THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A MINI-BLIND

OSU Energy Management Program

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Once upon a semester, two brand new mini-blinds arrived in a Residential Life apartment with all of their parts intact. Proudly they hung in separate windows, with their slats turned downward, waiting for their new residents to arrive.
One sunny August day, the first new resident, Norman, arrived. As he began moving boxes of belongings into the apartment, he decided to open the mini-blinds for some natural light. He grabbed the tassel attached to the lift cord and pulled. The mini-blind didn’t budge. Norman pulled again. Still, the mini-blind didn’t budge. Patiently, it waited for Norman to first use its tilt wand to turn the slats so that they would be horizontal. But, instead, Norman just yanked harder and harder on the lift cord until the mini-blind broke and fell to the floor with a crash. “Stupid, mini-blind!” Norman yelled. “It doesn’t work!” And, he shoved the mini-blind against the wall, then stormed outside for more boxes.
Sooner after, another new resident arrived. His name was Pete. Just as Norman had done, Pete went to the second mini-blind to open it so that he’d have more natural light while he moved in. First, Pete took the tilt wand in his hand and easily turned it so that the slats were horizontal. Then, he grabbed the tassel and gently pulled the lift cord until the mini-blind was lifted to the top of its headrail. Just then, Norman came back into the room. “Wow! How did you do that?” he asked. “It’s easy,” said Pete.
PETE’S GUIDE TO THE MINI-BLIND

- First, turn the tilt wand so that the slats are horizontal.
- Second, pull the tassel attached to the lift cord until the blinds are at the desired height.
- Third, gently pull the lift cord in one direction to lock the mini-blind in place, or pull in the opposite direction to release the mini-blind and lower it.
- Fourth, turn the tilt wand to tilt the slats into the desired position: (a) tilt upward to reduce heat load, or (b) tilt downward to increase heat load.

**NOTE:** Be aware of privacy issues and check mini-blinds from outside at night to be sure you are tilting them so that others cannot see into your living space, depending on which floor you are on.