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FACT SHEET

PAINTING LOUNGE SUITES WITH TAUTFLEX DIY

Lounge suites can be made of vinyl, leather or a mixture of both. We know that TautFlex DIY has unparalleled adhesion to vinyl. However, although we have had considerable success with leather, there has been some problems. The problem in every case has been poor adhesion.

As a result of our experience, painting leather should be viewed with caution, particularly a leather lounge suite that may have cost several thousand dollars. Leather is sourced from around the world and all will be treated with a dye or protective coating. Some leather suites may have an unusual coating on them which does not allow TautFlex DIY to adhere, even after our recommended cleaning process. An adhesion test is important before proceeding.

Some lounge suites may have creases or cracks which is an indication that the original coating has broken down. This may potentially cause adhesion problems for TautFlex DIY. The creases have occurred due to the weakening and stretching of the leather. These may eventually appear again after TautFlex DIY has been applied. In these cases it is prudent to use a similar colour to that of the original lounge suite so that these creases do not become prominent.

Before proceeding it is important that TautFlex DIY be thoroughly tested for adhesion.

Adhesion Test— Thoroughly clean an area with Dissol then wipe over with methylated spirits. Cleaning the leather is important as over a period of time the leather will have absorbed dirt and oil. When ready to paint, saturate a cloth with methylated spirits and vigorously wipe the area. This should slightly soften the leather coating. Immediately apply a thin coat of TautFlex DIY brushing it into the surface. Allow to dry for 2 hours. Using sticky tape try to peel an edge. If the paint can be peeled off in a continuous film then the adhesion is not satisfactory. Further cleaning is required or the leather is not suitable for painting. Test some different areas. Quite often the back and sides of a lounge suite will have a different leather to that of the seat and arm rests.

Once the adhesion test has been passed and the cleaning process completed, the painting is simple. Do the job in sections. Wipe an area with methylated spirits then immediately brush a very thin coat of TautFlex into the leather. Allow 2 hours to dry and apply a second thin coat. A third coat may be required depending on the colour selected.

This fact sheet is designed to make you aware of the potential problems of painting a lounge suite. It is a big job and will only be successful if you can obtain proper adhesion. Unfortunately, TautFlex DIY cannot come with a 100% guarantee because of the variability of leather and the uncertainty of adhesion.

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