

Cleaning upholstery fabrics

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 shampoo following the manufacturer's instructions exactly.

SPOT REMOVAL

- 1 Biological washing powder (2g/100 ml).
- 2 Proprietary upholstery shampoo solution.
- 3 Dry Cleaning fluid (1.1.1. trichloroethane).
- 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. Pick or scrape off excess.
- 9 Surgical alcohol or methylated spirits.
- 10 Nail polish remover (preferably acetone).
- 11 Turpentine or white spirit.
- 12 Vacuum.
- 13 Proprietary absorbent powders.
- 14 Spirit vinegar (acetic acid).
- 15 Hydrogen peroxide (1.9 g peroxide/100 ml water).
- 16 Scrape lightly with fingers or a coin.
- 17 Call professional cleaner.

If the first treatment is not successful, leave to dry and then try second, and if necessary, resort to the third. If the stain is not removed, call in a professional cleaner at once.

Alcoholic Beverages	2	-	-
Blood	6	1	-
Burn or Scorch Mark	16	15	-
Butter	4	2	-
Candle Wax	8	7	4
Chewing Gum	8	3	-
Chocolate	2	4	-
Coffee	1	15	14
Colas and Soft Drinks	5	2	-
Cooking Oils	4	2	-
Cream	6	1	4/3
Egg	6	1	4/3
Felt Tip Pen	9	3	-
Floor Wax	3	2	-
Fruit juice	6	2	9
Furniture Polish	4	2	9/11
Gravy and Sauces	5	1	2
Ink (Fountain Pen)	5	2	9
Ink (Ball Point Pen)	9	2	-
Lipstick	4	2	-
Metal Polish	4	11	2
Milk	5	1	2
Mustard	2	-	-
Nail Polish	10	4	-
Oil and Grease	4/3	2	-
Paint (Emulsion)	6	2	4
Paint Oil	11	4	2
Salad Dressing	4	2	-
Shoe Polish	4	11	-
Soot	12	4	2
Tar	3	17	-
Tea	5	14	1
Urine (Fresh Stain)	5	1	-
Urine (Old Stain)	5	2	17
Vomit	5	1	2
Wine	13	5	9

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 semi-solids 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 work inwards from the edge of the stain to prevent it 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.

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 the cleaning fluids penetrate the fabric as the filling material may be damaged. Bleaching agents should also be used very sparingly to avoid miscolouring.