

TEXTILE UPHOLSTERY CARE + CLEANING GUIDE

Keep your upholstered furniture in beautiful condition with simple cleaning skills. Learn more about deep cleaning, and when you may need to hire a professional. Review step-by-step instructions that help you handle deep cleaning like a pro.

LOCATE THE LABEL

When looking for new furniture, or caring for an existing piece, it is important to read the upholstery care label. The tag is usually located underneath the cushions or furniture platform, and may look like this one:



A Sales Associate can help you locate this label, and help you source more information from the manufacturer about the properties of your upholstery textile.

CHECK THE CLEAN CODE

Care labels give consumers important information about the characteristics of a piece of furniture. A “clean code” refers to the method used to clean the textile. This code is a one or two letter abbreviation you’ll easily remember.

These clean codes are most commonly used for upholstery fabric.

S

Clean only with a dry cleaning solvent. Do not saturate. Do not use water. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and dry cleaned.

SW

Spot clean with upholstery shampoo, foam from a mild detergent, or a mild dry cleaning solvent. Do not saturate with liquid. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and dry cleaned.

W

Clean only with water-based shampoo or foam upholstery cleaner. Do not overwet the fabric. Do not use solvents to spot clean. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and dry cleaned.

WS

Spot clean with upholstery shampoo, foam from a mild detergent, or a mild dry cleaning solvent. Do not saturate with liquid. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and dry cleaned.

You can find information about clean codes for leather and other textiles in **Decoding Your Upholstery Label**.



FURNITURE PLUS

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PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

- Do not place your furniture in direct sunlight. The harsh rays weaken textile fibres and causes fading. When space is tight, use lined curtains or window coverings to block sunlight.
- Place inexpensive protective felt pads under your furniture legs. Your pieces will glide across the floor without damaging the surface. That makes it easy to rearrange the furniture, or simply move it for cleaning.
- Tuck upholstery skirts between the furniture platform and cushions so the hems don't collect dust from your broom.
- Avoid using bulky string mops with bleach around the base of your furniture. Flat, microfiber mops stay close to the floor and are easy to position under the furniture.
- Do not rest books and magazines on the furniture, as the ink may transfer.
- Do not use strong cleaning solutions around furniture, as they damage the fabric over time.
- In open concept rooms, the furniture may absorb cooking odours. Installing a vent over the stove can help extract smelly, smoky vapour.

GET INTO A GROOVE

To maintain the appearance and condition of upholstered furniture, here's a simple monthly routine:

- Using a rubber glove, gently wipe away and discard any hair on the surface.
- Vacuum or brush away dust and debris, checking areas between the platform and cushions, the space behind covered buttons, corded seams, and cushion trims.
- Remove and turn cushions to redistribute wear.
- Inspect the furniture for odour, stains, odour, and areas of wear.
- Refresh upholstery surfaces by sprinkling dry baking soda, gently brushing into areas needing special treatment. Leave for fifteen minutes, then brush or vacuum away the residue. Use a furniture brush or a clean, white towel, working in a circular motion to sweep away the residue.
- Groom textured textiles like microfiber or velvet with a furniture brush to restore the pile.

SMART STAIN REMOVAL

- Remove wet stains and spills as quickly as possible by blotting. Do not rub!
- Remove cushion covers to blot and absorb as much moisture as you can from the affected area.
- Follow clean code recommended solvent to treat stained areas.
- Test any solvent in an inconspicuous area first. Dry thoroughly to ensure the solvent doesn't leave a mark.

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WHEN TO DEEP CLEAN UPHOLSTERY TEXTILES

How often should you deep clean your upholstered furniture?

In some homes, an annual deep cleaning gets the job done. If you have children, pets, or heavily used furniture, clean every six months, or as needed.

Deep clean to remove grime, encrusted dirt, scuff marks, soiled hems, stubborn stains, and bad odours.

BEFORE YOU START

If you've never had your furniture professionally cleaned, consider hiring a certified upholstery cleaner.

Their training and expertise can save time and money because:

- You don't need to research, order, and test expensive solutions that may not work for your fabric. They stock a variety of professional cleaning solutions.
- The pros have experience with all fabric types and will choose a timesaving process.
- Professionals often work in teams, or use equipment that makes cleaning and drying more efficient.
- You can watch and ask questions, helping you decide whether to tackle your own deep cleaning.

There are several excellent certified technicians working in The Bahamas.

Learn more about **deep cleaning upholstery textiles**.

**Source: ashleyfurniture.com, 2022 | royalfurniture.com, 2022*