



Upholstery Care Guide FAQ

Picking the right upholstery for your new sofa/chair/sectional is a bit like learning a new language! It is difficult to make an informed decision when terms like rub count & fabric grade pop up and you are unsure as to what they mean. And, let us not forget about the art of caring for your upholstered piece of furniture. At Simone & Ivy, we consider upholstery an investment.

We want to help you pick the best option that results in a piece of furniture that you love and enjoy for years to come.

What is a Double Rub Count?

A double rub count is an important measurement of the durability of a fabric and is determined through double rub testing techniques. The test is performed by repeatedly rubbing over the fabric using a mechanized arm. Every back and forth motion counts as one "double rub". This rubbing motion is used to replicate the abrasive effects of normal use and the friction that occurs when you sit and stand. According to guidelines, approximately 3000 double rubs is equal to one year of normal use and a rub count of 30000+ is considered durable enough for commercial use.

What is Fabric Grade?

Every manufacturer has a different system to grading their upholstery and the grade is used to determine price. The one thing that is important to note is that higher grades of fabric do not equal higher quality or durability. For example, fine linens and silks will have a higher grade and a higher price tag. Although beautiful, they would not be the most durable upholstery option. At Simone & Ivy, you will see fabric grades ranging from grade 8 – 18, with the majority being either grade 8 or grade 10.

What do the Fabric Cleaning Codes stand for?

The most common cleaning codes found on upholstered furniture are W, S and WS.

- W – Wet or water clean. Your upholstery can be safely cleaned using a water based upholstery cleaner.
- S – Solvent based cleaners. Your upholstery may be sensitive to water and wetting (permanent fabric rings/shrinkage), thus a solvent based cleaner is recommended.
- WS – Both wet cleaning and solvent cleaning are appropriate choices depending on the type of stain. For oily areas, solvents are recommended; for water based spots, water based cleaners are to be used. The best procedure for these types of fabrics is to try wet cleaning methods first.

Should I remove my upholstery covers to wash them?

Although the cushion covers on all of our upholstered pieces at Simone & Ivy are removable, we do not recommend removing them to wash unless absolutely necessary as it can be difficult to re-insert and maintain the original aesthetic.

What do I do if something spills on my upholstery?

Begin blotting stain immediately with a cool, damp, white cloth. Always blot, never rub, scrub or grind the stain into the fabric. To avoid moisture rings, blot from the outside to the middle of the affected area. If necessary, use a water-based shampoo or upholstery cleaner. It is always a good idea to test the cleaner in an inconspicuous spot before using on the stain. If, despite your efforts, the stain does not disappear, we recommend having your upholstery professionally cleaned by an upholstery cleaning service.

I notice some pilling on my upholstery, is this normal?

Yes! Fabric transfer is not to be confused for pilling. This occurs when fabrics from other textiles – throws, pillows, clothes – become tangled with the fibres of fabric. Pilling results as a friction on the fabric surface, as excess fibres are being worked out of the upholstery. It does not indicate excess wear or an inferior fabric. When this does occur, simply shave your fabric with a furniture or sweater shaver to remove the pills and restore the original look of your piece. This may need to be done several times, but the pilling will lessen and disappear over time.

What are some tips & tricks to increase longevity and maintain the original look of my upholstery pieces?

- When possible, flip & rotate seat cushions and back pillows regularly to distribute wear. This is especially important if your piece is feather wrapped. Feather & down cushions have excellent recovery, but much like a duvet, they need to be fluffed frequently to restore their loft and maintain their full, lived-in look.
- Avoid placing furniture in direct sunlight as this could fade the fabric (dark fabrics are most susceptible to fading).
- Vacuum your upholstery regularly. We recommend using the upholstery attachment and crevice tool of your vacuum.
- With use, upholstery may stretch & wrinkle. Restore the original look by smoothing and tucking excess fabric in the sides and back of the seat.