

TOTAL HOME

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How to clean household upholstery

Dust settles on upholstered furniture just like on hard surfaces.



Both vacuuming and light brushing help remove dirt and prevent it from getting embedded between the upholstery fibers.

When did you last clean your upholstery? Start now! Dust settles on upholstered furniture just like on hard surfaces. Remove it regularly using your vacuum cleaner's nozzle and crevice attachments. For down-filled cushions that are not lined with down-proof ticking, use a brush because a vacuum can draw out the down. Note, though, that on other materials brushes will scatter dust around. Both vacuuming and light brushing help remove dirt and prevent it from getting embedded between the upholstery fibers.

CLEAN WITH CARE

For the best results when cleaning upholstered furniture, read its tag. You will see the letter W, S, W-S or X and then care instructions that will explain how the furniture should be cleaned. Before doing any cleaning, always test an inconspicuous part of the furniture first. When in doubt, seek the advice or services of a professional.

Here's your guide to understanding cleaning instructions, code by code:

W: Frequently vacuum or brush lightly to remove dust and grime. Spot clean using foam only from a water-based cleaner such as a mild detergent or non-solvent upholstery shampoo. Apply foam

with a soft brush in a circular motion and vacuum when dry. Get a professional cleaning when the furniture is completely soiled.

S: Frequently vacuum or brush lightly to remove dust and grime. Spot clean using a mild water-free solvent or dry-cleaning product with carbon tetrachloride. It's recommended that you get this type of furniture professionally cleaned.

W-S: Frequently vacuum or brush lightly to remove dust and grime. Spot clean with a mild solvent, upholstery shampoo or the foam form of a mild detergent. Avoid using any product with carbon tetrachloride. When using a solvent or dry-cleaning product, follow the instructions and only clean in a well-ventilated area. Get professionally cleaned when the furniture is completely soiled.

X: Clean this fabric only by vacuuming or light brushing to prevent accumulation of dust and grime. Avoid a water-based foam cleaner or solvent-based cleaning agents which can cause excessive shrinking, staining or distortion of the surface pile.

After shampooing, dry the upholstery by opening the window or turning on an electric fan, a dehumidifier, or an air conditioner in the same room.



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