

Someone accidentally spills soda on your sofa. What do you do?

Get clean sheets of paper towels and place the edge to the spill and allow the towel to absorb it. Keep rotating the sheet and discard once a majority of the spill is absorbed. Continue the process with another clean sheet until the entire spill is absorbed. Then using a clean towel gently pat the slight remnants.

What upholstery cleaner should be used for small stains?

Here are the basic recommendations by upholstery fabric manufacturers:

(S) Clean the fabric with “pure solvents” (petroleum distillate based products, e.g. Energine, Renuzit, Carbona.

(W) Clean the fabric with a “water-based” cleaning agent only e.g., Woolite

(WS) Clean the fabric with either water-based or pure solvent cleaning product

Where can you get the code (S, W, WS) for your upholstered fabric?

The store you purchased the fabric, the furniture store or the upholsterer that reupholstered your furniture.

What is a “hard edge” piece of furniture?

The sitting edge of a chair or couch is either a hard edge or soft edge. A hard edge means that the front end (edge) of the furniture is solid wood. It has no give to the seat cushion. A “soft edge” means that springs are above the solid wood frame and thereby provides flexing for the seat cushion.

Is there any benefit from rotating seat cushions on a sofa?

Regularly rotating seat cushions from left to right and top to bottom will help maintain pleasing appearance (the fabric won't shift around). In addition, the cushion foam and padding will provide more comfort and support.

How should Scotch Guard be applied to my furniture?

Do not use Scotch Guard during the winter months. You should always have the windows open (ventilation) in the room for of the furniture being protected. Use on fabrics with code W or WS. Do not use on fabrics with code S only. Test an area of the furniture to assure no adverse reaction to the use of the product. Hold the container 6 inches from the fabric and spray while you overlap the spray going across the furniture. The inside back, inside arms and seat cushions should be protected. Do not sit on the furniture until the next day, allow the scotch guard to dry into the fabric over night. The day after the initial spray is applied, turn the seat cushions over and spray that side. Always read the directions on the Scotch Gard container before using the product.

How do you get rid of the new furniture smell?

Many people are sensitive to chemicals- in this case VOCs, volatile organic compounds. New carpet, cars, furniture, etc often have chemicals in them that release a lot of gas when they are new. This process is referred to in layman's terms as off-gassing or gassing out.

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmen...>

Open any windows you have in the basement and leave them as long as possible. Try to keep off the couch for while until it is much less noticeable. Keep the basement door shut if possible.

Plants are great for cleaning the air. It won't help overnight, but they will speed it up a great deal. Spider plants are said to be quite good for this.

Change your central air/furnace filter more frequently. It likely won't trap any toxins but it may 'hold' the odor so changing it more often may help.

Air fresheners may help cover the new smell but it won't get rid of it or clean the air.

How to Care for Fine Wood Furniture

What you will need:

Soft cloth
Warm water
Furniture polish
Tablecloth
Place mats
Hot pads
Trivets
Coasters

- 1.) Consider the optimal environment for your fine wood furniture. The best temperature for your fine wood furniture is between 68 and 74 degrees F, with humidity at about 40 and 45 percent. Keep your furniture away from heating vents, air conditioning units, space heaters or fireplaces, as extremes in temperature are detrimental to the life of your fine wood furniture.
- 2.) Place your fine wood furniture out of harsh sunlight. Prolonged exposure to sunlight will make your furniture fade. If you must place your furniture near a sunny window, draw the drapes or close the blinds or shades during the hottest part of the day. Consider draping a tablecloth or table pad over your dining table to protect it from damaging ultraviolet rays.
- 3.) Dust your fine wood furniture once a week using gentle strokes in the same direction as the grain of the wood. This will remove grease, lint and dust buildup that can damage your fine wood furniture. Use a clean, soft cloth such as an old t-shirt and spray it lightly with a little water or furniture polish so the dust sticks to it. Fold and rotate your dusting cloth regularly.
- 4.) Clean dirty furniture with a soft cloth lightly soaked with warm water. For more stubborn soil, try adding a little mild soap to your cloth to wipe it clean. Use another slightly damp cloth to remove the soapy residue from your fine wood furniture. Be sure not to leave any water residue on your furniture.
- 5.) Treat accidental spills immediately by blotting them dry with a soft cloth. Avoid using nail polish remover, hair spray, perfume or any other products that contain solvents on your fine wood furniture. They can easily topple over and ruin the finish. Accidental spills left to dry can cause permanent stains on your fine wood furniture and lead to peeling, fading and warping.
- 6.) Use place mats, coasters, trivets and hot pads when placing hot or cold items on your fine wood furniture. Never place very hot items like sauce pans or baking dishes on your fine wood furniture, even on a hot pad. Cover your fine wood furniture with a protective pad when writing with a ball point pen or when using crayons, glue or markers.

Tips & Warnings

- Use a vacuum with a brush attachment to dust your fine wood furniture in place of using a soft cloth.
- Dust your fine wood furniture before vacuuming your rugs.
- Polish your furniture no more than four times a year to prevent wax buildup.
- Remove scratches, dings and little dents with touch-up products recommended by your furniture manufacturer.
- Place felt or non-synthetic doilies under lamps and table accessories to protect your furniture from scratches.
- Avoid using tablecloths with vinyl or rubber backing, as they contain chemicals that can damage your fine wood furniture.
- Using a dry rag to dust your furniture may scratch the fine finish.
- Waxing your fine wood furniture too much can make your furniture lose its shine.
- Never place burning candles on fine wood furniture.
- Never use products that contain silicone or those not intended for cleaning fine wood furniture.

How to Clean and Care for Upholstered Furniture

When you know how to clean and care for your upholstered furniture it will retain the look that made you fall in love with it in the first place. With proper cleaning, care, and maintenance, it is possible to have all your upholstery looking its best for a long time. It pays to be consistent, and it's not hard to do.

Choose the Right Fabric

When you choose the right fabric for the right place you make your upholstery maintenance task easier. Always make sure that you choose fabric that is appropriate for your lifestyle and the upholstered furniture piece. For example, synthetic fibers are a better choice for upholstered furniture that sits in areas of heavy usage.

Protect Fabric

The best form of fabric protection is prompt attention to spills. A lot of work is done for you when the upholstery fabric undergoes the finishing process at the factory. It is usually treated with soil and/or water repellents and some form of mildew inhibitors may also be used. Additional fabric protectors may be applied to your upholstered furniture in the store or at home.

While this helps with maintenance and care by keeping spills from being absorbed into the upholstery fibers right away, it is not a substitute for prompt cleaning of a soiled piece. Don't let it give you a false sense of security. Always clean up any spills or stains in a timely manner, and follow manufacturers' instructions for proper care methods.

Turn the Cushions

You can extend your upholstered furniture's life by periodically turning over the loose cushions. This easy maintenance method allows for an even distribution of wear and tear and your cushions won't develop indentations right away. Caring for cushions by fluffing them after you've cleaned also helps keep them in shape.

Change the cushions around from one part to the other in addition to turning them over. Some seats get more usage than others, so changing cushions around will ensure even usage.

Vacuum

Vacuum your upholstered furniture weekly for general cleaning and to remove surface soil. This also prevents dirt from becoming embedded into the fibers.

You can also use a brush to gently whisk the dirt away. Make sure to always use a soft bristled brush so that you don't snag the fabric.

Spot Clean

While regular care does a lot for your upholstered furniture's maintenance, accidents will happen. Blot any spills immediately with a clean folded towel: never rub, but blot gently. Sometimes this is enough to get rid of the stain completely, especially if the fabric has been pre-treated with a fabric protector.

Always test in an inconspicuous area before you use any product for spot cleaning, and check the manufacturer's instructions to see if you need a water based or solvent based cleaner. It is best to use a mild cleaning product.

Apply with a soft brush in a circular motion to work into the fibers, then vacuum when dry.

Avoid Sunlight and Pollutants

Too much sun can damage your upholstery fabric, causing it to fade and even fray. Try to position it so that it doesn't sit in the sun for extended periods of time. This is especially true for silks.

Airborne pollutants such as fumes from cooking or smoke can also harm your fabric. It isn't always easy to avoid that from happening, however, proper ventilation can help. It can also help with odor control, as upholstered furniture can easily absorb odors.

Call a Professional

It is best to have a professional clean your upholstered furniture every couple of years or so. Experts recommend having this done on a regular basis and not wait for it to get visibly dirty. The dirtier a sofa or chair becomes, the harder it is to restore to its original glory.