

# How to preserve a wedding gown

(SOP) Are you planning to keep your wedding gown?

To keep it as white and beautiful as it was on the day you wore it, take it for professional cleaning and packing.

The worst thing you can do is to hang it in your closet, basement or attic. Air, light, cigarette smoke and humidity will turn the gown yellow.

The secret is to pack it so that none of those elements can get to it.

If you store the gown well, you can pass it on to the next generation 25 years from now.

Before a gown is stored, though, it should be dry-cleaned.

Most cleaners pre-spot the dress by hand wherever it's soiled, usually along the hemline. Then it's put into a net bag and machine dry-cleaned on a short cycle, either alone or with other gowns.

The net bag protects the beading and appliques.

Beads that are glued rather than sewn on, can loosen in the dry-cleaning process. Most dry cleaners sew them back on.

A special varsol solvent cleaner is used because it's gentler and less damaging to the beads. But many cleaners use the common perc solvent which can melt some beadwork.

Then the gown is rinsed, gently dried and hand pressed.

Next, a cardboard bust form is placed into the bodice to keep it from crushing.

Then the gown is wrapped in blue tissue paper or blue plastic.

The colour blue blocks out damaging light. Then it's packed in a wedding storage box, made specially for gowns.

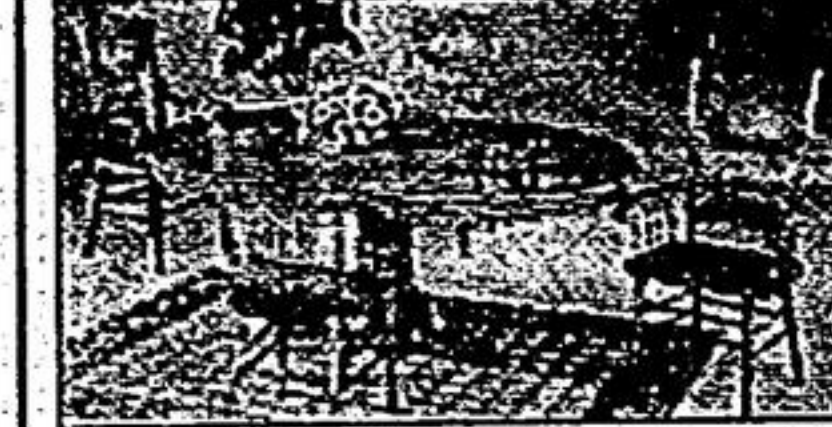
The box is sealed with tape to keep out dust. It should be kept in the box on a top shelf in a dry closet or under the bed.



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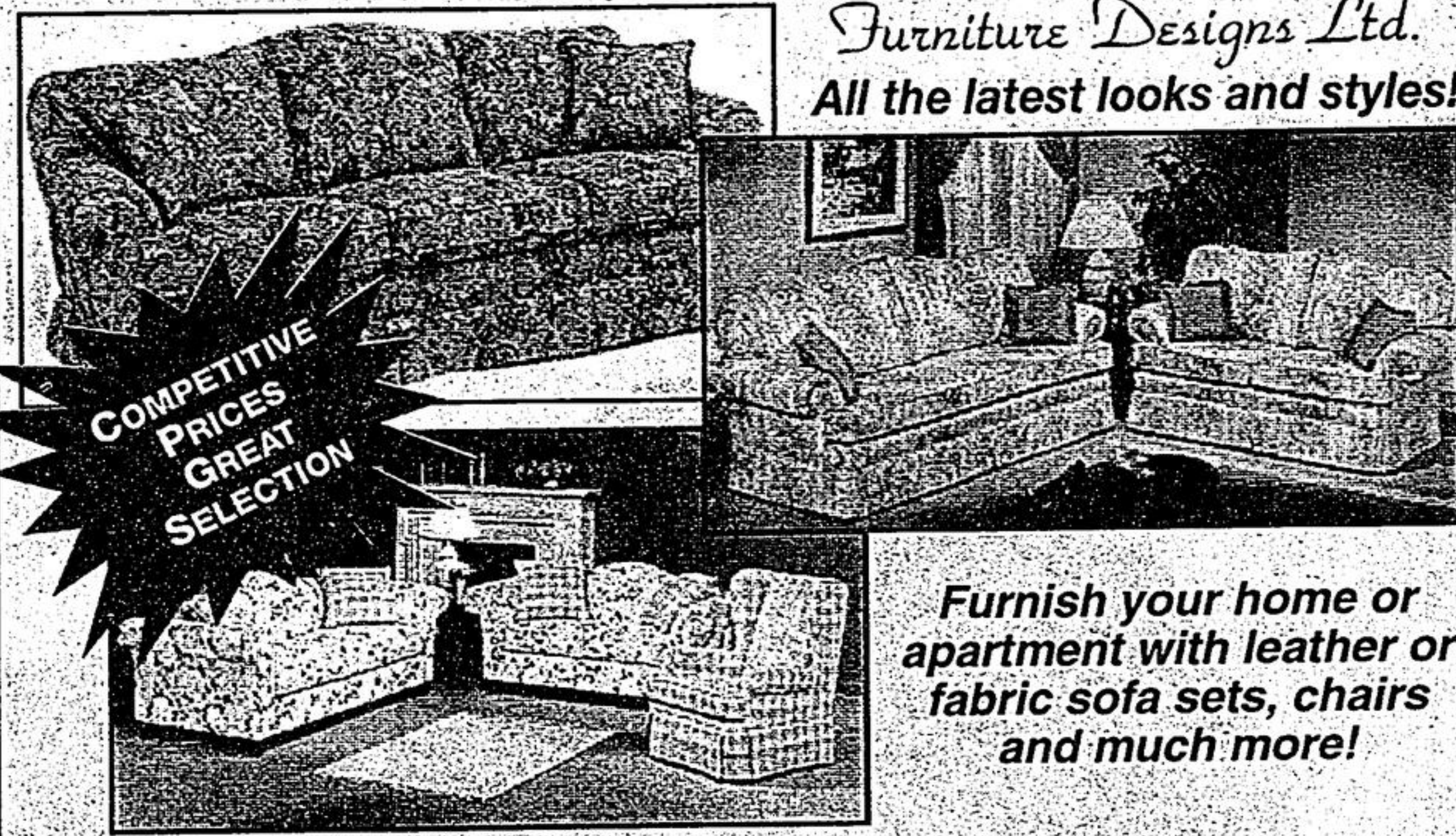


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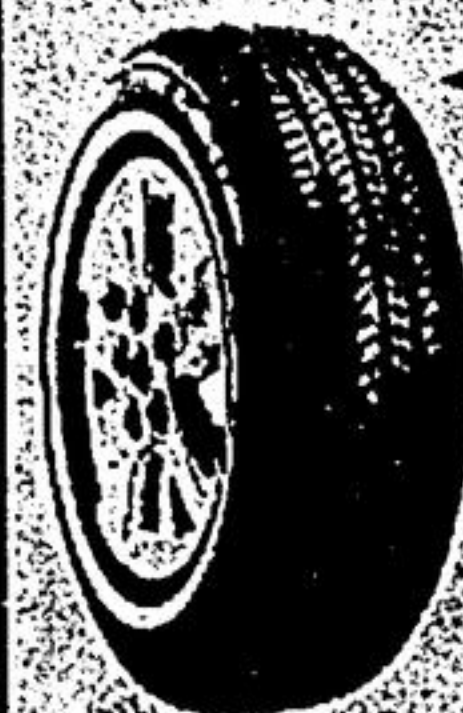
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