



## The WOW over window seats

Window seats are finding their way back into our homes.

BY HOLLI APPELQUIST · PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLLI APPELQUIST

**H**ave you heard? Window seats are back in style! There is just something so charming about a window seat. It's a cozy little spot to nestle into, enjoy a view of the outdoors or read a good book. It offers a focal point to a room and is easily dressed with layered pillows and an upholstered cushion for an inviting look. But it's not just a pretty face. The practical side to a window seat is that it offers space efficient storage, doesn't affect traffic patterns and can add valuable seating when needed.

Window seats are used in a variety of areas – dining rooms, living rooms, mudrooms and bedrooms to name just a few. They create focal points and improve storage in bedrooms. They can also offer space-efficient bench seating in casual eating nooks off kitchens. Extra seating and valuable toy/media equipment storage can be gained in living rooms by adding a window seat. Finally, window seats can help organize mud rooms or even provide an extra bed for company!


You can customize the storage compartments below the window seat depending on what you plan to store inside. A hinged lid on the seat works well for storing bulkier items below such as extra bedding, blankets, mitts/toques or toys. Pull out drawers can control clutter by storing cds, dvds, newspaper recycling, or toys in the living room. Leaving the space below the seat open but with gable supports

for stability offers an excellent area for book storage without the price tag of drawer units. Seen here, the pull out drawers below the window seat in a dining room house seldom used serving dishes, specialty linens, vases and flatware.

If you don't have a window seat now but would like to design one, keep these dimensions in mind. The seat should be at least 22" deep. However, 30-36" deep is needed to provide enough room to sit cross legged. The finished height of the window seat including the upholstered cushion should be 18" off the floor. Most cushions range from 2-3" in total height making the height of the seat usually between 15-16". The height of the window sill behind the seat should be no greater than 3' off the floor or it could block your view out the window and look awkward. If you have an existing window that is higher than 3' off the floor and you want to convert it into a window seat, consider adding a step up to the seat to keep it in scale with the window.

To add coziness and allow for reading, consider adding a bulkhead with recessed lighting above the seat. The bulkhead creates a sheltered, protected feeling above you, like a secret hideaway all your own. Lighting the bulkhead provides the opportunity to read in the evening when natural light has faded plus provide illuminates an attractive focal point day or night. Small pot or puck lighting is ideal in

these bulkheads. For added charm, add a curve or decorative gable or moulding (as pictured here) to peak interest.

Once your seat is complete, dress it up by adding a window treatment and layering pillows in coordinating fabrics, patterns, and colours. Your choice of fabric, pattern and colour will dramatically impact the feel you create. The upholstered seat cushion pictured here is a pvc woven leather look fabric that is waterproof – ideal in this environment for young children at the dinner table. The blend of custom sewn pillows in designer fabrics in a variety of solids, stripes, embroidered floral and quilted fabrics reinforce the old fashioned feel established with the cabinetry and beadboard backdrop. For a more modern look, choose fabrics which have a high sheen, geometric or simple patterns, and combine with solids. Each fabric is like one sheet of music to a beautiful tune - if you listen to each fabric's "voice" or "rhythm" and choose your patterns to coordinate carefully, together they result in an amazing song! 

*Holli Appelquist is an independent interior decorator and owner of Holliberries Interiors in Regina. Visit her website at [www.holliberriesinteriors.com](http://www.holliberriesinteriors.com) for more information and inspiration. Reach her directly via email at [holli.a@sasktel.net](mailto:holli.a@sasktel.net).*

