

GEOFFREY BENSON & SON FURNITURE & INTERIORS

www.geoffreybenson.co.uk - Tel: 01423 331330

Cleaning Instructions for Wool Upholstery Fabric

The resurgence of popularity of wool as an upholstery fabric has prompted us to issue this leaflet for general care, and advise on stain removal, which if followed will ensure your investment looks good for very many years. These instructions will also serve for most other upholstery fabrics, if in doubt contact a professional.

Regular Cleaning

Weekly or at least regular light vacuuming will prevent any build up of dust and other particles. An annual clean by a professional will remove unseen build up of dirt and is our first recommendation. However if you wish to do it yourself ensure you use a reputable brand of upholstery shampoo which does not leave sticky residue which could actually attract dirt, follow the manufacturers instructions carefully and test a small inconspicuous part before attempting a larger area. Don't overwet the fabric or rub hard which could push dirt into the fabric.

Stain Removal

Work in a well ventilated area and use protective gloves and glasses, read any precautionary advise on containers first .

Act immediately! The sooner you take action the better your chances of preventing permanent staining. Mop up any liquid or semi-solid with white absorbent tissues or a clean absorbent cloth wiping inwards to the centre of the stain. Using a spoon scoop up drier solids, again from the outside, to prevent spreading them further. Oily stains are best removed by the solvent treatment first allowing to dry well in a ventilated area. Water based treatments must be rinsed carefully from the cloth and finish by applying a little acidified water, see below, blot well and allow to dry.

Pre-test any cleaning agent in an inconspicuous area first, wipe with a white tissue to check there is no bleeding of colour. Use small amounts of cleaning liquid and blot between each application but be carefully not to use too much pressure which could push the liquid into the fabric. Work methodically and carefully. Ensure water based treatments are carefully rinsed out and blotted. Acidify the fabric with a weak solution of clear vinegar (1 drop in a cup of water), blot thoroughly again and let it dry. If this does not work contact a professional cleaner as soon as possible.

There are many things which can cause stains but we deal here with the most common.

Fruit juices – Borax 2% solution, dissolve 1 teaspoonful in warm water, top up cup with cold water

Wax – Hot Iron over layers of white tissues

Ink – surgical spirit (alcohol)

Lipstick – White spirit, turps or substitute

Nail Varnish – Acetone, non-oily nail polish remover

Oil based paint, Oil and grease - White spirit, turps or substitute

Water based paint – cold water

Wine , Coffee, Tea, Jam, Chocolate, Cream, Urine & Vomit - Upholstery detergent or shampoo at the manufacturers recommended dilution.

It is a good idea to have a basic kit of these cleaning options available for quick use, it could save you a lot of money on professional cleaning or replacement!