

# Furniture Care Guide

## IMPORTANCE OF PROPER FURNITURE CARE

After spending so much time picking the perfect furniture for your home, you want them to look beautiful as long as you can. And that's possible with regular cleaning and care. Doing some regular maintenance will keep your furniture looking great and extend its durability. You won't find yourself thinking about buying new chairs in a few years if they look just as good as when you bought them. If dirt and grime is left on your furniture, it not only looks bad but can be abrasive to the material and cause damage to your precious furniture. Regular cleaning can also help you control allergens and odors that make living uncomfortable.

Proper care can be as simple as proper placement. Avoid placing furniture where it will be hit by sunlight for extended periods of the day as that will fade colors and cause materials to weaken and crack. Unless your furniture is made of teak or other materials resistant to temperature fluctuations do not place furniture near heat sources, i.e. heaters and radiators. Dry heat will dry the wood and shrink it, leading to cracks and a weakened construction.

With proper placement and regular care your furniture will look great and serve you for years.



## CLEANING TIPS

### WOOD

For most cleaning, lightly dampen a soft cloth with warm water and mild dish soap and rub the area. Lightly using water won't harm your furniture, avoid soaking. Avoid harsh cleaners that can damage the finish or sealer. Common blemishes on wood furniture come from hot coffee cups. If you have a white ring left over from a hot item left on your furniture, use a MILD abrasive to get it out. Use your finger for small spots or a soft cloth for large areas. If you have a scratch, shoe polish, and even walnuts, can be rubbed lightly onto a scratch to help cover up any blemishes. Remember, it is always best to rub, brush, or scrub with the grain, not against it.

### LEATHER

First remove all dust from the leather area. It is easiest to use a vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment, and make sure to get into any crevices you can. Follow this up by wiping down the furniture with a cotton or microfiber cloth. Mix equal parts water and vinegar to make a simple cleaning solution. Dip the corner of a cleaning cloth into the mix and wring it out. You want a damp cloth to do all of your cleaning. Follow up your cleaning with a dry cloth, make sure you don't let your leather soak as that may ruin the material. For grease stains, wipe off the grease with a dry cloth, and then sprinkle baking soda on the area. Let it sit for a few hours to draw the grease out. Wipe away with a rag.

### FABRIC

Put the upholstery attachment onto your vacuum and clean from left to right from top to bottom. The left to right motion helps loosen dirt from the upholstery. For stains, use HOT water with a bit of mild dish soap. Scrub the area, if the upholstery is above the wooden frame; do not let it soak through as it can damage the wood. If this does not get the stain out, then use steam. If you don't have a steam cleaner, you can use the steam button on an iron. The steam should kick out most stains, making it easy for you to blot out. Let the fabric air dry completely before using.

### METAL

Furniture is relatively easy to clean. Remove any glass or upholstery, find a nice dry day outside and get to work. Fill a bucket with warm water, add some liquid dish soap. You'll want a nylon scrubbing brush, dip it into the soapy water and scrub down the entire piece. Use an old toothbrush to clean the grooves and corners. Rinse off the piece, use a damp sponge if your piece has fabric. Dry with a towel. For rusted areas, use a wire brush to remove the rust. Apply metal primer to the bare spots, allow it to dry. You can leave it as is or paint over it with a matching metal tone. Apply a car body wax to the metal for some protection and shine.