

A COMPLETE GUIDE ON UPHOLSTERY MAINTENANCE AND CARE



ABSTRACT

Upholstery maintenance and care are essential for extending the life of your furniture, car seats, and other upholstered items. Different materials require specific approaches to keep them clean, comfortable, and visually appealing. This guide covers the necessary steps for maintaining upholstery, including routine cleaning, spot treatment for stains, and periodic deep cleaning methods.

INTRODUCTION

Upholstery, whether on furniture, automotive seats, or other items, plays a significant role in both comfort and aesthetics. It is subject to wear and tear due to daily use, exposure to dust, dirt, spills, and sunlight. Maintaining the upholstery in your home or vehicle is essential to prolonging its lifespan, preserving its appearance, and ensuring that it remains hygienic. This guide provides practical insights into the proper care, maintenance, and cleaning of various types of upholstery fabrics, including leather, fabric, and synthetic materials. By following these tips, you can keep your upholstery looking new for longer, saving you money on replacements and repairs.

I. What is Upholstered Furniture?



It's more likely than not that you've sat on – if not owned – quite a bit of upholstered furniture. It's cushioned, soft and versatile, not to mention found in just about any living space, from the bed to the dining chairs to the sofa. But if you're like us, you may be curious to learn a little bit more about what's beneath the surface, and why upholstery is so popular.

In this post, we'll outline the basics of what constitutes upholstered furniture, walk through a quick bit of design history, highlight a few benefits, and guide in you choosing an upholstery fabric to best fit your lifestyle. Here we go!



Upholstered Furniture: The Basics

First things first: what falls into the category of “upholstery”? In its most basic form, upholstery refers to the materials, including the padding, webbing, coil springs, polyurethane foam and fabric that make up the soft coverings of furniture.

These soft coverings often provide cushioning for sitting (in the case of seat cushions on a chair or sofa) for added comfort, saving us from having to stretch out and rest on an exposed wood couch at the end of a long day.

Upholstery: A Quick History

The word “upholstery” dates all the way back to the Middle Ages, and is derived from the Middle English word “upholder,” which referred to a tradesman or artisan who held up their goods. At the very outset, upholsterers would affix animal skins to a wooden framework using nails. That practice eventually evolved to include padding,

loose cushions and pillows that were stuffed with materials like animal hair (typically horsehair).



While upholsters in the medieval times focused on mattresses and wall hangings, the 17th century introduced beds – and eventually sofas and chairs – that were draped in ornate fabrics such as velvet and silk. The 18th century saw the introduction of springs into the upholstery, making an upholstered piece more cushioned and resilient. In the 19th century, the Industrial Revolution sparked the development of machine-woven fabrics, chemical dyes and printed cotton. But despite all this innovation, the 20th century is really when modern upholstery techniques cropped up, with the development of synthetic fibers, dirt and liquid retardants, plywood, and more.

Upholstered Furniture: The Benefits

Upholstered furniture has steadily grown in popularity over the past several centuries for a number of reasons.

For one, softness. Upholstery adds a lovely visual softness to any room. Whether it's your bed or your sofa, the cushioned fabric gives off a warm and cozy vibe, practically begging you to snuggle in.

The comfort factor is major. It almost goes without saying that an upholstered sofa or chair is likely preferable to a wooden sofa, particularly if you plan to spend any more than 5 minutes on it. But many people have a bigger question around wood vs. upholstered beds. See our full guide on that here. In summary, if you're big on watching TV, reading, or sitting up and chatting in bed before you go to sleep or when you first wake up, the upholstered headboard is a must, providing that extra cushion so you don't need to create a makeshift headboard out of your extra pillows.

Upholstery is unmatched in versatility. This benefit is our personal favorite – upholstered furniture is incredibly, and easily, customizable on multiple different dimensions: shape, color and fabric.

- **Shape:** Whether you're shopping for the centerpiece of your room (larger pieces such as a sofa or bed) or browsing accent furniture (including ottomans, chairs, benches or room dividers), your upholstered furniture can take on many different looks to suit your style. From the pared-down, organic vibes of mid-century modern, to the more-is-more effect of layered maximalism, and everything in between (Bohemian? Sure! Traditionalist? Naturally.), the options for upholstery that fits your style are endless.
- **Color:** In this same vein, upholstered furniture can be customized to match any color scheme. Maybe you're opting for deep jewel-toned velvets, or instead a natural, earthy linen – by opting for upholstered (as opposed to a totally exposed wood or metal frame), you open up a lot of options in your interior design scheme.
- **Fabric:** Here's the most fun part! It wouldn't be upholstery without the fabric. Not only are you able to choose a material (velvet, linen, printed cotton, silk, suede, etc. – more on that below) but, if you'd like, you can add pattern to the mix. We're always fans of going bold – with a large-scale botanical (try a Banana Palm) or a fun animal print (hello, leopard sofa!), but if you're just dabbling, we love a small-scale pattern that could even read as a neutral (any ticking stripe). We love what you love.



How to Choose Upholstered Fabrics

Choosing the best upholstery fabrics for your home can feel daunting at first, but with a few guiding questions, you'll be pointed in the right direction.

Ask yourself:

- What style or vibe am I going for? An earthy, organic vibe may lean you in the direction of a leather or a crisp, neutral linen, whereas a glamorous, luxe style could steer you towards a soft velvet.
- What is the usage? In other words, where will this piece be in your home, and how much usage will it get? If it's a sofa in the living room that no one ever steps foot in, then visual effect may be more important the comfort, and you could take a risk on a less durable fabric. But if it's a dining room chair where you eat dinner every night, then a fabric that resists stains (not today, spaghetti sauce!) may be more up your alley.

- What is my budget? This will determine just how high-quality you go on the fabrics. However, remember that you don't need to spend a fortune to get quality upholstery.
- Do I have kids or pets? Two words and you're golden: performance fabrics! More on that below.

Best Upholstered Fabrics for Kids and Pets

If you have kids or pets that will be regularly interacting with the piece of furniture you're considering, then it's incredibly important you take into account a fabric's resiliency and durability.

Our top choice for any kid- or pet-traversed upholstery item is performance linen. Made of hospitality-grade fabric, it is engineered to be stain-resistant (typically spot cleaned with soap and water) and endure high-traffic use. The crispness of the linen also holds its shape without feeling overly stiff or rough. On the other hand, we'd recommend avoiding materials that wrinkle or scratch easily (for example, rayon) or that are magnets for pet hair (like microfiber or suede). But above all, remember that it's entirely possible to choose a kid-friendly sofa without sacrificing on style!

II. How to Pick the Best Upholstery Fabric for Furniture

Learn everything you need to know about durability, cleanability, soil resistance, and fading when choosing a material for your next upholstery project.

No matter how upholstery fabric is used in your home, it must stand up well to the amount of use the furniture gets. For example, sofas, chairs, and ottomans used less frequently, such as those in bedrooms or more formal spaces, will do fine with a more delicate fabric. However, pieces subjected to heavy daily wear, like the family room sofa, should be covered in tough, durable, tightly woven fabrics to protect against stains and damage.



Natural Upholstery Fabric Types

Natural upholstery fabrics refer to those woven from materials found in nature. This includes plant fibers and materials derived from animal products. Here are some of the most common natural fabrics used on upholstered furniture.

Cotton: This natural fiber resists wear, fading, and pilling. It is less resistant to soiling, wrinkling, and fire. Surface treatments and blending with other fibers often make up for these weaknesses. Durability and use depend on the weave and finish. Damask weaves are formal; canvas (duck and sailcloth) is more casual and durable.

Cotton Blend: Depending on the weave, cotton blends can be sturdy, family-friendly fabrics. A stain-resistant finish, such as Scotchgard Fabric and Upholstery Protector, should be applied to furnishings used daily.

Leather: Leather is a rugged material that can be gently vacuumed, damp-wiped, and cleaned with leather conditioner or saddle soap.

Synthetic Upholstery Fabric Types

Synthetic fabrics are manufactured materials designed using chemical processes. They are typically more durable and less expensive than natural upholstery fabrics.

Acetate: Developed as imitation silk, acetate can withstand mildew, pilling, and shrinking. However, it offers only fair resistance to soil and tends to wear, wrinkle, and fade in the sun. It's not a good choice for furniture that will get everyday use.

Acrylic: This synthetic fiber was developed as imitation wool. It resists wear, wrinkling, soiling, and fading. Low-quality acrylic may pill excessively in areas that receive high degrees of abrasion. High-quality acrylics are manufactured to pill significantly less.



Microfiber: Made from polyester, this popular upholstery fabric has a velvet-like texture but is much more durable. It resists water, stains, and fading, so it's great for high-use furnishings.

Nylon: Rarely used alone, nylon is usually blended with other fibers to make it one of the strongest upholstery fabrics. Nylon is very resilient; in a blend, it helps eliminate the crushing of napped fabrics such as velvet. It doesn't readily soil or wrinkle, but it does tend to fade and pill.

Olefin: This is a good choice for indoor and outdoor furniture that will receive heavy wear. It's highly resistant to stains, mildew, abrasion, and sunlight.

Polyester: Rarely used alone in upholstery, polyester is mixed with other fibers to add wrinkle resistance, eliminate crushing of napped fabrics, and reduce fading. When blended with wool, polyester aggravates pilling problems.

Rayon: Developed as an alternative to silk, linen, and cotton, rayon is durable, but it does wrinkle. However, recent developments have made high-quality rayon a practical, family-friendly upholstery fabric.

Vinyl: Easy-care and less expensive than leather, vinyl fabrics are ideal for busy living and dining rooms. Durability depends on quality.

Outdoor Rooms

DIY Upholstery

Recovering old furniture with new fabric can completely transform the look and functionality of the piece. While reupholstering an item yourself can save you hundreds of dollars, the process can be a little tricky. You should check that the piece's structure is in good shape before you begin.

Be sure to choose a fabric that's easy to work with and appropriate for the piece's level of use. When you're ready to reupholster, remove the old fabric and use it as a guide for the size and shape of the new fabric pieces.



Here are some guides to reupholstering to help you with your projects.

- [How to Make a Sleek Upholstered Headboard](#)
- [How to Reupholster Dining Room Chairs to Easily Update Your Look](#)
- [Do-It-Yourself Upholstered Wall](#)
- [How to Make Welting for Your DIY Upholstery Project](#)

III. How to Clean Upholstery in 15 Minutes or Less

Most of us have a preferred spot on the couch or a comfy chair that we use every day for relaxing, napping, and even a bit of work. Eventually, the fabric gets dirty and perhaps develops a few stains—especially if you love eating and drinking while hanging out on your favorite recliner. Fortunately, if you have about 15 minutes, you can clean the upholstery with just a few tools and products you probably have on hand.



How Often to Clean Upholstery

- **Immediately** clean away spills, stains, and pet accidents—a portable carpet cleaner like the Bissell Pet Stain Eraser Plus is a good investment if that is a constant issue.
- **Weekly** use the upholstery brush attachment on your vacuum—or a handheld model like the Eufy HomeVac (one of our favorite cordless vacuums for hardwood floors)—to get rid of dust and loose soil.
- **Seasonally** (or as needed) do a thorough cleaning—an upholstery cleaner can help revive your furniture. Alternatively, a steam cleaner can disinfect and remove germs, allergens, and pests.

When using a dry cleaning or water-free solvent, be certain that the area is well-ventilated and that you are far enough away from heat sources and open flames.

What You Need

- Vacuum with hose and upholstery brush attachment

- Sponge
- Microfiber cloths
- Medium bowls
- Handheld electric mixer or whisk
- Plastic buckets
- Soft-bristled brush
- Mild dishwashing liquid
- Baking soda or cornstarch
- Paper towels

How to Clean Upholstery

Step 1: Vacuum Well

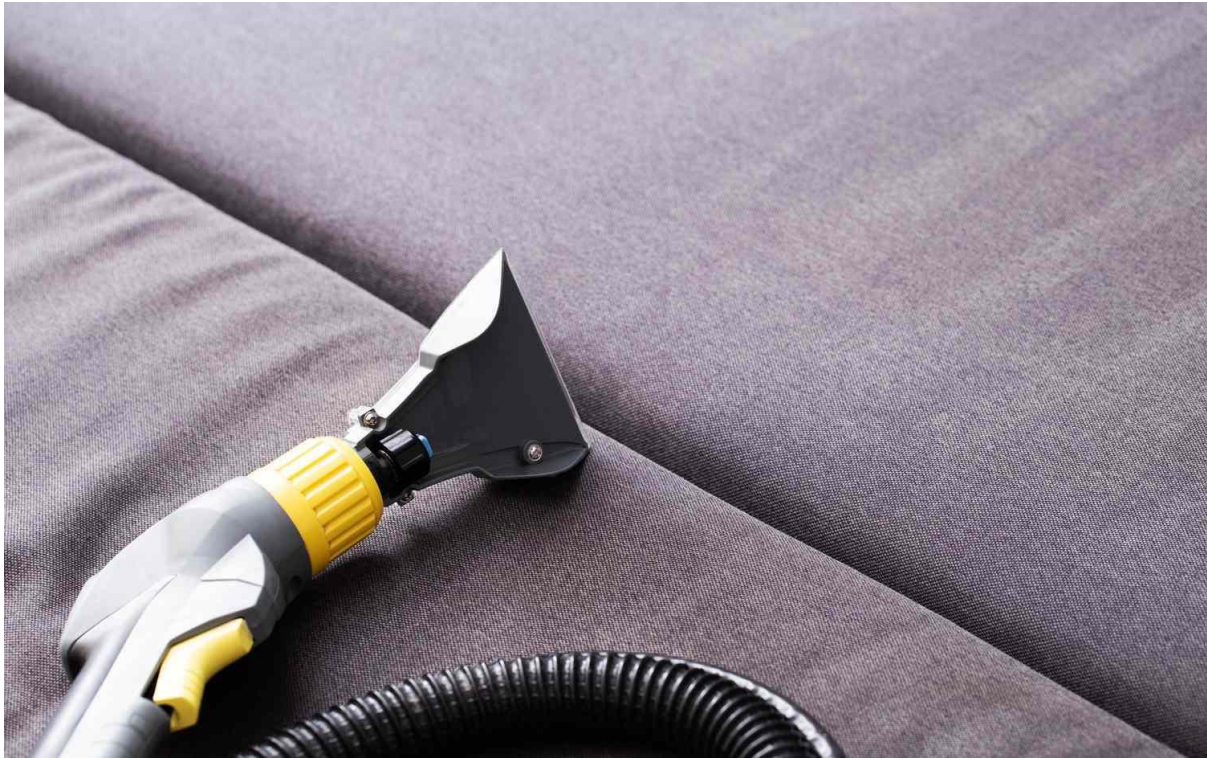
Use the upholstery attachment and crevice tool to vacuum away loose dust and soil, like the Kenmore Pet-Friendly Pop-N-Go Canister, one of our favorite vacuums for pet hair. Start at the top of the furniture and work down slowly. Don't forget to clean the back and sides of the piece and under the cushions. You can also use something like the Gleener Fabric Shaver & Lint Brush to remove debris and pet hair and keep your upholstery clean and smooth.

Step 2: Mix a Stain Remover

If using a commercial cleaner, like a pet stain remover, follow the label's directions carefully. To make your own, combine 1/4 cup dishwashing liquid and 1 cup warm water in a medium bowl, and then use a whisk or handheld electric mixer to create suds. This stain remover can also be used to spot clean non-machinable picnic blankets.

Step 3: Prepare Rinse

Fill a second bowl or small bucket with warm water to use for rinsing.



Step 4: Treat the Stains

- Dipping only into the suds, use a sponge or soft-bristled brush to gently scrub the stains. As the soil transfers, rinse the sponge in clear water.
- Wring the rinsed sponge until it's no longer dripping, gather more suds, and then apply the suds to any remaining stain or heavily soiled areas.

Step 5: Mix an Overall Upholstery Cleaner

For overall cleaning, add 1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid per gallon of water in a bucket. Set out a second bucket filled with clean water.

Step 6: Start at the Top

- Dip a sponge in your cleaning solution and then wring until just damp (not dripping).
- Starting at the top, wipe down all surfaces of the upholstered piece. Rinse out the sponge in the cleaning solution frequently as you work. Wring the sponge well so the furniture's padding does not become overly wet.

Step 7: Rinse the Upholstery

When your piece is clean, dip a microfiber cloth in the clean water and wring until just damp. Start at the top and wipe away any soapy residue that remains. (Leaving sticky traces of cleaner on the surface attracts soil more quickly).

Step 8: Air-Dry

Allow the upholstery to air-dry away from direct heat or sunlight, and don't use the piece until it's completely dry. To speed up the process, set up a circulating fan in the room.

IV. How to clean a velvet couch — four simple steps to refresh yours



Knowing how to clean a velvet couch is key to maintaining its supple, luxury look and boy is it worth it, because these babies are as beautiful as they are stylish.

Velvet sometimes comes with a reputation as a fussy fabric, requiring extra care to maintain its rich color and plushness, but our cleaning and couch experts have detailed four simple steps to refresh yours, as well as products to use and avoid.

How to clean a velvet couch with confidence

If you're looking for advice on how to clean a couch, our industry pros are on hand with this guide to help you restore that luxe va-va-voom back to your velvet. If you're dealing with a urine stain, that will be a slightly different process that our experts have shared tips for in our dedicated guide to cleaning pee from a couch.

Depending on the stains, you may need:

- Microfiber cloths
- Paper towels
- Rubbing alcohol
- Baking soda

- Dish soap
- Cleaning vinegar
- Handheld steamer
- Vacuum

Step 1: Know your velvet



Not all velvets are created equal. Natural ones are made of linen, silk, or mohair and require a bit more TLC, whilst synthetic velvets consist of nylon, rayon or polyester and can more easily withstand pets, stains and general wear-and-tear.

Whatever the composition, it's important to check the care label and laundry symbol meanings before deciding how to clean a velvet couch in your home.

Step 2: Spot-clean stains



Velvet is a plush princess — so spot-cleaning promptly when stains occur (including removing red wine stains) is critical to maintaining its regal elegance.

Amy says, “When a spill occurs, soak it up immediately using an absorbent, light-colored cloth or paper towel. If needed, apply a lifting liquid (such as diluted vinegar solution or a small amount of baking soda) by gently dabbing it onto the stain. Finally, sponge it off with water.

We like the Heinz cleaning vinegar available on Amazon, and recommend Amazon Basics microfiber towels. Just remember to learn how to wash microfiber cloths to help retain its absorbent properties and prolong its life.

“For tougher stains, such as ink, blot the stain with a tissue, working from the outside in to prevent further seeping. Gently scrub at the stain with a damp cloth and mild dish soap (such as Dawn EZ-Squeeze available at Target), cleaning off the soap with just water until no more ink transfers.”

Finally, apply rubbing alcohol (our experts recommend the Equate 70% Rubbing Alcohol from Walmart) to a cotton ball and gently rub the stain in a circular motion. Wipe away any remaining rubbing alcohol with a damp cloth.

If you already have cleaning supply subscriptions, you may have ingredients such as Arm and Hammer Baking Soda from Amazon already. Though it's always wise to test your product first on an inconspicuous area.

Step 3: Vacuum



The best way to give your velvet the care it needs is a regular vacuum. Once a fortnight is a good place to start, with extra attention after parties or busy weekends.

Cleaning expert Will Cotter, of HappyCleans, says, “Grab a vacuum cleaner (we recommend one of our highly-rated, tried and test best vacuum cleaners) with a soft brush attachment to gently remove any dust, dirt, and debris from the surface and within the fabric pile.

Step 4: Steam clean



Vacuuming, brushing or spot cleaning your velvet couch can often leave creases or compression marks. A steamer can be just the trick.

Will says, "For wrinkles or creases, a handheld steamer (such as one of *Real Homes* tried and tested best steam cleaners) kept at a safe distance is ideal to smooth them out. Select a low setting and never use too much water."

To help maintain this fresh look, avoid placing heavy items directly on the couch. The weight can crush the fibers and create unsightly indentations.

High-quality steam cleaners include the Bissell Little Green HydroSteam we've reviewed. For those on small budgets, this handheld Koitat Handheld Steam Cleaner from Walmart is a snip.

V. How to Clean Leather Sofa at Home

Leather is a perfect material for sofas and chairs. Leather furniture is durable and looks luxurious but requires regular maintenance to keep it pristine and shiny. You can uplift your living room's overall look and feel with a well-maintained sofa. Using abrasive cleaning tools to remove spills and stains can leave scratches and marks behind. Plus, applying harsh cleaning chemicals can ruin its finish.



Since leather sofas are expensive, use DIY tips and eco-friendly cleaning products to remove dust, dirt and stains at home. The best part is that you do not need expensive and fancy products to restore the shine of your leather sofa. You can save money and protect the environment from carbon emissions and other hazardous elements. With the help of the following cleaning tricks and stain removal treatment, they can last for years.

1. Vacuum Your Sofa to Fetch Dirt and Debris

Before using any cleaning solvent, remove dust particles, dirt and pet hair using a HEPA-filtered vacuum machine with a soft brush attachment. Do this gently and get into the nooks and crannies to catch dirt and loose debris. Vacuum your leather sofa twice a week to maintain its pristine shine, especially if you have dogs or cats at home.

2. Remove Stains with a Vinegar Solution

You can remove stains and grime from your leather sofa at home using vinegar and water solution. Mix equal parts of water and white vinegar and dip a microfiber cloth. Squeeze out excess solution and wipe the surface with your gentle hands. Focus on the affected areas because vinegar can absorb stains without causing any damage to the leather.

Make sure you wipe the sofa again with a fresh towel to get rid of vinegar residue. This will also restore the shine of your furniture. If you are moving out of the rental property and worried about your bond money, book the best end of lease cleaning Hobart.

They will handle your cleaning needs and help you pass the rental inspection. However, they won't clean your furniture, so clean your leather couch using these tips.

3. Tackle Mould and Fungus with Rubbing Alcohol

It is one of the safest alternatives to store-bought mould and mildew remover. You just need to dab rubbing alcohol on muslin cloth or microfiber cloth and wipe the affected area of your sofa.



Leave it for a few minutes to let the stain break out. Mould and mildew must be treated immediately; otherwise, they can damage your plush leather sofa. You can also use a sponge to remove the mould from your surface without causing any damage.

Rubbing alcohol can help you tackle hard-to-remove stuff, such as crayon marks, pet urine, etc with ease. **Tip:** Always test the alcohol on a hidden surface to check its compatibility with the leather material.

4. Remove Dark Stains Using Lemon

You can easily remove dark stains, like wine, coffee, etc, from your light-coloured leather sofa by using lemon juice. Rub it over the affected area and leave it for 10 minutes. Apply it again and remove it with a damp cloth or a sponge. If you are preparing your rental property at the end of your tenancy, book professionals for a detailed end of lease clean Hobart and get your full bond back without any dispute.

5. Treat Stubborn Ink Stains with Hydrogen Peroxide

Hydrogen peroxide is a mild yet effective cleaning solution that can help you get rid of stubborn stains from almost all surfaces. It can easily remove stubborn stains, mould, bacteria and germs from soft furnishings. You can use this magical product to clean and disinfect your home for a baby and other family members. You can tackle dried ink stains with 3 per cent of Hydrogen peroxide and warm water. Pour this mixture into a spray bottle and apply it to the affected area. Leave it for 6-7 minutes and wipe it off using a damp cloth. Make sure you buff-dry the couch using a dry cloth.

6. Disinfect and Deodorise Sofa With Baking Soda

Baking soda is the best natural disinfectant and deodoriser for your leather sofa. It can help you get rid of stains and lethal germs and banish odours in no time. The best part is that you need to sprinkle a generous amount of baking soda over your sofa. Leave it for a few hours or until you vacuum-clean it. Ensure you get rid of baking soda residue, or else it will leave an unpleasant odour. You can also try other natural recipes for a fresh smelling house.

7. Use Olive Oil and Vinegar Solution For Extra Shine

You can apply vinegar and olive oil solution directly to the stained area and let it dry. Now, use a mild dish soap and warm water solution and wipe off the sofa to remove dirt, dust particles, and vinegar residue.



Important Things to Keep in Mind When Cleaning Leather Sofa at Home

Many people cause damage to their beautiful and expensive leather sofas by using the wrong cleaning techniques. So, here are some important tips to remember when cleaning your leather furniture at home:

- Never use an abrasive scrubber or tool to remove stains as it can leave scratches behind
- Act on spills and splatters immediately. Don't allow the leather to soak in the substance.
- Do not apply ammonia-based cleaning solution as it can cause dullness
- Never expose your leather sofa to sunlight because the heat can cause it to fade
- Use mild dish soap, vinegar and warm water solution for regular cleaning of your sofa.
- Seek the help of trained cleaners in Hobart every few months to deep clean your leather furniture.

You can also hire trained end of lease cleaners Hobart if you are worried about your hard-earned deposited security. You can avoid disputes about a bond if you return the premises in a clean and organised state.

With the help you these simple tips and tricks, you can remove dirt, dust, stains and mould from your leather sofa at home. The best part is that you don't need fancy cleaning bottles and sprays. Use vinegar, lemon, hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol, baking soda, and warm water for a sparkling leather sofa.

VI. Best Upholstery Cleaners, Recommended by Stain Removal Experts



We've been independently researching and testing products for over 120 years. If you buy through our links, we may earn a commission. Learn more about our review process.

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Best Overall Upholstery Cleaner

Bissell Little Green Multi-Purpose Portable Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner



Best Upholstery Cleaner Spray for Stains

Best Plant-Based Upholstery Cleaner

Method Stain and Odor Treatment Spray

Soft upholstery is a magnet for the stains and odors that are a natural part of every household. From food and drink spills to cooking odors to the shoes that family members forget to leave at the door, upholstered furniture gets more wear and tear than you might think. Regular vacuuming removes loose dust and dirt, and if you are a pet owner, a **pet hair removing tool** or a **vacuum that excels at sucking up pet hair** is a must.

Below, you'll find **the best upholstery cleaners from our testing**, no matter what type of treatment is safest for your upholstered pieces. Whether you plan on **deep-cleaning a fabric couch** or **spot-cleaning a leather chair**, we have a recommendation for you. After our picks, consult our guide to the **best car upholstery cleaners** to keep your vehicle in top-top shape.

Best Overall Upholstery Cleaner

Pros

- Works on large and small areas

- Easy to carry and store
- Powerful suction
- Comes with a tool to rinse the hose after use

Cons

- Somewhat loud

Easy to store and easy to tote from room to room, Bissell's Little Green can remove just one stain or clean an entire sofa. **We first tested this little social media star many years ago and have continued to recommend it in our roundups because it never fails to impress.** Simply fill the clean tank with water and one of Bissell's cleaning formulas and switch it on. Then, spritz the solution onto the fabric through the nozzle at the end of the hose, gently scrub with the soft brush and vacuum it all back into the dirty water tank for easy emptying.



Best Upholstery Cleaner Spray for Stains

Pros

- Contains oxy ingredients to lighten stains

- Works quickly
- EPA Safer Choice certified

Cons

- Should be tested for color safety in a hidden spot
- Not for silk, velvet, vinyl or leather upholstery

Woolite's Instaclean stain remover contains ingredients that penetrate and dissolve stains on contact. **Hydrogen peroxide in the formula acts like a fabric-safe bleach to remove the remnants of colored stains like tomato sauce, coffee, fruit juice and more** without damaging or changing the color of the upholstery. Simply apply the EPA Safer Choice certified formula, let set for one minute and blot.

Type	Spray
Size	22 oz.
Works on carpet and upholstery	Yes
Best for fabrics coded	W and WS

Best Plant-Based Upholstery Cleaner

Pros

- Removed old, stubborn stains in our tests
- Contains plant-based cleaning ingredients
- Dispenses neatly for targeting stains

Cons

- Needs 10 minutes to work

We've tested many of Method's dish liquids, laundry detergents, all-purpose cleaners and more. They all **use plant-based ingredients in their formulas and have all proven to be effective cleaners in our tests**. But this Method Stain and Odor

Treatment is the first one in the line to tackle and remove stains from un-washable household fabrics like upholstery and carpeting.

Type	Spray
Size	20 oz.
Works on carpet and upholstery	Yes
Best for fabrics coded	W and WS



Best Upholstery Cleaner for Pet Stains

Pros

- Contains enzymes to tackle bacteria and odors
- Works on carpets, upholstery, mattresses and more
- Removes pet, food and other stains

Cons

- For best results, it needs time to work

If you own pets that have had accidents on your upholstery, carpets or bedding, you know that it's not just the stains that are problematic, but the lingering odors too. Left untreated, they can draw your cat or dog back to the very same spot. What we especially like about this Bissell formula — besides how well it removes stains — is that **it contains enzymes to attack both the stain and the odor pet messes leave behind.**

Type	Spray
Size	22 oz.
Works on carpet and upholstery	Yes
Best for fabrics coded	W and WS



Best Upholstery Cleaner for Delicate Fabrics

Pros

- Safe for delicate fabrics
- Doesn't cause water spots

- Brightens fabrics and removes dirt

Cons

- May not remove old, set-in stains

Delicate upholstery fabrics like silk brocade, while beautiful, can be problematic to clean. Silk is usually not safe for wet cleaning and can be damaged by the majority of upholstery cleaners on the market. And some water-based cleaners also caution against using them on **velvet upholstery**, whether silk or synthetic. As a result, furniture covered in delicate fabric is often labeled with the cleaning codes S or X, for solvent cleaning only or no wet cleaning at all.

Type	Granules
Size	16 oz.
Works on carpet and upholstery	Yes
Best for fabrics coded	W, S, WS and X



Best Upholstery Cleaner for Leather

Pros

- Gently cleans without drying the leather
- Protector makes future stains easier to remove
- Kit includes an applicator and cloth

Cons

- A two-step process

Many people think leather upholstery is delicate and needs special care when in reality, it can be more forgiving and easier to care for than fabric. As long as you keep it out of direct sunlight and away from sharp objects, spills can usually be blotted from it quickly and grime is easy to remove. That's where **GH Seal** star, Furniture Clinic Leather Care Kit, comes in. It's **a one-two punch that removes dirt and conditions as well as helps protect against future stains.**

Type	Cream
Size	17 oz.
Works on carpet and upholstery	No
Best for fabrics coded	N/A

CONCLUSION

Proper upholstery maintenance is not only about keeping your furniture or car seats looking great; it's about preserving their value and ensuring they continue to provide comfort and functionality. By understanding the unique care requirements of different fabrics and materials, you can take the necessary steps to keep your upholstery in top shape. Regular cleaning, quick attention to spills, and using protective products will go a long way in maintaining your investment.

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