

MISURA

Maintenance Guide

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LEATHER

Leather is a natural material and its tanning and finishing process is a result of what you see on your leather upholstered furniture. However, it is important to note that the tanning process does not fix imperfections in the hide of the leather. The leather is the hide from an animal that roamed freely in pastures and will have markings on its hide from its environment. This is simply proof that the leather is completely natural.

Being a natural material, leather is susceptible to temperature variations and can move and stretch. This natural phenomenon which is the same for leather used in clothing and other leather goods, and can vary with use and its surrounding environment, along with the thickness of the leather itself.

Living with leather

In order to prolong the life of your leather upholstered furniture, here are some basic rules which one should follow:

- Never expose leather to heat and light as the leather can dry out and its colour may dull.
- Never expose leather to an intense heat source (fire place, heater etc).
- Don't wait until the leather is completely filthy to clean it and never clean it not using the correct cleaning products.
- Never use kitchen cleaning products, solvents, or any other product that is not explicitly designed for cleaning leather.
- Leather can be delicate, so at all costs avoid using or placing sharp objects near leather, and exercise caution when sitting on leather with jeans that are studded or have buttons.
- Exercise caution when sitting on the leather wearing garments in which the colour can run, especially with lighter colour leathers. Check the garment beforehand as it will have tag that will note if the garment's colour can run.
- Avoid using pens or any other writing tool with ink as it is extremely difficult to remove an ink stain from leather.

Maintenance

Dusting: Dust can find its way into every crevice and crease and it is good practice to dust the sofa regularly as dust can dull the leather. You can use a vacuum with a soft brush tip or a damp cloth across the leather surface.

Deeper clean: Every three months it is good practice to give the leather a deeper clean and protection. Using a soft leather cleaner (there are many kits on the market to choose from), clean the sofa removing marks and stains that regular dusting won't remove. Most leather cleaning kits also including a leather protection cream. The leather protection cream protects the leather from drying, stains and friction by creating a protective barrier.

Always be gentle when cleaning leather, and do not rub vigorously if a stain is not coming out.

Stain removal: Most leathers have a protective layer in order to stop deep stains from penetrating the pores of the leather, except aniline leather which will require a special cleaning kit. The leathers that have a protective layer are known as 'pigmented leathers'. They are natural leathers with small corrections to make the leather appear more uniform and easier to maintain.

The key to stain removal is reaction time. For an accidental stain, clean it as soon as possible to not allow the liquid to penetrate the pores of the leather too deeply. Use an absorbent cloth using a blotting action (do not rub) to absorb as much of the liquid as possible before attempting to clean.

Here are some examples of what to do with stain removal:

Ink – Ink is incredibly difficult to remove from leather and you will need to contact a leather cleaning professional.

Smoke – Use a soft leather cleaning kit and follow the instructions on the bottle

Paint – You will need to contact a leather cleaning professional

Lipstick - Use a soft leather cleaning kit and follow the instructions on the bottle

Food – Use a soft leather cleaning kit and follow the instructions on the bottle

Blood – Use a solution of 90% water, 10% vinegar

Oil, grease and sweat – Use a special stain remover for oil, grease or sweat and follow instructions.

Leather stretching: Leather is a soft, flexible and stretchy material that consists of infinitely small fibres. The flexibility of leather means that it will stretch over time and as a result, wrinkles, creases and pressure marks will form.

Leather generally sags in sitting areas from daily use. Thicker leather is less prone to forming wrinkles and bumps. Larger surface areas of leather will be more susceptible to stretching and looseness than small areas (i.e the seats and back cushions).

FABRIC

Fabric, depending on its composition and fibres, can also be sensitive to light and heat. Most furniture that is upholstered in fabric may have a removable cover and depending on the washing instructions on the tag, it may be machine washable and at the very least dry cleanable. The best recommendation for furniture upholstered with fabric is to scotch guard it, which effectively adds a protective layer to the fabric not allowing liquids to penetrate its fibres. Please consult a fabric professional before doing so as not every fabric may be suitable for scotch guarding.

Living with fabric

In order to prolong the life of the fabric, here are some basic rules which one should follow.

- Never expose the fabric heat and light as fabric can fade due to the UV.
- Never expose the fabric to an intense heat source (fire place, heater etc).
- Regularly dust the fabric as dust can be trapped inside the fibres of the fabric much more easily than leather.
- Always use products that are designed for specifically cleaning fabrics. Do not use carpet cleaners, kitchen products or anything else that is not designed for cleaning fabric
- Always follow the instructions on the tag of the fabric if attempting to wash a fabric cover. If in doubt, have it professionally dry-cleaned.
- Do not wait for marks to appear or become pronounced before performing recommended maintenance

Maintenance

Dusting: Dust that settles on the fabric should be regularly removed (including dust caused by friction from clothes and hands). Dust weekly using a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush tool. Do not use the hard brush tool as it can cause piling.

Stain removal: The best recommendation for stain removal is to have the fabric scotch guarded before first use by a professional as it prevents stains from penetrating the fabric making them easier to remove.

However, if the fabric has not been scotch guarded, here are some examples of what to do for stain removal. Before attempting to remove a stain, test the solution in an inconspicuous area of the fabric.

Coffee/tea – Use a clean sponge with fabric shampoo from a fabric cleaning kit

Drinks – Use a clean sponge with fabric shampoo from a fabric cleaning kit

Wine – Use a clean sponge with fabric shampoo from a fabric cleaning kit

Butter, grease, oil - Apply a chlorinated solvent or 90° alcohol using a clean cloth and dab without rubbing

Condiments - Apply a chlorinated solvent or 90% alcohol using a clean cloth and dab without rubbing

Pen, Ink - Apply a chlorinated solvent or 90% alcohol using a clean cloth and dab without rubbing

Milk – Use a mixture of 70% water and 30% ammonia.

Blood - Use a mixture of 70% water and 30% ammonia.

Dried dust - Use a clean sponge with fabric shampoo from a fabric cleaning kit

Lipstick - Apply a chlorinated solvent or 90% alcohol using a clean cloth and dab without rubbing

WOOD

Wood is a natural material and much like our fingerprints, no two grain patterns are ever exactly like. But what makes wood such a beautiful material is the fact that each piece is unique. The characteristics of the wood will change as it ages but this is dependent on the type of wood and how it is used and its exposure to the sunlight.

Each piece of wood can have different colour tones, markings, variations and can depending on the wood type.

Living with wood

In order to prolong the life of your wood furniture and to pre-empt how it will change over time, follow these basic rules:

- Wood will change colour with exposure to UV. Most wood products have a protective layer to repel stains, however it cannot repel the UV from the sun. Lighter woods will be affected more than darker woods, but the effect can be profound.
- If the wood is exposed to sunlight, ensure that the top is free from permanent objects as when removed, the wood colour will be much darker as it has not been exposed to the UV.
- Dust your wood furniture regularly with a soft dry cloth.
- Never place hot dishes, pots, mugs or pans directly on the wood as it can cause a heat stain which is difficult to remove. Always use a trivet.
- Avoid using sharp objects near your wood surface, especially with veneer tables as depending on their thickness, scratches will be harder to remove.
- Avoid at all costs using nail polish remover, paint or any other solvent near the wood as it will cause irreparable damage.
- Solid wood reacts to humidity and temperature changes as the wood absorbs and loses moisture depending on the changing conditions. Too dry conditions can cause shrinkage or even small cracks in the solid panels.
- Veneered wood is much more stable to its environmental surroundings as it is glued to a substrate (another type of wood under its surface), it will not split, warp or react to atmospheric conditions.

Maintenance

Dusting: One should regularly dust the wood surface using a soft cloth that is either slightly damp or dry. Ideally the cloth should be lint free as depending on the wood surface, the cloth can catch on to cracks or splits in the distressed wood.

Repair & scratches: Solid wood: If you have a solid wood piece of furniture, the surface can be repaired in the event of a scratch or dent as the surface is thick enough to be sanded down. This will need to be done by a professional.

Veneered wood: As veneered wood is a very thin layer of solid wood, it is not as easy to repair scratches.

Light scratches: For a light scratch, you can use a specialised retouch pen closely matched to the wood colour to touch up the scratch, so that it blends in.

Deep scratches: For a deeper scratch, you can use a wax stick in a closely matched colour to fill in the scratch. If the scratch is not easy to repair, consult a professional.

Stain removal: Each piece of wood has a transparent water-based varnish to protect the wood and prevents liquids penetrating the wood. However, it can generally only withstand non-abrasive liquids such as oil, wine and other drinks. Solvent based liquids will strip the varnish off the wood.

For tough to remove stains, the key is reaction time. Try to blot the stain using a cloth and absorb as much of the liquid as possible. Here are some examples of what to do with stain removal:

Ink – Blot the ink spillage as quickly as possible not allowing it to dry. Use a mixture of water and bi-carb soda to clean the ink. Exercise caution and do not rub vigorously.

Wine – Blot the liquid with a sponge or paper towel and wipe away.

Paint – In the event that paint has been spilled onto the wood, consult professional help.

Heat stain – In the event that a heat stain has occurred, consult professional help.

CERAMIC

The use of ceramic surfaces has become more prevalent in recent years as technology has progressed. The process to create a ceramic slab involves the grinding of clay, granite rocks and ceramic pigments.

The benefit of ceramic is incredible; not only does it look like marble, it is incredibly resistance to shocks, has a near perfect smooth surface and requires very little maintenance as it does not absorb stains like real marble does.

Living with ceramic

In order to care for your ceramic surface, follow these basic rules:

- Wipe down the ceramic surface with a damp cloth as required. Do not use abrasive products. You may use a liquid detergent or Windex which works quite well.
- There may be present on certain ceramic surfaces residue of silicone which is normal as it is part of the production process. To remove this residue, use a glue remover.
- You may place hot pans and pots directly on the ceramic surface as it is highly resistant to thermic shock. However, use caution to ensure that the bottom of the pot or pan is clean and does not transfer a stain.

Maintenance

- For regular surface cleaning, use a damp cloth or Windex.
- For stains that have been left for some time or halos that may appear in the surface of the ceramic, use a mixture of bi-carbonate soda and water, wipe it gently over the stain and then wipe away the excess with a damp cloth.

LACQUERED & METAL SURFACES

A lot of furniture product may be lacquered wood or metal which is very easy to maintain. The lacquers used are water based and UV resistant.

In order to care for your lacquered wood or metal surface, follow these basic rules:

- Wipe down the surface with a slightly dampened cloth to remove dust. Do not use any household cleaners that are abrasive or may stain the surface.
- Never place any pots or pans without a trivet on a lacquered wood or metal surface as it may leave a ring or colour stain.
- Exercise caution when using sharp objects around lacquered surfaces as it can chip or scratch the lacquered surface. Some surfaces are resistant but use common sense.

Maintenance

Lacquered wood or metal surfaces don't require much maintenance other than being wiped down periodically with a damp cloth. Do not use abrasive cloths and never use solvents or harsh household cleaners.

Stain removal: Lacquered wood and metal surfaces are resistant to common stains, but for tougher to remove stains, use a mild soap with a damp cloth. For tougher stain removal such as the removal of paint, ink and permanent marker, consult a professional as these must be removed with caution.

Repair & scratches: Light scratches - For small surface scratches, use a specialised furniture polish cleaner with a clean cotton lint-free cloth, rub, then polish.

Deeper scratches: For deeper scratches, use a touch up pen that is the same colour as the lacquer. However, in the case that the surface is cheap, seek professional help.

CHROMED STEEL

Chromed steel surfaces require a lot more maintenance to prevent rusting, especially in areas of high humidity. The issue with chromed steel is moisture seeps through the chrome coating of the steel and that is when rusting occurs.

Please note: If you have decided to purchase furniture with chromed steel and live in a city that has high humidity (regardless of how close you live to the ocean), you **MUST** clean the surface daily to prevent it from rusting.

You may also use a wax to add a protective layer to the chrome to protect the steel or spray it with WD40 to keep water away from the steel.

You must be proactive in keeping the chrome steel surface clean as it is very difficult to remove rust.

MIRRORS

Mirrors are very easy to maintain, and some mirrors consist of one single piece of mirror with a border of another material, or various mirrored pieces fixed onto a backing to create one single mirror designer.

Maintenance & cleaning

To clean and maintain your mirror correctly, follow these basic rules:

- Never spray the mirror directly with a cleaner, as the cleaning product may seep behind the glass and cause black spots to appear. This is more of a concern for mirrors that have multiple mirrored pieces.
- Please also exercise caution in areas of high humidity, as black spots can potentially appear on the surface of the mirror. This is more of a concern for mirrors that have multiple mirrored pieces.
- For easy cleaning of a mirror, simply use a glass cleaning microfibre cloth without or with very minimal cleaner and wipe until streak free.

CARING FOR SEATING AND CUSHION FILLINGS

Sofas and armchairs are made with solid wood, metal and composite woods with different densities of foam between the structure and the seating.

Living with seating cushions

Depending on the sofa or armchair model, some sofa and armchair models will have feather, feather and foam or just foam in the seat, back and scatter cushions. In order to maintain and care for your seating, follow these basic rules:

100% feather cushion – These cushions have been entirely made from feathers and have been sterilised at high temperature. Segregated by a comforter to prevent the feathers from settling, they must be regularly 'fluffed' to maintain comfort and the natural bounce of the feathers. Please note that the feathers tend to absorb moisture which can result in the cushion being compressed. Four times a year, we recommend leaving the inside of the cushions out in the sun.

Feather and foam cushions - Most sofas and armchairs will have a combination of foam and feather. The feather is at the top of the foam and in unison they provide comfort and elasticity. The sofas and armchairs will use foams at different densities with the bottom foam being denser and stronger for support, whereas the top layer of foam is softer for comfort.

In order to prolong the life and comfort of your sofa, follow these basic rules:

- Foam needs to be broken in, and optimum comfort will happen approximately two to three months of use.
- Avoid sitting always in the same part of the sofa as it can wear unevenly.
- Flip cushions over weekly and plump them up as this avoids the foam and feathers from being worn in one position.

