Superior
WINDOW COVERINGS

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Open-Roll Roller Shades

CB-181 · CB-208

Corded · Cordless · Motorized

Open-roll rollers are Superior's cleanest, most compact shade profile — an exposed 1-1/2" tube on a low-projection side bracket, no cassette cover. Every open-roll shade ships fully assembled (tube, fabric, clutch or motor, hem bar all pre-built). The install is simple: mount the brackets, drop the shade in, level it, set the controls, test. This guide walks through each step for CB-181 and CB-208.

DOCUMENT	REVISION	AUDIENCE
Open-Roll Roller Install Guide	**Rev A · 2026**	**Dealers & field installers**

1. Open-roll lineup at a glance

Superior's open-roll profiles share the same install logic — only the bracket width and projection change slightly between CB-181 and CB-208. Use this table to pull the right CAD drawing for the profile you're installing. Exact hole patterns and dimensions live on each CB-### drawing on the Resources page.

Model	Tube	Bracket width	Projection	Typical use
CB-181	1-1/2"	2.1"	2.7"	Compact residential, corded control, flat hem bar
CB-208	1-1/2"	2.2"	2.8"	Slightly wider bracket, same tube — interchangeable clutch/motor

What makes open-roll different

- No cassette cover — the tube and fabric are exposed. Install care matters more because the hardware is visible from the room side.
- Side brackets only — no fascia clip. The drive-end bracket captures the clutch or motor head; the idle-end bracket accepts the tube pin.
- Lowest projection in the roller line — 2.7–2.8". Best for tight jambs or when the customer wants a minimal, clean look.
- All three drive types (corded clutch, cordless spring, motor) use the same tube and the same pair of side brackets.
- Flat hem bar, 1.3" × 0.5" profile. Pre-punched for seals, weights, and side channels if ordered.

The install in six steps

- Unpackage the shade and inspect.
- Mount the brackets.
- Drop the shade into the brackets.
- Check for level and plumb tube.
- Set and use the controls.
- Test full travel for correct operation.

Always verify the model on your packing slip matches the brackets in the box. CB-181 and CB-208 brackets look similar but have different hole spacing and bracket widths. Using the wrong bracket pair means re-drilling the wall.

2. Before you start

Tools

- Cordless drill/driver with clutch and a #2 Phillips bit
- Tape measure (25′), pencil, level (4′ and torpedo), laser level optional
- Stud finder; wall-type probe (drywall, plaster, masonry)
- Step ladder rated for the ceiling height
- Hex key set (for motor limit buttons on select Ronco motors)
- Wire cutters / side cutters for chain trim

Fasteners by wall type

Wall type	Fastener	Notes
Wood stud / solid blocking	#8 × 1-1/2″ wood screw	Pre-drill with 1/8″ pilot; torque to snug, not crushed.
Drywall (hollow)	Toggle bolt or self-drilling anchor rated ≥ 30 lb ea.	Open-roll brackets are small — spread load across two anchors per bracket.
Plaster over lath	Molly anchor	Tape over drill point to prevent chip-out.
Concrete / brick / block	3/16″ × 1-1/4″ Tapcon	Masonry bit one size smaller than Tapcon.
Steel stud framing	#8 self-drilling sheet-metal screw	No anchor needed if you catch the stud.

Unpackage & inspect

1. Open the box on a clean, flat surface. Lay the shade on a blanket or drop cloth — the tube and fabric are exposed, so scuffs on the tube powder-coat show from the room side.
2. Confirm the packing-slip model (CB-181 or CB-208) matches the brackets in the box.
3. Inspect the fabric, tube, and hem bar for shipping damage. A dented or bent tube on open-roll is visible forever — stop here and file with Superior before install.
4. Locate the hardware bag: two side brackets (drive-end + idle-end), fasteners, P-clip cord cleat (corded shades), and remote (motorized shades).

Pre-install checklist

1. Measure the opening again: width at top, middle, bottom; height at left, center, right. Open-roll tubes do not forgive out-of-square openings — a 1/4″ twist shows from across the room.
2. Decide inside vs. outside mount. Inside mount needs at least 2-3/4″ of jamb depth to clear the tube and fabric roll at full-up; outside-mount is fine at any depth.
3. Dry-fit the brackets — confirm the drive-end (chain or motor) is on the side the customer ordered. Open-roll brackets are handed; swapping sides means re-drilling.
4. For motorized shades, confirm power is on-site and the correct voltage (hardwire, low-voltage transformer, or battery tube).

Safety: keep pull cords and bead chains out of reach of children. Superior ships a P-clip cord cleat with every corded shade. It must be mounted at least 59″ above the finished floor per WCMA cord-safety guidance. Skip the cleat and you fail inspection.

3. Mount the brackets

Open-roll rollers use two side brackets — one on each end of the tube. The drive-end bracket captures the clutch or motor head; the idle-end bracket has a cup or pin seat that receives the tube's idle pin. There is no center bracket on open-roll, so squareness between the two end brackets is everything. Get them coplanar and the shade hangs straight.

Inside mount

1. Mark the top-jamb centerline. Measure in from each side wall to your bracket offset — typically 1/4″ to 3/8″ from the jamb wall on each side so the tube doesn't rub.
2. Check the jamb depth: at least 2-3/4″ is required for a CB-181 or CB-208 to clear fabric at full-up. If depth is tight, go to outside mount.
3. Pre-drill pilots, fasten the drive-end bracket first (it carries the clutch/motor load), then hold a 4′ level across the bracket faces to set the idle bracket at the exact same height.
4. Before fastening the idle bracket, lay a straight edge across both bracket faces. They must be coplanar — any step between them will twist the tube and cause uneven travel.

Outside mount

1. Mark the mount line at least 2″ above the opening. Center the shade on the opening plus your desired side overage (typically 1-1/2″–2″ each side for good light control).
2. Use a 4′ level to strike a long pencil line across the marks — this is your bracket top-edge reference.
3. Fasten the drive-end bracket first, working from the centerline outward. On drywall spans, toggle both brackets even if you hit a stud on one side; it keeps the tension even.
4. Confirm bracket faces are coplanar: a laser line or straight edge across both faces should not show a step. If it does, shim the low bracket before you hang the shade.

Drive-end vs. idle-end brackets

- Drive-end bracket: captures the clutch head (corded) or motor head (motorized). Has a square or slotted receiver that locks the drive shaft against rotation.
- Idle-end bracket: has a spring-loaded cup or a solid pin seat. The tube's idle pin slides into this cup — no screws, no clips on the idle end.
- Handedness matters: left-hand control and right-hand control use different drive-end brackets. Check the packing slip before drilling.

Rule of thumb for squareness: with both brackets mounted, measure diagonal corner-to-corner from the drive-end bracket's top hole to the idle-end bracket's bottom hole, then do the same for the opposite diagonal. The two measurements should be within 1/16″. If not, loosen the idle bracket and shim before you hang the shade.

4. Drop the shade into the brackets

The shade arrives fully assembled — fabric on the tube, hem bar seated, clutch or motor already on the drive end. With the brackets square and solid, installing the tube takes under a minute.

1. Unroll the shade about 6″ so you can handle the tube without crushing fabric against the bracket.
2. Hold the tube up to the brackets with the drive end (chain or motor head) on the correct side.
3. Seat the drive-end clutch or motor head into its bracket first. On CB-181 / CB-208, the drive head slides in and rotates 90° to lock — you'll feel a positive detent when it's captured.
4. With the drive end captured, compress the idle-end spring pin (push it inward slightly) and drop the idle pin into the idle-end bracket cup. Release — the spring pushes the pin into the cup and locks the tube in place.
5. Confirm both ends are seated by giving the tube a gentle pull toward the floor — it should not lift out of either bracket.

5. Check for level & plumb tube

1. Set a torpedo level directly on the tube. It should read level end-to-end. If the bubble is off, the brackets are out of plane — remove the tube, shim the low bracket, and rehang.
2. Step back 6–8 feet and eyeball the tube against the ceiling or the header trim. Any visible tilt shows immediately on open-roll because the tube is exposed.
3. Lower the shade halfway and set the level on the hem bar. If the hem bar tilts, it means the fabric is rolling unevenly — this is a factory issue, not an install issue. Pull the shade and file with Superior.
4. Run a finger along the back of each bracket. They should sit flush against the wall or jamb. Gaps here let the tube walk forward over time and cause uneven travel.

If the tube won't sit level, 9 times out of 10 it's because one bracket is proud of the wall. Remove the tube, shim the low bracket with painter's-tape layers or a thin plastic shim, re-hang. Don't force a twisted bracket — the tube will track one direction at every cycle and eat the fabric edge within a month.

6. Set and use the controls

All three control types (corded chain clutch, cordless spring, and motorized) use the same open-roll tube and the same pair of side brackets. Only the drive head and the limit-setting procedure change.

Corded (bead chain)

1. With the tube installed, verify chain travel is free: pull one side to lower, the other to raise. The clutch should engage with a clean, consistent click.
2. Trim the chain per CAD: total chain length should be approximately 7-7/8″ shorter than the shade height (this keeps the loop off the floor and clear of the hem bar at full travel).
3. Reconnect the chain with the included joiner clip. Confirm the joiner is on the back side of the loop, not the front.
4. Install the P-clip cord cleat at least 59″ above the finished floor, directly below the drive end. Route the chain through the cleat and test that the chain stays captured when the shade is raised.
5. Test full travel top and bottom; listen for any slipping or ratcheting. If the clutch slips, the chain is too short or the loop is under-tension.

Corded lower/upper limits are set by fabric attachment at the factory — you do not set electronic limits. If the shade runs too low or too high, adjust the hem bar attachment, not the chain.

Cordless (spring-assist)

1. With the tube installed, grasp the hem bar and pull straight down to extend. Release — the spring should hold the hem bar at any stop point.
2. If the shade creeps up, add tension: pull the hem bar halfway down, hold it, then rotate the tube forward (away from the glass) to pre-wind the spring. Three to five half-turns adds meaningful tension.
3. If the shade creeps down, reduce tension by rotating the tube backward (toward the glass) with the shade halfway deployed.
4. Set the lower limit by positioning the hem bar where you want it to stop and allowing the spring to hold it there. The upper limit is set at the factory — the hem bar will stop flush against the tube on an open-roll.
5. Test full travel at least three times. Re-tension if sag develops in the first 72 hours.

Cordless on an open-roll has a smaller "hide zone" than cordless on a cassette — there's no fascia to cover a mis-tensioned shade. Spend an extra minute getting the tension right and the customer never notices the shade is spring-driven.

Motorized (Ronco / Superior motors)

1. Confirm the correct power source for the shade's motor type: 110–120V hardwire (electrician required), 24V low-voltage transformer, or rechargeable battery tube. Power on only after the tube is fully seated in both brackets.

2. Pair the shade to its remote or to the RE500 Smart Hub per the “RE500 Smart Hub Setup Guide” on the Superior Resources page. Pair before setting limits — a freshly paired shade will not have limits yet.
3. Set the upper limit: jog the motor up until the hem bar stops flush against the tube, then hold SET + UP until you hear the confirmation chirp (typically two beeps).
4. Set the lower limit: jog the motor down to the sill (or the customer's preferred stopping point), then hold SET + DOWN until you hear confirmation.
5. Test full travel. If the shade runs in the wrong direction (e.g., UP rolls the shade down), reverse the motor direction with the P1 reverse routine on the motor head (covered in the RE500 guide).
6. For scene-controlled installs, bind the shade to its target scene in the Ronco or Superior app, then verify voice-control routing (Alexa or Google) if ordered.

RE500 hub pairing and Alexa / Google binding are documented in a separate guide — “Superior RE500 Smart Hub Setup Guide.” Keep that guide on the job site alongside this one if the install is motorized.

7. Test operation & hand-off

1. Run one full cycle: all the way down, then all the way up. Watch for fabric tracking drift, uneven roll, or light leaks at the jamb.
2. Lower the shade and place a torpedo level on the hem bar. If the bar tilts, unclip the hem bar end caps, adjust fabric-to-bar tension on the low side, and re-cap.
3. For blackout fabrics with visible jamb gaps, add side channels (ordered separately) or reverse-roll the fabric so it sits closer to the glass.
4. Wipe the tube and brackets with a dry microfiber — remove any install fingerprints from the powder-coat.
5. Demo the control to the customer: one full cycle, cord-cleat location, and motor remote (if applicable). Hand them the care card.

Troubleshooting

Symptom	Likely cause	Fix
Fabric tracks one direction	Tube not level or brackets not coplanar	Re-level brackets. Shim low bracket until tube reads level end-to-end.
Shade won't raise fully	Chain too short, or clutch disengaged	Verify chain length (height − 7-7/8″). Re-engage clutch per chain direction.
Cordless shade creeps up	Spring tension too high	Rotate tube 3–5 half-turns backward at mid-deploy.
Cordless shade creeps down	Spring tension too low	Rotate tube 3–5 half-turns forward at mid-deploy.
Motor reverses direction	Wrong motor orientation	Run P1 reverse routine (hold P1 until double-chirp, then press DOWN).
Motor hums, no movement	Locked limits or bound fabric	Check for fabric binding at hem bar; reset limits with SET routine.
Tube rattles in bracket	Idle-end spring pin not fully seated	Remove tube, clean cup, reseat idle pin firmly.
Visible light gap at jamb	Outside-mount underage	Add 1″ side-channel or reverse-roll; for inside-mount, move to outside-mount.
Hem bar tilts left or right	Uneven fabric tension	Unclip low end cap, roll 1/8″ more fabric into the bar, re-cap.

8. Care & support

For the homeowner

- Dust tube, brackets, and fabric monthly with a dry microfiber or a soft brush vacuum attachment on low suction. Open-roll fabric is exposed at the top, so dust accumulates faster than on a cassette.
- Spot-clean fabric with a barely damp white cloth. Never use ammonia, bleach, or solvent cleaners — they strip the fabric's light-control coating.
- Avoid over-raising a corded shade past its stop; a stuck clutch is almost always caused by yanking past the upper limit.
- For motorized shades, cycle the shade at least twice a month. Motors that sit unused for long stretches can drift on limits.

Dealer support

- Parts, replacements, and warranty claims: file through your Superior dealer account on superiorwindowcoverings.com/contact.
- Install escalations during business hours: contact your Superior regional rep.
- Field defects (bent tube, failed motor, fabric damage) require photos on the job before return authorization.