

# Cleaning Instructions for Wool and Woolblend Upholstery Fabrics

## 1. Regular Cleaning

Weekly light vacuuming is desirable to remove dirt and dust particles and greatly extends the life of the fabric. Under conditions of normal wear, annual or semi-annual cleaning will preserve and enhance wool/woolblend upholstery. Housekeeping schedules, however, should be site-specific and correctly adapted to the nature and degree of usage experienced. Seating in the vicinity of food counters or bars, for example, is obviously more prone to abuse and should therefore be subject to more frequent attention. Call in professional cleaning services or use only reputable brands of upholstery shampoo and follow the maker's instructions exactly, first testing the product on an inconspicuous part of the furniture. Never use soap, ammonia, bleach or other cleaners intended for use on hard surfaces.

## 2. Removing Stains

If something should be spilt or dropped on wool/woolblend furnishing fabric, the golden rule for removing stains is speed. Most spots will vanish if treated immediately and are not allowed to dry in, so keep the necessary cleaning materials all together in one convenient place. First, mop up any excess liquid with absorbent tissue or a clean cloth and scoop up dry solids on a spoon. Most stains can be treated with one of three cleaning liquids – dry cleaning fluid, upholstery shampoo or clean water. Use the cleaning method shown in the chart. Always work inwards from the edge of the stain to prevent spreading. Do not over-wet the fabric but use small amounts of cleaning liquid at a time and blot between applications. Liquids should never be pressed through the fabric. Continue until the stain has disappeared.

Do not rush or panic, but work patiently and thoroughly. If the stain cannot be identified or removed, seek expert advice from a reputable dry cleaning organisation.

**Caution! Dry cleaning fluids may be toxic or flammable.**

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Stain	Treatment	Stain	Treatment	Stain	Treatment
Beer	1	Felt Tip Pen	3, 1, 7	Oil & Grease	2, 1
Beverages	3, 1	Fruit Juice	3, 1	Paint (emulsion)	4, 1
Blood	4, 1	Furniture Polish	2, 1	Paint (oil)	9, 2, 1
Burn/Scorch	13, 12	Gravies & Sauces	3, 1	Salad dressing	1, 2
Butter	2, 1	Ink (Fountain pen)	3, 1	Shoe polish	2, 1
Chewing Gum	6	Ink (Ball point)	7, 1	Soot	10, 2, 1
Chocolate	1, 2	Lipstick	2, 1	Tar	9, 1
Colas	3, 1	Metal Polish	2, 1	Urine (fresh stain)	1
Cooking Oils	2, 1	Milk	3, 1	Urine (old stain)	3, 1
Cream	1, 2	Mustard	1	Vomit	3, 1
Egg	1	Nail Polish	8, 2	Wine	11, 3

### Type of Treatment

- Proprietary upholstery shampoo solution.  
Nail polish remover (preferably acetone).
- Proprietary agents for removing greasy stains.
- Clean warm water.
- Cold water.
- Absorbent paper and hot iron.
- Chewing gum remover (freezing agent).
- Surgical alcohol.
- Nail polish remover (preferably acetone).
- Turpentine or white spirit.
- Vacuum.
- Proprietary absorbent powders.
- Hydrogen peroxide diluted to 1 vol.
- Scrape lightly with a coin.

## Anti-Microbial Finish Information

### Requirements For Antimicrobial Finishes

Antimicrobial textile finishers must exhibit:

- Effective control of bacteria, moulds and fungi
- Selective activity towards undesirable micro organisms
- Absence of toxic effects for both manufacturer and consumer
- Durability of activity to laundering and dry cleaning
- Applicability with no adverse affects on the fabric
- Acceptable moisture transport properties
- Compatibility with other finishing agents
- Easy application, compatibility with common textile processing

### Concluding Points For Antimicrobial Finishes

Antimicrobial agents are used in the textile sector, principally for hygiene applications.

The characteristics of an ideal antimicrobial textile are:

- Permanent antimicrobial properties are not lost during usage or cleaning
- Antimicrobial finish covers a wide range of micro-organisms
- The antimicrobial effect is limited on the surface so as to not interfere with skin bacteria
- The chemical contains no toxic migrating substances