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# CAN BLINDS BE REFURBISHED?



## Can blinds be refurbished?

### It depends on the type and condition...

An assessment of the type and overall condition will quickly show the cost effectiveness or otherwise of refurbishing the blinds.

#### A 'rule of thumb' guide is

**Fabrics** – can often be cleaned by certain processes

**Chains and cords** – spares can be found

**Parts** – are normally available unless for an old and discontinued blind

However, each blind type has its quirk! A guide to the most common types:

**Venetian Blinds** – these can be cleaned either laboriously by hand or cleaned professionally, either on or off site. Quantity controls cost effectiveness. If cords break on a venetian blind, the time taken to re-cord often outweighs the cost of a new blind. If an aluminium slat on a blind becomes dented or bent, this is permanent damage. To replace slats it also involves re-cording, and this is very time consuming – often either involving replacement of the blind or living with a defect.

**Vertical Blinds** – the louvres will suffer damage most and can normally be replaced quite easily. Likewise, the little weights and chains along the bottom can be replaced easily. At the top of the louvre is a louvre-clip which clips onto a hook in the 'headrail'. These louvre-clips can often be replaced if broken. However, if the hook in the 'headrail' which the louvre hooks onto is broken, this will normally involve dismantling the 'headrail' to get at the broken part, at which point labour costs increase. This will tip the balance to getting a new blind.

**Roller Blinds** – fabric often suffers the most damage, and some soiling and dust can be wiped off with a damp cloth. Cheaper systems have the fabric attached by methods difficult to unattach which will make new blinds the choice. Some blinds are designed with 'replaceable fabric' so fabric can be detached and replaced easily. Little parts such as mechanisms, chains and brackets are normally available if a current product.



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