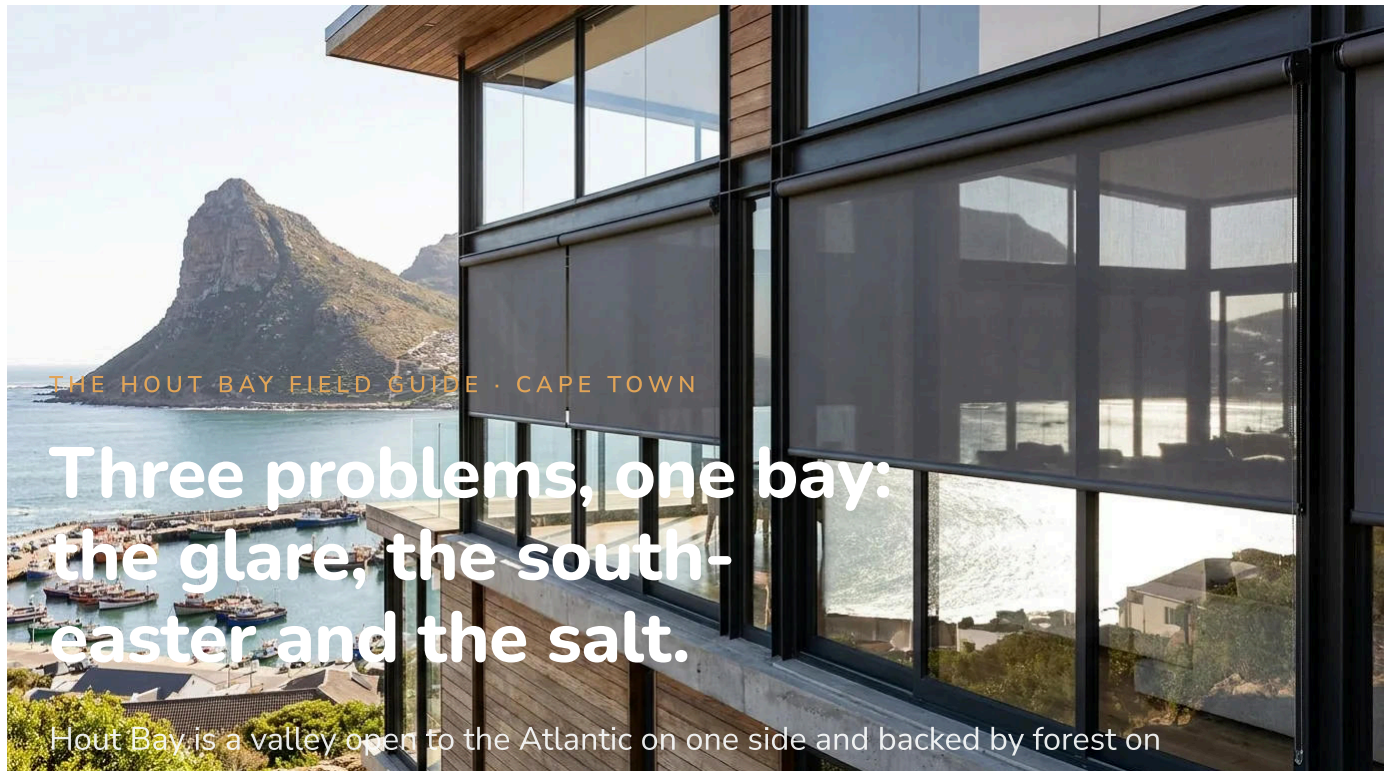




Three problems, one bay: the glare, the south- easter and the salt.

Hout Bay is a valley open to the Atlantic on one side and backed by forest on the other. That single fact decides almost everything about shading a window here. This is our working playbook for the area — the light, the wind, the salt, and what we'd actually specify, room by room.

[Book your free measure](#)

[Read the guide](#)

- ✓ Free in-home measure & written quote
- ✓ Sourced local facts, not a brochure
- ✓ Child-safe fittings as standard

WHY HOUT BAY IS ITS OWN CASE

Shading here isn't a Cape Town problem — it's a Hout Bay one

Hout Bay sits at about 34° south, in a valley that opens south-west to the open Atlantic and is closed by mountains on the other three sides — The Sentinel, Karbonkelberg and the Constantia Nek ridge. That geography is the whole story. The homes that look at the

water and the harbour are, roughly, facing south-west, so they cop the low afternoon sun *and* the glare bouncing straight off the sea. The same ring of mountains funnels Cape Town's summer south-easter up the valley. And the forest side, over toward Constantia Nek, has almost the opposite problem: damp and shade rather than glare.

So a window treatment that's perfect on a north-facing bedroom in the suburbs can be exactly wrong on a harbour-facing lounge in Hout Bay. The three things that break a specification here are afternoon glare off the water, the wind, and salt in the air — and on the Nek side, winter damp. This guide walks through each one, then gets specific about products and rooms. Every climate and geography claim is sourced at the foot of the page.

The light & the seasons

Room by room

What we'd specify & why

Estate & heritage notes

What we check on site

The two ways forward

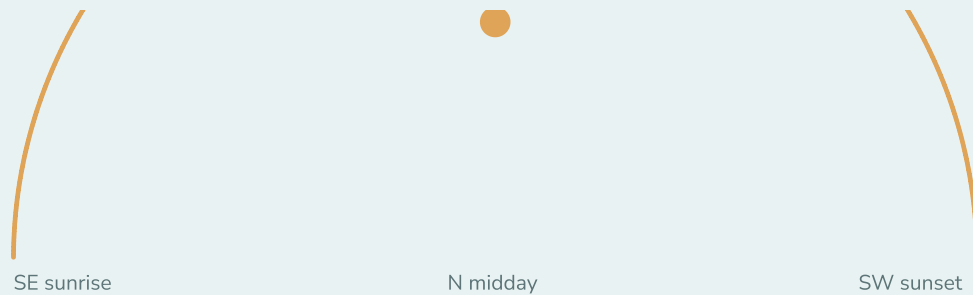
THE LIGHT HERE

A near-overhead summer sun, a low winter one, and water that doubles the glare

Because Hout Bay is at roughly 34° south, the midday sun sits in the north all year — so it's the north side of the house that takes the steady sun, not the south. Working the angles from that latitude: in midsummer the noon sun climbs to about 79°, almost straight overhead, which is why a modest eave or an awning shades a north window so easily in December. In midwinter it only reaches about 33°, low and in the north, reaching deep into north-facing rooms — usually welcome warmth. At the equinoxes it's around 56°.

Direction matters more than height, though. In a Cape summer the sun rises in the south-east and sets in the south-west, so it's the west and south-west glass — exactly the aspect of most harbour and sea-facing homes here — that takes the brutal, low, late-afternoon sun. Add the water: on a bright day the Atlantic and the harbour throw a second helping of glare up at the glass from below, which no amount of roof overhang can catch. Cape Town's summer UV runs "extreme" (index 11–13) from about October to

March, peaking between 10am and 2pm, so this is a fabric-fade and eye-comfort issue, not only a heat one.



The summer arc over the valley: the afternoon end, low in the south-west, is where the sea-facing glass suffers.

ROOM BY ROOM, ELEVATION BY ELEVATION

Which windows actually suffer — and what fixes each

Before you choose a fabric, work out which way the window faces. In Hout Bay the answer is usually written in the view: if you're looking at the sea or the harbour, you're facing roughly south-west, and that's the hardest aspect to shade well.

NORTH

The easy one

Steady, high summer sun that an eave or awning shades cleanly; low, welcome winter sun. A sunscreen roller keeps the view and tames UV without making the room dark — blackout here is usually overkill except in a bedroom.

WEST / SOUTH-WEST

The problem child

Low afternoon sun plus glare off the water. This is where external shading — stopping the heat outside the glass — earns its place, and where a plain interior blackout roller quietly disappoints (more below).

EAST / SOUTH-EAST

Early risers

Summer sunrise is in the south-east, so these bedrooms get low, direct light from about five in the morning. Blockout roller or a blackout honeycomb is the honest fix for anyone who wants to sleep past dawn.

FOREST SIDE (NEK)

Damp, not dazzle

Toward Constantia Nek the light is filtered and the air is damp. The brief flips from glare control to insulation and moisture tolerance — honeycomb cellular blinds

and coated-aluminium venetians, not heavy blackout.

WHAT WE'D SPECIFY HERE — AND WHY

The honest product reasoning, with the trade-offs both ways

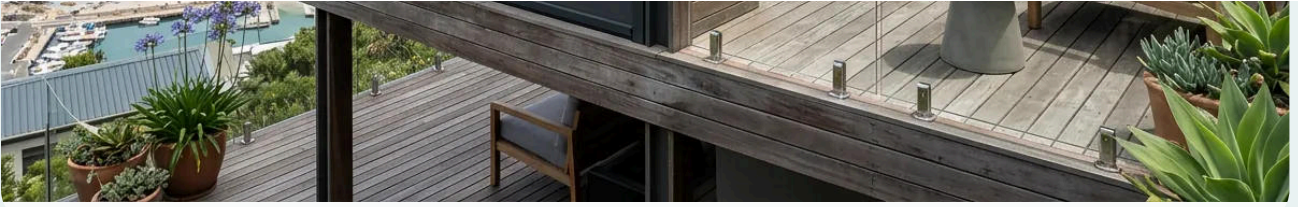
There's no single "best blind" — only the right one for that window, that aspect and that budget. Here's how we'd think it through for the situations Hout Bay throws up. Tap *Add to my list* on any you're weighing up; it drops that product into the ballpark tool and ticks it on the free-measure form further down, so you don't have to retype anything.



A note we make everywhere: these are shading roller shutters — sun, heat, glare and light control on the outside of the glass. They are not security-rated shutters; that's a

different product, available on request.







And two that round out most Hout Bay homes

Folding-arm awnings give a covered outdoor room retractable shade you pull in when you don't want it — but in this wind we'd only fit one with a wind sensor that retracts it automatically, because the south-easter doesn't announce itself. **Motorisation** earns its keep on the tall, wide, hard-to-reach harbour glass so many homes here have: one remote or app instead of a stepladder, and it pairs naturally with sun or wind sensors. Add either to your list below if they're on your mind.

ESTATE & HERITAGE NOTES

Where the neighbourhood, not just the window, sets the brief

Parts of Hout Bay come with rules and character that shape what belongs on a window:

- ✓ **The harbour & beachfront heritage fabric** — the 1895 stone church, the older cottages and view houses — sits in the saltiest air in the valley. Here the specification is led by coastal-grade finishes and quiet, considered detailing rather than anything flashy.
- ✓ **Llandudno** is architect-designed glass built into granite boulders, facing the open Atlantic with no shelter — strong late sun, constant wind and spray. It's a marine-grade-only address, and big frameless glazing usually wants motorised, sensor-driven shading.
- ✓ **Kenrock and the valley eco-estates** require natural sandstone, timber and low-impact design, so recessed or concealed blind boxes and natural-toned fabrics sit best with the estate look and any architectural sign-off.

- ✓ **Scott Estate and the Valley smallholdings** are view homes and country-scale glass with big outdoor rooms — the same valley wind to plan for, and inland, no salt but full open-sun exposure across gardens and paddocks.

WHAT WE'D STILL NEED TO CHECK ON SITE

The things a guide honestly can't settle from a distance

Everything above gets you to a confident shortlist. But the details that decide whether a blind fits, lasts and works properly can only be settled at the window — which is exactly what the free measure is for:

- ✓ **Reveal depth and fixings.** Whether a blind can sit inside the reveal for a clean look, or has to face-fix, depends on millimetres we need to measure — and on what's behind the plaster to fix into.
- ✓ **Exactly how exposed that opening is.** Wind funnels differently street to street and even wall to wall in this valley; we gauge the real exposure on the day to set the right wind rating for a screen or awning.
- ✓ **How much salt the position really gets.** Two windows on one house can need different finishes depending on how directly they face the sea — we'd rather see it than guess.
- ✓ **Power routing for anything motorised.** Where the cable or a rechargeable motor can run, and where a sensor should sit, is a look-at-it decision on tall or wide glass.
- ✓ **The fabric in your light.** Colours and openness factors read completely differently in Hout Bay's bright coastal light — samples held up at the actual window beat any swatch on a screen.

TWO WAYS FORWARD

Book the free measure — or get a rough ballpark first

Whichever suits you. The free in-home measure is the one we'd recommend — it settles all the on-site questions above and ends with an exact, written, per-window quote. If you'd rather just get a feel for the numbers first, pop rough sizes into the ballpark tool and we'll send a budget range by the next working day. No obligation either way, and if you're not sure how to measure, leave it — that's what the measure is for.

Book your free expert measure

A consultant measures every window, checks the light, the fixings, the wind exposure and the salt, brings fabric samples to hold up in your own light, and leaves you with a written, itemised, per-window quote.

We take five or six measure appointments a week across Hout Bay and the valley, so the diary tends to fill a week or two ahead — booking early just means you get the day that suits you.

Or get a rough ballpark first

Nobody else sees it, and nothing about it is binding. Add each window, and we'll send a budget range by the next working day. Not sure of a size? Leave it blank and note the room — or just book the free measure and we'll do the measuring.

ROOM	WIDTH (MM)	DROP (MM)	FIT	PRODUCT
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SOURCES

Where the local facts come from

The climate and geography claims above are drawn from the sources below. The summer and winter sun altitudes are *calculated* from Hout Bay's latitude of about 34° south and the standard solar declination, so they're worked out rather than quoted; everything else is cited.

- ✓ Hout Bay location, latitude (~34.03° S), valley and peaks (The Sentinel, Karbonkelberg): en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hout_Bay and latitude.to
- ✓ Southern-hemisphere sun path (midday sun in the north; west/SW glass takes the low summer afternoon sun): yourhome.gov.au and architecturesa.co.za
- ✓ The south-easter ("Cape Doctor") — season (Sep–Mar, peak Nov–Feb, Jan windiest) and strength: capetownmagazine.com/cape-doctor and northactionsports.com
- ✓ Cape Town summer UV (index 11–13 "extreme", ~Oct–Mar, peak 10am–2pm): nomadseason.com and weather-atlas.com
- ✓ Salt-air corrosion and coastal/marine-grade powder-coating and 316 stainless hardware: servicelinks.co.za and titon.com
- ✓ Constantia Nek / Orange Kloof Afromontane forest — cool, damp, higher-rainfall setting: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantia_Nek and sa-venues.com
- ✓ Llandudno (granite-set architect homes, open-Atlantic exposure) and Kenrock estate (natural-materials rule): en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llandudno and houtbay.seeff.com