

# Start Here for New Stage Curtains



## Summary Points

If you find yourself in need of new stage curtains, it can seem like a confusing process.

There's no such thing as a "standard" stage curtain. They're all unique, whether in terms of size, finish, facing or width.

However, there are a few things you can do to help minimise your hassle and ensure that you get the right stage curtains for your application.

Here are a few questions to get you on your way:

1. Do you have an existing curtain and does it have a label?
2. How big does your new curtain need to be?
3. What finish do you want to attach the curtain?
4. How thick or "full" do you want the curtain to be? What fullness?
5. What fabric do you want considering esthetics and durability?
6. Does your curtain need a lining?
7. How do you want your curtain to move?

Read the next page if you need some help answering these questions.

Please feel free to call us to help walk you through this process.

*"Specialty Theatre use first-hand experience to design theatrical equipment that is practical and reliable, which is why their products have been sold in over 28 countries around the world"*

NOTE: Specifications are subject to change without notice. While all due care and attention has been taken in the preparation of this document, Specialty Group Pty Ltd shall not be liable for any inaccuracies or omissions which may occur there in.

Specialty Group Pty Ltd  
ACN 137 410 434

 **specialty theatre™**

*... passion for performance*

40 Tennyson Street, Williamstown VIC 3016 AUSTRALIA

**TOLLFREE:** 1800 832 185 | **FAX TOLLFREE:** 1800 832 285

**PHONE:** +61 3 9028 0310 | **FAX:** +61 3 9397 3400

**EMAIL:** [info@specialtytheatre.com](mailto:info@specialtytheatre.com)

**WEB:** [www.specialtytheatre.com](http://www.specialtytheatre.com)

Specialty Theatre White Paper

# Start Here for New Stage Curtains

## Check for a Label

The first thing that you'll need to do before you order new stage curtains is look for the label on your existing curtains. That label will give you quite a bit of valuable information, including the width and height dimensions. Other information that can be found on the label includes the type of finish on your current stage curtains, the flame retardant rating for the material and more. To find the label, check both offstage sides near the bottom of the curtain. If there is no label, don't worry.

## Size

To order new stage curtains, you will need to know what size you need, which includes both the height and the width. To measure the height, start at the top and measure to the floor along the side hem. Make sure that the entire length of the curtain is taut, though, or your measurements will be off. To measure the width, start from one side and measure to the other along the top of the curtain. As a note make sure you take measurements for both the left and right-hand side curtains, as they can differ.

## Finish Considerations

Another important consideration with new stage curtains is the finish for the material. You'll need to determine the side finish, as well as the top and bottom finish. Finish options include webbing or grommets at the top, and weights sewn into the bottom of the curtain.

## Fullness for Pleats

The fullness of your stage curtains is created by the pleats. To determine the correct fullness, you'll need to pull the bottom of the curtain taut and measure the width (don't confuse this with the actual width measurement made at the top of the curtain, though).

## Choice of Fabric

There are numerous types of fabric that can be used to make new stage curtains. Your choices include wool, velvet, satin and much more. You'll need to consider the weight of the fabric, the colour that you want and the fibre content of the material, as well. You should also have a budget in mind so that you know what you can spend and what options are within your financial capabilities. Some fabrics are far more expensive than others, so bear this in mind. We always recommend high quality theatrical wool as one of the best options for stage curtains and theatre drapes.

## Is There a Lining?

Do your existing curtains have a lining? If so, then you will likely want your new stage curtains to be lined as well. Lining helps block light from penetrating through the curtain, but it can also help provide a more finished appearance and protect your curtains from damage.

## Opening Movement

Does your curtain need to open and close or will you be able to "fly" it in and out with a manual or automated rigging system? There are a number of options for how your new curtain will open and close from a centre-opening traveler curtain to ornate Austrian or festoon curtains.

At this point, it is a good idea to call and consult with your theatre curtain professional as they can bring this all together for you and provide you with a detailed quotation.

For further information please contact Specialty Theatre or an authorised Specialty Theatre dealer.

Specialty Theatre White Paper