

**Furniture Guide
and
Care Instructions
for Stuffed
Furnishings**



INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your new furniture! This furniture guide is intended to give you, the consumer, every chance of making the most of your new furniture. The guide includes tips and advice on how to care for, maintain and use your furniture so that it looks like new for as long as possible. Furniture is subject to general wear and tear through use, even with the best will in the world. Environmental demands are becoming stricter and more stringent. This is a positive development, of course, but at the same time consumers are also subject to stricter requirements for taking care of your furniture. However, if you follow the tips and advice in this guide then we know your furniture will bring you pleasure for many years to come.

This furniture guide with care instructions is based on the guidelines issued by MIBO. (see the last page for more information on MIBO.)

WHEN AND HOW DO WE USE OUR FURNITURE?

No two homes are alike when it comes to using furniture. Therefore, you have to take note of how your furniture is used. Homes which welcome lots of guests or where children and animals are part of the family will find that upholstery and painted, lacquered or other surfaces wear more quickly than in homes where people live alone. All furniture is affected by sunlight: even the most colourfast materials can be bleached. As a result, all furniture – made of wood, textile and leather – should be protected from direct sunlight. We recommend that you draw the curtains and/or close the blinds, particularly in winter when the sun is low in the sky and shines directly into our homes.

When we sit or lie on our furniture, our bodies come into close contact with the upholstery. Human sweat has an adverse effect on both leather and textiles, and certain medicines can increase the amount of sweat we excrete and the composition of the sweat. Be aware of this, and take care to clear your furniture thoroughly at regular intervals so as to extend its life. When cleaning, it is important that you wet the surface evenly out to the nearest seam or graduate/leave the outer circle damp so as to prevent water stains.

The type of clothing you are wearing can also affect furniture wear. Jeans can cause deposits, while metal rivets can scratch leather or damage sofa fabric. Many people use their living rooms and coffee tables as a place to eat in front of the TV. Be aware that greasy foods can break down both leather and textiles. Take care not to spill anything. Even small quantities of grease from something like popcorn can start the breakdown process.

Sweat affects the surface of leather and wood. Select a hardwearing upholstery which is light-resistant and wear-resistant. Mould can be a problem as fabrics for use in domestic environments are not always treated to prevent mould. Remember that if you are not using the furniture, or if you put it in storage or suchlike for any length of time, there is a risk of it turning mouldy. In such cases, vacuum and clean your furniture carefully. Some materials can be ordered with protection, and furniture stores sell products to counteract mould. Synthetic materials do not generally turn mouldy.

REMEMBER

When you receive your new furniture and are about to unpack it, remember not to use a knife or any other sharp object to do so as this may damage the furniture. Even though furniture may look big and robust, it cannot withstand everything you do to it. For instance, armrests cannot always stand up to being sat on. Armrests which are sewn into position cannot be used for lifting the furniture, otherwise there is a risk of bursting the seams. You should not stand or sit on a glass table, coffee table, bureaux or other furniture not designed for the purpose. Use floor guards on your furniture to protect your floors from scratches or other damage. Never place your sofa directly up against a wall. There should always be an air gap of around 5 cm between the sofa and the wall.

Heat from laptops and food taken straight out of the microwave can also mark our furniture. Gels, mousses, creams and sprays can also have an adverse effect on furniture.

STRETCHING OF MATERIALS

To prevent the upholstery stretching, you should smooth out the fabric or leather towards the edges at regular intervals. You should also "puff up" cushions and even out the stuffing at regular intervals to prevent the material stretching more than is normal.

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Almost all furniture comes with assembly instructions, care advice or instructions for use. In general, the screws on all furniture assembled using screws must be tightened at regular intervals. This is particularly true of wooden furniture, coffee tables, beds, sofa legs and suchlike. Ask your furniture dealer if you are in any doubt.

Important: the instructions for use/care advice must be followed, otherwise your guarantee will be rendered invalid!

GENERAL INFORMATION ON LEATHER

Leather is a natural product, and just like wood no two pieces are the same. The appearance and properties of the hide vary depending on which part of the hide has been taken and what it has been subjected to. The biggest, most visible defects – such as large manure stains – are often cut out. Normally, furniture manufacturers make sure that the most visible marks, such as scars, insect bites or small manure stains, end up on the outside of the furniture. It is important to be aware of what you want when you look at and choose from different types of leather.

Natural marks which may appear on leather and must not be regarded as flaws or reasons for complaint may include:

- Wounds from insect bites, healed scars and marks caused by branches/bushes or barbed wire. If the scar has healed, the leather will not be weakened.
- Structure: this differs from animal to animal. The irregularity of the structure emphasises the fact that leather is a natural product.
- Manure marks burnt into the hide.

All types of mark and irregularity are characteristics of real leather and distinguish it from faux leather.

Leather used in the manufacture of furniture often comes from cattle and is a residual product from the meat industry.

For leather to be used for furniture manufacture, the hides have to be tanned (preserved) first. There are several different ways of tanning leather, but chrome tanning is the most common. Vegetable-tanned leather is also used for furniture manufacture, but is by no means on the same scale. The vegetable tanning method uses bark from special trees, for example, instead of using chrome. Vegetable-tanned, unpigmented leather is susceptible to stains and dirt and should be treated with a leather cream containing an impregnating agent. This is available from furniture stores.

No matter how it is tanned, all types of leather should be protected from sunlight and high temperatures. Position furniture in suitable locations away from windows, open fires, radiators, etc.

Grease breaks down leather in the same way that it breaks down textiles/fabrics. Avoid spilling greasy food, snacks, etc. on upholstery.

Sweat contains ammonia and uric acids, which in the long run will break down the surface/finish of the leather unless it is cleaned regularly with an effective leather cleaning product. Remember to be particularly thorough when cleaning areas that come into direct contact with the skin, such as armrests and headrests.

Simple cleaning can take place by wiping down the furniture with a cloth dampened slightly with deionised water, and by regularly vacuuming it so as to remove loose dirt particles which could otherwise wear the surface finish of the leather.

When cleaning, you should use professional furniture care products which help to protect against stains and spills and keep the leather soft and pleasant. Never use soap, detergents or general purpose cleaning agents on leather.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF LEATHER

FULL ANILINE - Aniline leather is very soft and flexible and has no surface finish. Aniline leather is very comfortable and breathable, but at the same time it is more susceptible to stains and sunlight. Its appearance is deep and natural, and colour shifts, scars, insect bites and other natural marks appear on it. These should not be viewed as cause for complaint, but are entirely natural and a form of guarantee that the leather is genuine and of high quality.

SEMI-ANILINE - Semi-aniline leather is made in the same way as aniline leather, but after that a very thin coating of dye and surface finish has been applied. This makes the leather more resistant to stains without altering its soft feel.

TOP COATED - Top coated leather has a thicker layer of dye and surface finish in order to make the leather more resistant to stains, dirt and spills. This also conceals colour shifts, insect bites, etc.

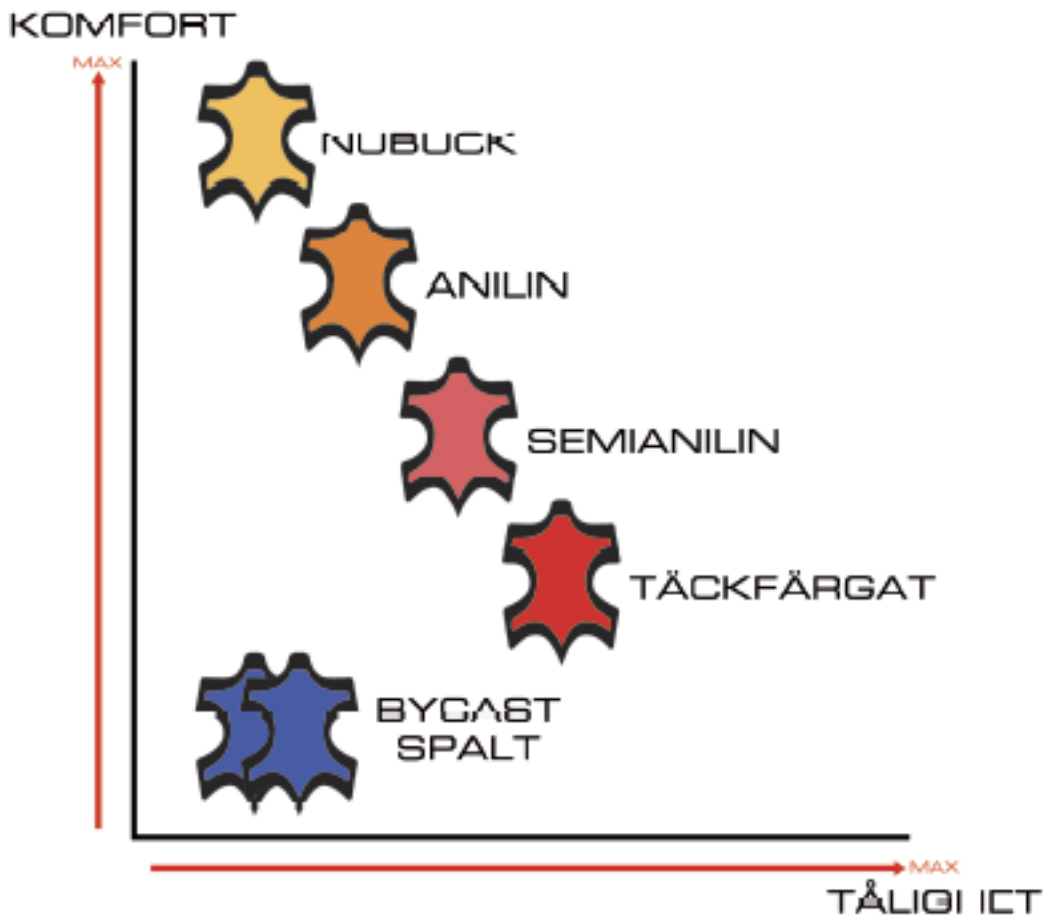
SPLIT LEATHER - The lower part of the separated hide is known as split leather. You can also make furniture leather from split leather, which is then used on the outer sides of the furniture. This split leather is most commonly used for working gloves, belts and shoes.

BYCAST OR BICAST - Which is the correct designation, is generally a split leather coated with a polyurethane film. Bycast has a powerful appearance and looks very hardwearing. Bycast cannot be repaired/reconditioned with satisfactory results.

NUBUCK - This is a dyed aniline leather which has been sanded lightly to create a velvet-like effect. Nubuck should be treated with an impregnating spray before using the furniture.

PULL-UP - This leather is classified as either an aniline or a semi-aniline leather which is then overgreased in order to give an exciting appearance and feel. Wax can also be applied to the surface in order to create even more unique varieties. This leather is cleaned using a cleaner and should then be treated with a Pull-Up cream four to six times a year.

EGENSKAPER



FURNITURE FABRICS

Furniture upholstered using textiles is often extremely comfortable. Most textiles are very capable of adapting quickly to our body temperature. Textile fibres are divided into two groups: natural fibres (plant and animal fibres) and artificial fibres (synthetics and regenerated fibres). Many textiles often include a mix of several fibres in order to achieve a desired feel, structure or quality.

Furniture fabrics must always be cleaned with care, and you should always test products on a hidden section of the furniture before starting to clean visible areas. Textile cleaning with a foaming function is recommended as you do not want to soak through the fabric. You always bear responsibility for the results of cleaning or stain removal attempts. Contact your furniture dealer if you are not sure about anything.

STAIN GUIDE

This stain guide merely provides suggestions for guidelines and does not guarantee restoration of your textiles. The figures indicate the stain treatment sequence to be applied. Soften old, dried-in stains using glycerol. Citric acid solution bleaches fabrics. 1 spoonful of citric acid in 1 dl of warm water.

Tips and advice – Vacuum the fabric regularly, and always before cleaning it.

Surface dirt and soiling – Wet a microfibre cloth in hot water (possibly with a few drops of washing-up liquid) or a foaming textile cleaning agent, then wring out well. Fold the cloth and roll it up to form a hard roll. Rub the roll back and forth over the soiled sections.

Stains – Always carry out a patch test to find out whether the textile is able to withstand the fluids you are using.

- Find out what caused the stain
- Get rid of the stain while it is fresh!
- Work from the outside and in towards the stain
- To prevent rings from the fluids, leave a "damp zone" in the outer circle or clean the entire area from seam to seam.
- Never allow solvent to penetrate through the fabric as this may cause foam or foam rubber to swell. If possible, place an absorbent kitchen towel/textile behind the stained area and replace it frequently.
- To prevent stains as much as possible, make sure that your textile furniture is always well protected with a textile impregnation agent.

"SEAT MARKS"

Furniture fabrics with a pile, such as velvet, plush and chenille, can vary in tone depending on the angle of the light striking them.

Seat marks can appear on pile fabrics as the pile is compressed by someone sitting on the fabric. This is not a flaw but a natural feature of these types of fabric. The pile on mohair plush, which is made of wool, may for example remain fixed in position in summer due to pressure combined with high ambient humidity. Seat marks can also be caused by dirt penetrating the fibres and pile: the pile sticks together when compressed due to the dirt. It is important to remember to vacuum and brush the pile regularly so as to prevent problems. If the pile becomes compressed despite your efforts, you can try steaming the pile or cleaning it with a vacuum cleaning and then brushing it to raise the pile.

PILLING

When a textile product with more or less protruding fibre ends is subjected to wear during use or washing, the fibres can be rubbed together to form pills ("bobbles") instead of wearing off or retaining their "independence". The protruding fibres can either be present from the outset due to the structure of the product, or occur due to mechanical fibre slippage. Wear on a textile product can therefore bring out the protruding fibre ends and also cause pilling. Pilling is primarily apparent in textiles made entirely or partly of synthetic fibres. This is due partly to the fact that smooth synthetic fibres slide readily out onto the surface and also because their strength means that they form pills with adjacent fibres instead of wearing off. Pills may form depending on the structure of the textile product, but this should not be considered cause for complaint.

IN THE EVENT OF PILLING

If pilling has occurred, use a pilling remover and then treat the fabric with a textile impregnation agent.

PILLING CAUSED BY FOREIGN FIBRES

A pilling-like condition can occur which has nothing to do with the furniture textile. The pills in this case are caused by other materials which the textile has been in contact with. They may be caused by clothing, for example, or a blanket which sheds a lot of fibres. This type of pilling occurs when the material contains synthetic fibres, and often in combination with static electricity. Static electricity attracts dust and particles which attach themselves to the textile and can cause this "pill-like" condition. This may be due entirely or partly to low ambient humidity, and the problem is at its peak in winter when people close up their houses and maybe increase the heating level. Ideally, use a humidifier to prevent the problem. Pilling of a textile product does not give cause for complaint. Products are available to buy which can counteract pilling: ask your furniture dealer.

NATURAL FIBRES:

WOOL

Wool fibres are resistant to dirt thanks to their structure and lanolin content. Wool is often blended with other fibres to produce a mix with good qualities.

COTTON

This is very hardwearing but has low elasticity. Cotton is good at absorbing moisture without feeling damp, has soft fibres which feel pleasant and is often mixed into other textile materials.

However, there are disadvantages with cotton: it shrinks and creases in the fibre and the fabric.

LINEN

Linen is strong, has a beautiful sheen, and because the fibre is smooth it repels dirt and is easy to clean. Linen can be blended with cotton. As far as disadvantages go, linen creases easily and has low elasticity and stretch. Linen may also shrink when wet.

SYNTHETIC FIBRES

VISCOSE

This is made from wood cellulose fibres. Often used together with cotton, wool or cotton-polyester blends. However, viscose fibres can stretch and lose their shape when wet. Viscose crease easily.

POLYESTER

Often used together with cotton to make it more hardwearing. It has good elasticity and mouldability and is able to withstand heat well. Is not good at absorbing moisture. Polyester is susceptible to pilling.

POLYAMIDE (NYLON)

This is the strongest of the synthetic fibres, but it is not good at absorbing moisture.

POLYPROPYLENE

Very lightweight and strong, but it does not absorb moisture and is therefore often used for sportswear.

ACRYLIC

This synthetic fibre is most reminiscent of wool. Acrylic is soft and elastic, but it has weak fibres. Extremely lightfast, but susceptible to heat when washed/ironed. Can be mixed with other synthetic natural fibre.

MICROFIBRE

This is mostly a blend of polyester and polyamide, but it can also be made of acrylic and polypropylene. Microfibre is very hardwearing and easy to care for. They have a soft, pleasant feel. Microfibre can have different properties depending on its composition. The price is a good indicator of quality. For instance, the cheapest qualities often contain more polyester. Polyamide and polyester are absorbent and should therefore be impregnated. Polypropylene is dirt-repellent but susceptible to sunlight. These fibres are very thin, their size is measured in dtex. 1.0 dtex means that 10 000 metres of fibre weighs just 1 gram. Microfibre is manufactured between 1.0 dtex and all the way down to 0.01 dtex.

VINYL, FAUX LEATHER, PU AND IMITATION LEATHERS

These materials are part of the group of coated textiles. The base fabric can be made of any material, depending on the application. The coating is often a soft polyurethane mixed with PVC (chlorofibre). When manufactured, these materials can be given almost any pattern or colour.

Basic advantages and disadvantages of textile synthetic fibres

Advantages

1. Strength
2. Crease resistance
3. Wet stability
4. Press-resistance
5. Washing properties
6. Shrink resistance
7. Dries quickly
8. Easy-iron

Disadvantages

1. Moisture absorption, low
2. Static electricity
3. Risk of pilling
4. Temp.-sensitive at washing/ironing
5. Insulating ability
6. Feel

Mixed fibre products, advantages and disadvantages

Synthetic/cotton compared with 100% cotton

Advantages

1. Strength
2. Crease resistance
3. Press-resistant
4. Shrink resistance
5. Fast-drying

Disadvantages

1. Lower moisture absorption
2. Risk of pilling
3. Heat-sensitive at ironing/washing
4. Feel
5. Risk of static electricity

Wool/Synthetic compared with 100% wool

Advantages

1. Strength
2. Press resistance
3. Wet stability
4. Shrink resistance
5. Wash resistance (water)

Disadvantages

1. Risk of pilling
2. Feel (harder grip)
3. Insulating
4. Static electricity
5. Moisture absorption (fairly low)

Synthetic/Viscose compared with 100% Synthetic

Advantages

1. Moisture absorption (fairly high)
2. Low static electricity, softer feel
3. Softer fall

Disadvantages

1. Strength
2. Crease resistance
3. Press resistance,
4. Wet stability
5. Still a risk of pilling

Cotton/Viscose compared with 100% cotton

Advantages

1. Softer fall
2. More even surface structure

Disadvantages

1. Strength
2. Wet stability

STUFFINGS

Nozag (steel springs), Pirelli bands (rubber pads) are normally used which are then covered with polyester or resilient foam and fibre padding. Resilient foam, polyether, granulate, fibre padding, springs, down or combinations can be used in seat pads. Stuffings do not need to be cleaned, and they can be vacuumed if possible. All types of stuffing change over time, so move seat pads around if possible and do not always sit in the same position. If you vary your seating, the stuffing can be made to soften more evenly across the entire suite of furniture. However, a certain degree of "settling" is entirely normal. You may see a 15-25% softening over the first three to six months. This is not a cause for complaint and is entirely natural.

You perhaps should make sure that any chairs or sofas that are used a lot (by heavy people, for example) for several hours at a stretch every day have a firmer stuffing than normal. This can often be ordered when buying furniture. Loose cushions and pads must be puffed up and shaken out lightly at regular intervals so as not to lose their shape. This is particularly important for down cushions, viscose cushions and granulates. Cushions with slightly firmer stuffing may require more shaping. The larger and heavier cushions are, the more they have to be shaken and evened out. All loose, soft cushions have a tendency to lose a little of their original shape. To allow your cushions to retain their shape, you may even need to puff them up and shape them every day. Ask your furniture dealer what would be best for your furniture.