

Let's talk dirty. It's the only way to keep fabrics clean and looking their best. So here are our top tips for fabric care and maintenance.





Top
Stain repellent treatments can be applied to certain fabrics causing liquid spills to bead on the surface rather than soak in.

Right
Regular vacuuming is recommended to remove dust and dirt from the fabric's surface.

Bottom
It's important to clean up food and liquid based spillages quickly to help prevent long term damage to fabrics.



Fabrics don't look after themselves

Contract fabrics don't look after themselves, even those with additional stain repellent treatment. Without proper care and attention they can look old and dirty well before their time. In extreme cases they can even wear through.

Fabric care in the workplace and contract interiors isn't rocket science and there are obvious parallels to how you look after upholstery fabrics in the home. Following a few simple rules can add years to the wear life and appearance of what should be the most visually appealing element of furniture.

Top tips:

- ① Vacuum your fabrics regularly to prevent build up of dust and dirt on the fabric surface.
- ② Get to spills and stains quickly. Mop up the excess liquid using kitchen roll or a damp cloth. Then clean using upholstery shampoo, detergent or handwash.
- ③ Always use a branded upholstery shampoo. Alternatively, both wool and polyester can be dry cleaned.
- ④ For spill or stain prone areas, a stain repellent finish can be applied to certain fabrics. Alternatively, choose a wipe down upholstery solution.

Further info:

- ① Polypropylene, Halcyon and Intervene can be bleach cleaned using up to a 10% bleach chlorine solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water).
- ② Polyester can be machine washed at 40°C - 60°C although the fabrics will need to be in the form of removeable covers.
- ③ Due to the high temperatures involved polypropylene should NOT be machine washed or dry cleaned.
- ④ Never apply bleach, ammonia, alkali or strong acids to wool upholstery.

Use this simple guide to determine how specific stains should be treated.

Try step A first, applying small quantities of liquid and blotting well with clean tissues after each application. Work carefully to remove the stain from the outside in and allow to dry. If the stain is still apparent, try step B and later C.

Stain	A	B	C
Alcoholic drinks	9	11	7
Blood	5, 8	3	7
Butter	14, 15	1,2	3
Chewing gum	14	2,4	16
Chocolate	3	1	
Coffee	13	11	3
Cola/soft drinks	9	7	
Fruit juice	7	3	6, 3
Furniture polish	1	3	2
Gravy/sauce	3	1	7
Ink (biro)	6	4	10
Ink (felt tip pen)	6	4	3
Ink (writing)	3	16	
Jam	3	7	
Lipstick	1	2	3
Milk	8	3	7
Nail Varnish	4	16	
Oil & grease	1	2	3
Paint (oil based)	1	3	16
Paint (water based)	5	3	16
Shoe polish	1	2	3
Tea	3	11	7
Urine	3	12	16
Vomit	3	12	16
Wine	3	13	11

Key of treatments

1. White spirit, Turpentine or substitute
2. Dry cleaning fluid (1,1,1, Perchloroethylene)
3. Upholstery detergent or shampoo at manufacturer's recommended dilution
4. Acetone, nail polish remover – non oily
5. Cold water
6. Surgical spirit (alcohol)
7. Borax 2% solution, dissolve 1 teaspoonful in warm water, top up cup with cold water
8. Salt 2% solution, 1 level teaspoon in a cup of tepid water
9. Use 3 as above plus a drop of spirit vinegar
10. Biological detergent 1% solution (1 level tsp in cup of warm water)
11. Use 6 as above diluted with 1:5 water
12. Disinfectant, dilute as recommended on bottle, or 1 tsp in 2 pints of water
13. Use 7 as above plus a drop of spirit vinegar
14. Chill with ice cubes in a plastic bag
15. Hot iron over layers of white tissue
16. Consult a professional cleaner