

## Advice for choosing a sofabed

Most of us can use an extra bed from time to time. But buying a bedding set can be impractical if space is limited and if the room serves as more than a bedroom.

Millions of people have invested in sofabeds, which provide seating by day and sleeping by night. This is especially practical for apartment dwellers who need to make the most of every inch of space.

Like other upholstered furniture, the cost is based on what you can't see as well as what you can, and the following tips, provided by the National Home Furnishings Association, will help the consumer make an informed selection.

A sofabed must take a lot of wear. The frame must be sturdy, and that means it must be made of hardwood. All joints should be screwed, glued and doweled for maximum strength. This is also true for corner blocks with further strengthen the frame.

Like a conventional sofa, the padding should be thick enough to cover the frame which, in better quality goods, should not be felt under reasonable pressure.

Another important component of a

quality sofabed is the folding mechanism which holds the mattress. Technological advances have improved these mechanisms, but you should inspect a variety of them before purchasing your sofabed.

Sofabeds providing the most comfort will support the mattress on a series of springs or coils instead of a fabric sling. The more springs and coils, the more comfort.

Better sofabeds have a long warranty on all moving parts. Look at the welds and connections of the mechanism.

Once the mechanism is folded into the frame, test the seating comfort. After all, the primary purpose is seating.

The cushions should fit well. Sit down and determine how much the corners of the cushions kick up. (They will raise a little, which is proper.)

Better sofabeds will have a flap of fabric that fits beneath the cushions to conceal the mechanism.

Evaluate your needs before buying. If you expect to use the sofabed frequently as a bed, expect its longevity to be shorter than that of a conventional sofa.

other furniture in an overall design theme. Many dining rooms groups and wall systems reflect the same styling for persons wanting to carry the theme throughout their home.

Like any furniture, its purpose and location must be a major consideration when planning a purchase. A unit for a family room might be more casual than the wall system for a study or hallway.

Your options include a variety of modular concepts that are stackable and "bunchable." If your budget is restricted, then consider making an investment in wall systems. Select one of three pieces, with the goal of eventually buying them all over a reasonable amount of time.

Many of the newest systems are finished on the back. This extra dimension permits you to create a room divider with a free standing unit that can help improve and direct traffic flow within your home.

### ENTRY DOORS GAIN NEW DIMENSION

Many of today's wood panel entry doors feature thicker, laminated, raised panels. This extra dimension of solid wood provides extra insulation and added strength.

They are available in a wide range of styles and sizes, at local dealers and building supply stores.

### ROOFING REQUIRES SKILL

In an effort to save money, some homeowners are themselves taking on the job of reroofing.

If you are considering it as a do-it-yourself project, be sure you are a capable mechanic, are willing to devote the time and effort necessary for getting the job done, are comfortable working at heights, and follow all safety precautions.

## Wall systems are functional and make good design sense

Wall systems, a growing furniture category, have taken on multi-purposes in many homes. A variation on the bookcase theme, a wall system offers a multitude of functions.

Available in the widest variety of finishes and woods, wall systems are ideal for persons wanting ample storage and

display space in today's crowded living quarters.

These units can feature specific storage for liquor, in the form of a serving bar. A perfect dimension for the smaller scale living space, the wall system serves as a multiple entertainment center, too.

Wall systems can stand alone or join

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