

# Black Plastic Window Covers

Having black plastic covers for your windows may seem like a luxury, but is cheaper than you may think (\$25), easy to make, and will become a re-useable system you'll likely end up using several times a year.

The covering you see pictured to the right is 6-mil black plastic fastened to the window using industrial velcro. Both are available at your local hardware store. Make sure the velcro you buy has the adhesive side that sticks to things.



To make: measure your windows then cut the plastic to those measurements using a box cutter or utility knife along a straight edge (like a meter stick). Cut it a bit oversized-1 inch extra on each side, to help cover that loose area along the edge where light likes to seep in. If there's too much, you can always trim it down more.

Then cut and stick on the two matching pieces of velcro to the corners of the plastic and window where they meet. A one inch by one inch set of velcro squares is big enough to hold up the plastic, but not so much that it sticks too much and risks tearing the plastic when you pull it off.



As you finish each piece of plastic, stick a masking tape label to the inside top of the plastic (the side facing the window) reminding you which window it goes with. Keep track of which goes with which even if all your windows are the exact same size, since the velcro on each set of plastic/window will be slightly different.

If your coverings ever tear or puncture, patch with black electrical tape or black duct tape.



*Caution*-when hanging up and taking down your window coverings on windows higher than your reach, use a ladder or step stool so you keep your balance. Never stand on a chair, desk, or counter.

Expect great things every time the plastic goes up- not only cool demonstrations that everyone will enjoy more because of the total darkness, but also the curiosity from students (and staff) when they enter your room and wonder what's going on this time.