

## Shutters Compared Across Key Characteristics

	Polyclad Hardwood	Poly Foam	Wood	Coated MDF Hybrid	Vinyl
Construction	Polyresin clad over a Solid Poplar Hard Wood Core	Painted Poly foam reinforced with metal	Painted wood	Glued paper fibers (MDF) coated in polyethylene	Hollow vinyl with vinyl support ribs
Surface	<b>1</b> Polyresin surface is rigid. Won't fade, peel or crack	$\frac{1}{2}$ Poly foam surface is painted and only as durable as the paint	<b>0</b> Painted surface fades, cracks, peels and needs repainting	<b>0</b> Polyethylene surface peels off MDF base specially at louver edges and the surface looks like an orange peel	<b>1</b> Vinyl surface is rigid. Won't fade, peel or crack
Structure	<b>1</b> Solid wood construction works just like a wood shutter	$\frac{1}{2}$ Heavy louvers may warp and heavy panels may sag. Require divider rail and limited to smaller panels	<b>1</b> Solid construction and smooth operation	$\frac{1}{2}$ Very heavy shutter that may sag due to weak structure. Swelling and warpage may occur in moisture due to painted louver edges	<b>0</b> Panels are flimsy and wobble when opened. Require many T-posts and divider rails
Tilt Rod Attachment to Louver	<b>1</b> Rigid acetal hooks that never pull out or break	<b>0</b> Tilt rod staples pull out	<b>0</b> Tilt rod staples pull out	<b>0</b> Staples in soft MDF louvers pull out much easier than in wood	<b>0</b> Flimsy nylon hooks pull out and bend
Fire Resistance	<b>1</b> Fire retardant and approved by California Fire Marshall	<b>1</b> Fire retardant	<b>0</b> Flammable	<b>0</b> Highly flammable polyethylene surface	<b>1</b> Fire retardant
Warranty	<b>1</b> Lifetime warranty on finish and manufacturing defects	$\frac{1}{2}$ Limited warranty on finish and lifetime on manufacturing defects	<b>0</b> 5 year warranty on finish and lifetime on manufacturing defects	$\frac{1}{2}$ Limited warranty on finish and lifetime on manufacturing defects	<b>1</b> Lifetime warranty on finish and manufacturing defects
Ease of Cleaning	<b>1</b> Very easy to clean	$\frac{1}{2}$ Porous surface accumulates dirt	<b>0</b> Woods porous surface accumulates dirt and absorbs moisture	<b>0</b> Coated orange peel like surface accumulates dirt and may peel off on louver edges	<b>1</b> Very easy to clean
Low Maintenance	<b>1</b> Low maintenance	$\frac{1}{2}$ Low maintenance but issues with staples pulling out and paint on surface	<b>0</b> High maintenance due to staples pulling out and painted wood	<b>0</b> High maintenance due to staples pulling out and polyethylene surface peeling off from MDF base	$\frac{1}{2}$ Low maintenance surface but weak construction not durable
Replaceable Louvers and Tilt Rods	<b>1</b> Easy to replace at home with louver/tilt rod system	$\frac{1}{2}$ Staples and louvers are difficult to replace	$\frac{1}{2}$ Staples and louvers are difficult to replace	$\frac{1}{2}$ Staples and louvers are difficult to replace	$\frac{1}{2}$ Easy to replace tilt rod but not louvers
Overall Rating	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>5</b>

Score Card: 1—Perfect  $\frac{1}{2}$ —Acceptable 0—Not Desirable