing woodwork near the shutters. 3.) Add tough protection easily with a spray polyurethane. Use shutters alone, or pair them with a fashionable balloon valance to create a stunning new look for any room.

When autumn's chilly breezes begin to urge people indoors, the colors and sights of the changing season are still as close as the nearest window. Now is a good time to take a fresh look at those windows, and consider new coverings to give the whole room an updated appearance.

Today's window decorating choices extend well beyond conventional curtains, and include a range of coverings that are not only attractive, but provide ventilation, privacy and control of light.

If you like the warm, natural look of wood, louvered shutters are a perfect choice for covering windows beautifully, sensibly and economically! They're so versatile, you can use them alone for a casual look, or pair them with a stylish balloon valance for a more contemporary appearance.

Best of all, the home decorating experts at Minwax say you save money and create a perfect match to the room's existing woodwork by finishing the shutters yourself. With the innovative wood finishing products now available, even first time do-it-yourselfers can be successful just by following these simple steps:

- Choose a well-ventilated work area with plenty of light, then gather your materials. For this project you'll need protective gloves, a drop cloth or newspaper, several soft rags, an inexpensive paint brush (foam brushes work well), sandpaper, and paint thinner for cleanup.

- Sand the wood thoroughly to ensure the most professional-looking results. Here's a tip for the shutters: Wrap sandpaper around a deck of playing cards. Hold the deck sideways while sanding in the direction of the grain; the cards make the sandpaper conform to the wood's surface to assure even sanding.

- Test your sanding by running an old piece of nylon over the shutters—if it snags, that area needs more sanding. When sanding is complete, wipe the shutters with a tack cloth to pick up any remaining dust.

- If the shutters are made with pine, or another soft wood, apply a coat of a Wood Conditioner, before staining. Wood Conditioner, applied within 15 minutes of staining, helps assure an even coat of stain, especially on the end grain.

- Now, you're ready to stain! Using a foam applicator, apply Wood Finish in thin, even coats. After applying the first coat, wait five to 15 minutes, then go back over the area with a clean cloth to wipe off the excess stain and level any air bubbles.

- Allow the stain to dry thoroughly (usually about four hours) and resand lightly. Wipe with a tack cloth and apply a second coat if desired.

- Because your shutters will be subject to daily use, you'll need to protect them. To simplify this step, Minwax makes a fast-drying polyurethane in a convenient

spray can that is specially designed for fast application.

A coating of polyurethane in a semi-gloss sheen will enhance both the beauty and durability of your shutters by giving them an antique lustre while adding a

protective topcoat. To use, allow stain to dry completely and spray on a topcoat of polyurethane.

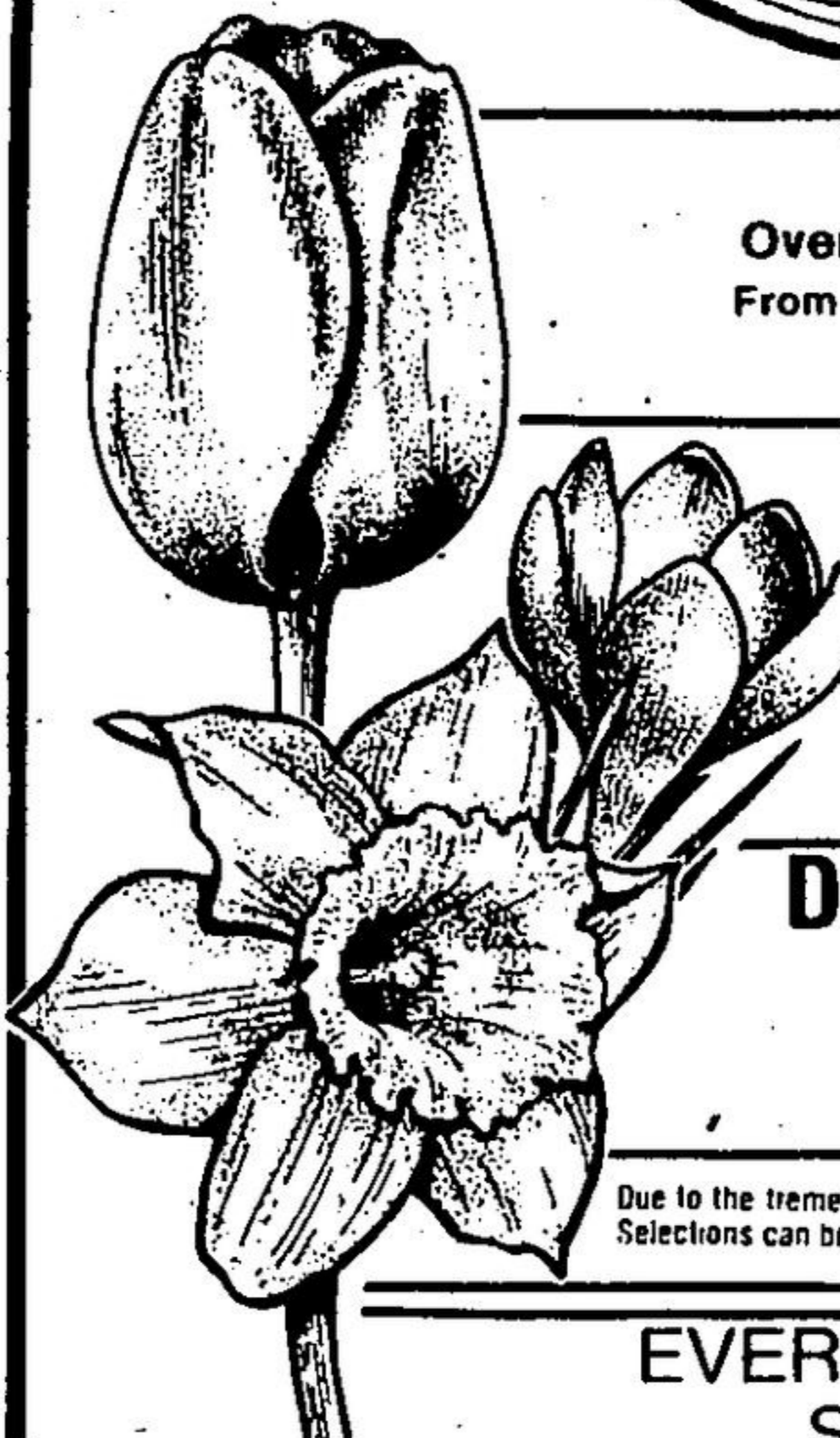
Apply two or three thin coats, always recoating when the previous coat is dry to the touch. Allow shutters to dry over-

night before hanging.

By finishing your own louvered shutters, you can enjoy the satisfaction of a simple, do-it-yourself project while treating yourself to an attractive and versatile new look for your windows! FH890147



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dener should start a perennial border from the ground up. Topics include soil preparation, general planting design, monthly care and winter protection.

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orange and pink trumpet narcissus, plus sweet scented bunch flowered doubles, and many novelty selections making a grand show from late April to early May. Full cultural directions on how to naturalize narcissus are provided so that any gardener, even a novice, can plant them correctly with outstanding results.

Because the bulbs are purchased in a mixture, we cannot guarantee that all colours will be contained in the selection you choose. However, the price is very attractive permitting creation of a naturalized daffodil garden at very modest cost for you to enjoy next spring.

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## Rigidity and strength key to windows

You know one thing for certain: You're tired of your home's old windows. They need constant repairing; they're chipped and drafty. And spring and fall window washing is a major, tedious undertaking.

Yet the more you look into the many types of replacement windows that are available to you, the more confused you become. With each manufacturer telling you its product is superior to the competition, how can you get some straight answers about the window that's best suited for your home and lifestyle?

If you look to the people who know best—professional remodelers and builders—you'll find that they judge a window's rigidity and strength as among the best indications of its rugged, dependable performance.

Tests conducted by independent laboratories have proven that certain solid vinyl windows with fully welded frame and sash corners can withstand thousands of pounds of pressure without any sign of buckling or cracking.

For example, Bradford vinyl windows, manufactured by Wolverine Technologies, can withstand more than 5,000 pounds of pressure without breaking. Tested along with the Bradford window were aluminum (thermal-break), wood and mechanically fastened vinyl windows.

The mechanically fastened vinyl window broke apart at less than 500 pounds. Following that were the wood window at 365 pounds and the aluminum window at 279 pounds.

The Bradford window is produced through a high-technology computerized manufacturing process featuring 12-point

fusion-welded construction. It is this, plus the window's extra-thick wall and multi-chamber design, that produces its exceptional strength.

In addition to the strong joints that are produced through fusion welding, there are other advantages for the homeowner looking for a thermally efficient window, such as triple weatherstripping and integral glazing. The airtight and weather-tight seals that result keep out rain, wind and unwanted heat or cold.\*

### Low maintenance custom windows

Inherent in all solid vinyl windows are their low-maintenance properties. With the color molded throughout, the window frames never need sanding, scraping or painting. They won't pit, peel or chip and are resistant to industrial pollution, salt air and acid rain. All that is needed to restore the windows to their original appearance is a quick wipe with a damp cloth.

Some manufacturers, such as Wolverine Technologies, have designed the windows to make them easy to clean from inside the house by merely tilting in both sashes. In addition, sash cords and weights never need replacing because of the window's easy opening spiral balances.

While some manufacturers of replacement windows offer only standard window sizes and styles, the Bradford window is custom fabricated to fit any size window opening, often eliminating the need for any structural changes to a home's interior or exterior. In addition, special decorative shapes can be ordered—all in several colors.