

## UPHOLSTERY CARE

Follow these easy tips to get the most beauty and durability out of your new furniture.

1. **Avoid excessive heat, light, or moisture.** To prevent fading and discoloration, keep your new upholstery away from excessive exposure to direct sunlight, hot radiators, heat outlets, and dampness.
2. **Vacuum regularly.** Vacuum your upholstery with a brush attachment as often as you dust the furniture.
3. **Flip the cushions.** Loose cushions and pillows should be flipped, rotated, and fluffed regularly to keep filling materials evenly distributed and allow for even wear.
4. **Expect and treat pilling.** Pilling is normal for all fabrics when they shed their excess fiber. Use a fabric shaver to remove unwanted pills. For more advice, [click here](#).
5. **Act fast!** Treat all spills, spots and stains immediately. Always pretest in an unexposed area.
6. **Do not soak upholstery.** Avoid soaking the upholstery during spot cleaning or any cleaning as this may leave its own stain.
7. **Be preventative.** Keeping food and liquids away from fabrics is just one way to add years of life to your investment.
8. **Keep cushion covers on.** Zippers on the backs of cushions are there for the manufacturer's convenience; so do not take them off to wash them. The covers may shrink and/or lose their shape when cleaned.
9. **Bring in the professionals, when needed.** Select a reputable professional cleaning company when overall cleaning becomes necessary.

### How to Clean Upholstery

Know the cleaning code of the fabric; that is the first guide for proper cleaning. Upholstery fabric is labeled by the mill/manufacturer with one of four cleaning codes. The code may be found in several locations: (1) On the fabric swatch in our store; (2) On your order slip; (3) Depending on the manufacturer of your upholstery, on the deck label directly under the seat cushion.

For best results, follow these recommended cleaning code instructions to preserve the beauty of your upholstery pieces. Always read directions carefully before using any cleaner. Always PRE-TEST any cleaner in an inconspicuous/unexposed area for color-fastness and fabric stability. Apply cleaner in an inconspicuous area – choose an area where there is a pattern or lots of color. After five minutes, while still wet, take a white towel or cloth and press down firmly for ten to fifteen seconds. Look for

dye transfers on the towel. If dye transfers to towel, material is not colorfast for that type of cleaner.

**CAUTION:** Water-based or detergent-based solvent cleaners may cause excessive shrinkage. Water stains may become permanent and non-removable with solvent cleaning agents.

### **Velvet Care**

Velvet, the most luxurious of all upholstery fabrics, has a softness and luster created by the thick pile of short erect threads on the surface of the fabric. A slight rising of the pile may be caused by normal changes in humidity or abrasion to the fabric surface.

Crush marks will appear as a result of normal handling and wear of the furniture. Crushing of the fabric surface creates random shading, which is generally considered a desirable expression of the fabric's comfort and elegance. If preferred, the crush marks or modeled surface may be removed in part by brushing or wiping of the damp cloth. Steaming may be used for some velvet, but a small area should be pre-tested to determine if the steam will discolor or damage the pile. Complete removal of crush marks should not be expected.

At folds or pleats and possibly at seamed areas, certain velvets tend to expose the background yarns. This condition is characteristic of these velvets and should not be considered a defective condition of the fabric of upholstery furniture.

### **Microfiber Care**

Microfiber, also known as microsuede, is a fabric that is produced using micro denier yarn. It is then brushed twice to achieve the suede hand. Through the dyeing and brushing process, the microfiber is transformed into the soft, attractive fabric used for upholstery. Because of its construction and finishing treatments, it is not easily stained by dirt, dust, or food particles.

For general cleaning, use a drop or two of mild soap, like dish soap or Neutrogena soap combined with lukewarm water should clean your microfiber sofa in no time. Rub soap in circular motion with a sponge or soft brush. Pat the area dry after cleaning. When completely dry, brush in the direction of the nap to refresh the fabric. Remove strong odors, such as urine, by blotting the stain with white vinegar and distilled water. Apply baking soda and then vacuum to fully remove the odor. Avoid soaking microfiber during spot cleaning as this may leave a stain.

For more information about Upholstery Cleaning Codes, visit the Upholstery section on our Furniture Care page.