



Wool's great resistance

Nature has given wool a greater resistance to micro-organisms

Vigilant hygiene is of the utmost importance to help prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, for both personal and public spaces. We recommend following all recommendations and guidelines by the WHO and local governments to protect yourself and others.

So far, frequently touched hard surfaces such as metal, glass and plastic seem to carry the virus. The surface of a fabric is not seen as a major carrier of the virus because the virus becomes trapped in the fibres and therefore has a reduced likelihood of spreading.

Current studies no longer indicate that the virus is viable after 72 hours in normal, dry, indoor conditions.

Earlier research suggested that COVID-19 can stay alive on stainless steel surfaces up to 72 hours. Newer research shows that the virus survives up to 4-5 days on paper, 5 days on plastic, 3 hours in the air, 2-8 hours on aluminium, 8 hours on surgical gloves and 4 days on wood and glass.

The virus survives much longer on hard surfaces than on soft surfaces such as textile materials.

In order to avoid getting infected with the virus, hand cleaning is crucial. It is also necessary to clean hard surfaces in frequent use such door handles and payment terminals made of plastic and steel materials.

Nature has given wool a greater resistance to micro-organisms like bacteria and viruses; more so than other natural materials. This resistance is mainly due to the sulphur crosslinks that are present in the fibrous keratin (protein) material. Researchers therefore say that wool has a natural anti-bacterial property.

A major advantage of using wool-based upholstery fabrics is that impurities sit loosely and are easily removed with proper cleaning / maintenance. Wool fiber has natural dirt repellent properties and masks smells/ odors.

Textiles made of wool are easy to clean and maintain and therefore retain their appearance over time.

If contamination is suspected, first clean the fabric and then consider a disinfection method and / or quarantining the furniture for 72 hours.

Regular and good cleaning of the textile fabric is the most important issue. Any additional disinfecting measures applied to a properly cleaned woollen fabric are an optional precaution

WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING REGULAR CLEANING PROCEDURES OF OUR WOOL-BASED FABRICS:



Remove spots as soon as they occur



Vacuum clean on a regular basis



Spray/extraction clean with lukewarm water when moderately soiled

THE FOLLOWING DISINFECTION METHODS MAY BE CONSIDERED:



Spray / extraction with warm water – hot temperature may affect the colour



Steam / extraction – does not affect the wool itself, but may affect the colour



Alcohol and ethanol-based disinfectants can be used without damaging the wool – they often contain glycerin that may attract dirt - may affect the colour and cause staining



Do not use any form of bleaching agents



Do not wash in washing machine

If applying cleaning agents, only use those suitable for wool. They should be neutral to slightly acidic, about pH 6. After using cleaning agents, the process must be repeated using clean water to ensure proper rinsing.

For more information www.gu.no

Cleaning Guide

Recommended cleaning and maintenance of our wool-based upholstery fabrics:



STAIN REMOVAL

Stains must be removed immediately while they are fresh. Most types of impurities are water-based and can be easily removed with clean, lukewarm water.



VACUUM CLEANING

We recommend regular use of a vacuum cleaner with a smooth mouthpiece so that upholstery fabrics stay fresh and neat over time. Soiled fabrics can also attract more impurities.



SPRAY / EXTRACTION CLEANING

There are benefits of occasionally using a furniture spray / extraction cleaning machine. These are specialized cleaning machines that can be used for carpets as well as furniture. It is important that a smooth mouthpiece for use on upholstery fabrics is used, and that no more water is applied than necessary in order to avoid the filling material on the furniture from getting wet. Clean, lukewarm water can be used for cleaning. If the furniture is very dirty, you can use a recognized cleaning agent for wool (neutral to slightly acidic, approx. pH 6). Improper use of cleaning agents and chemicals can cause chemical damage to wool and can destroy important technical properties. Wool degrades at a higher pH and can in extreme cases dissolve. Bleaching agents should not be used because they can cause colour fading (bleaching) where the stain has been. If detergents are used, then the process must be repeated with clean water so that the detergent is well rinsed out. The supplier's instructions for machine and cleaning agents must be followed carefully.

If stains cannot be removed with water, see our cleaning and stain removal guide.



IMPREGNATION

A major advantage of using our wool based upholstery fabrics is that impurities sit loosely and are easily removed. Moreover, wool has good, natural water-repellent properties when clean and untreated. Our recommendation is to focus on regular maintenance and cleaning of our furniture fabrics.

GU believes that the environment is important and makes great efforts in producing environmentally friendly fabrics based on natural, sustainable raw materials and environmentally friendly processes. Therefore, we encourage our customers not to use chemicals, except absolutely necessary cleaning agents recommended for use on wool.

We do not recommend the use of impregnation during normal use in private or public environments, on our wool-based furniture fabrics because it is an unnecessary use of chemicals.

If there is a requirement that the upholstery fabrics must be impregnated, we recommend that this additional finishing treatment is done at our mill during production. We will thus ensure a more lasting and genuine treatment, and at the same time we will perform this in the most environmentally friendly way. With this treatment, the fabric becomes water-repellent and thus "stain resistant". Please be advised that the fabric may turn slightly yellower because the process will require an extra heat treatment that may cause the wool to yellow slightly. The treatment must be performed in whole rolls of approx 50 meters. The use of impregnation is not considered as an alternative to normal maintenance but rather as part of a regular maintenance program.



SHORT-TERM PILLING MAY OCCUR ON WOOL-BASED UPHOLSTERY FABRICS

A natural, short-term pilling may occur in the beginning on wool-based upholstery fabrics. This temporary pilling may occur because the wool on the sheep has a natural variation in fiber length and fineness. We consciously try to extract as much short wool fibers as possible in our processes. The remaining short wool fibers will not bind as well in the yarns as the long wool fibers and therefore may float to the surface of the fabric in the beginning.

This is a natural and diminishing effect. The initial wool pilling are loose and will over time disappear by themselves. They can also be easily removed by vacuuming with a smooth mouthpiece and careful use of a lint remover.

Read more about us

www.gu.no

Guide to spot removal

| TYPE OF SPOT | 1. METHOD | 2.METHOD | 3.METHOD |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Alcoholic beverages | 2 | - | - |
| Blood | 6 | 1 | - |
| Polishing agent | 3 | 2 | - |
| Colas and Soft Drinks | 5 | 2 | - |
| Egg | 6 | 1 | 4/3 |
| Cream | 6 | 1 | 4/3 |
| Fruit Juice | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| Coffe | 1 | 15 | 14 |
| Ink (Ball Point Pen) | 9 | 2 | - |
| Latex Paint | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Lipstick | 4 | 2 | - |
| Cooking oils | 4 | 2 | - |
| Milk | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Furniture Polish | 4 | 2 | 9/11 |
| Nail Polish | 10 | 4 | - |
| Oils and Grease | 4/3 | 2 | - |
| Paint (oil alkyd paint) | 11 | 4 | 2 |
| Vornit | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Salad Dressing | 4 | 2 | - |
| Sauce | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Mustard | 2 | - | - |
| Chocolate | 2 | 4 | - |
| Shoe Polish | 4 | 11 | - |
| Butter | 4 | 2 | - |
| Soot | 12 | 4 | 2 |
| Stearin | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| Silver copper plating | 4 | 11 | 2 |
| Tea | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| Tar | 3 | 16 | - |
| felt pen | 9 | 3 | - |
| Chewing gum | 8 | 3 | - |
| Urine (Old Stain) | 5 | 2 | 16 |
| Urine (Fresh Stain) | 5 | 1 | - |

CAUTION: Dry cleaning fluids may be toxic and/or flammable. The usual precautions should be taken when handling these products – proper ventilation during and after cleaning and no naked flames. Never let cleaning fluids penetrate the fabric as the filling material may be damaged. Bleaching agents should also be used very sparingly to avoid miscolouring.

| SPOT REMOVAL METHODS AND AGENTS ETC. | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Biological washing powder |
| 2 | Detergent suitable for wool - approx. pH 6 |
| 3 | Dry cleaning |
| 4 | Proprietary agent for removing greasy stains |
| 5 | Clean warm water |
| 6 | Cold water |
| 7 | Absorbent paper and hot iron |
| 8 | Chill with aerosol freezing agent or ice cubes in a plastic bag |
| 9 | Pick or scrape off excess |
| 10 | Surgical alcohol or methylated spirits |
| 11 | Nail Polish remover (acetone) |
| 12 | White spirit |
| 13 | Vacuuming |
| 14 | Proprietary absorbent powders |
| 15 | Spirit vinegar (acetic acid 5%) |
| 16 | Scrape lightly with fingers or a coin |

MAINTENANCE: Weekly light vacuuming is desirable in order to keep wool fabrics looking their best, and occasional cleaning is also recommended. Cleaning should be done with a reputable brand of upholstery schampoo following the manufacture's instructions exactly.

SPOT REMOVAL: Staining is minimised on wool upholstery. The outer cuticle and epicuticle allow it to shed liquids yet readily absorb moisture vapour. This means that liquid spills do not enter the fibre's core rapidly, so staining is prevented if spills are promptly removed and treated. First, mop any excess liquid or semisolids with white absorbent tissues or a clean cloth. Scoop up dry solids with a spoon. Use the cleaning method shown on the chart above. Always inwards from the edge of the stain to prevent it from spreading. Use small amounts of cleaning liquid at a time and blot between applications, or even better use a vacuum cleaner. Avoid pressing liquid through the fabric. If possible, place a wad of white tissue between the fabric and the filling. Continue until the stain has disappeared. Never rush or panic, work patiently and thoroughly.