



**HELLAND®**

Care and  
maintenance  
of our furniture

TIPS AND TRICKS

# Upholstery textiles

If dust and dirt is left in the fabric, it wears the textile fibres and considerably shortens the life of the fabric. Regular (weekly) vacuum cleaning with a soft brush prevents breakdown of the fibres and is absolutely necessary to give the fabric a long life.

Important care processes are:

- Spring cleaning
- Removing stains
- Preventing fading and discolouration
- Precautions with furniture textiles



↑ Extend the life of the textile with regular maintenance

## **SPRING CLEANING**

Clean the upholstery fabric extra thoroughly as soon as you can see that vacuum cleaning and dusting are not enough. A foam cleaner is recommended for spring cleaning. Contact the furniture dealer for advice. How often this is necessary depends on how the furniture is used, but the parts of the furniture which come into body contact should be cleaned at least every three months.

## **REMOVING STAINS**

If an accident happens, it is important to remove the soiling or the stain as soon as possible. It is easier to remove a new stain than an old one. If you are uncertain how to remove a stain, you should contact the furniture dealer. When removing stains, avoid ordinary household detergents, because many of them are too concentrated for the textile. Avoid ALL other products which contain solvents or oil, as these can damage the fabrics.

## **PREVENTING FADING AND DISCOLOURATION**

When spring-cleaning or removing stains, always check that the dyes in the fabric can withstand the cleaning agent you plan to use. Test on a part of the furniture that is not visible. Allow it to dry, and check the result.

**Natural fibres:** Textiles made of natural fibres such as cotton, linen or wool, or the artificial fibre viscose, are very comfortable, because they breathe and absorb perspiration. These textiles are hydrophilic, and absorb water and anything that contains water. They are also oleophilic, which means they absorb oils and fats, including fatty acids from perspiration.

**Synthetic fibres:** Textiles made of synthetic fibres such as polyester, polyamide and acrylic are outstandingly resistant to mechanical wear. These textiles are hydrophobic, and repel water and other fluids. Stains from fluid spills and water-based products are not absorbed by the fibres, so the stains will be easier to remove. However, the fibres are oleophilic, and absorb oil and fat.

**Mixed fibres:** Textiles made of mixed fibres – different combinations of natural, artificial and synthetic fibres – are highly resistant to stains, and comfort is excellent.

## **PRECAUTIONS WITH UPHOLSTERY TEXTILES**

Colour fastness: Furniture is often damaged unnecessarily by the effects of sunlight. Remember that all light impacts will weaken both the fibres and the dyes in the textile. Even though the furnishing textile has been tested and approved as colour fast, the furniture should be placed where direct sunlight and sharp reflection are avoided. Blinds or awnings are recommended, but please note that some textiles used for blinds and awnings still allow harmful UV light to slip through.

It is important to remember that the sun also shines into the room when you are not there! Especially the 'low' sun at our latitudes penetrates a long way into the room – all day. If you are away, particularly for a long time, covers should be placed over the furniture. Ask your furniture dealer about the best way to protect your furniture from unnecessary damage by sunlight.

**How to avoid damage to textiles on furniture:** Clothing with extremely rough seams, studs or other sharp details, or belts with metal trims may wear heavily or catch threads. Colour may rub off on furniture from denim, especially if it is new, or from clothes with excess dye that is not washed out. Objects or tools in back pockets can damage the furnishing fabric.

**The lifetime of furnishing textiles:** Inadequate care and maintenance will shorten the lifetime of the fabric. If the furniture is used a lot every day, loose covers and covers on the arms are recommended. (These can be ordered for most furniture.)

**Pets:** Pets do not go with upholstered furniture. Fur, claws and slobber will wear on the fabrics. Four-legged members of the family should be in their own baskets, not on the furniture.

# Wood and surfaces

Woodwork must be sensibly cared for and maintained to preserve its special properties and character.

Untreated wood is especially delicate, and should therefore be cleaned and treated regularly. Solid wood furniture should not stand in direct sunlight or close to heat sources, or be kept in rooms where the indoor climate varies a lot. Tension may build up in glued joints and in wooden boards, causing them to crack.



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#### **CLEANING AND CARING FOR DIFFERENT SURFACES**

**Untreated wood:** Wash with water to which soap has been added. If stains are not removed by soapy water, use a scrubbing brush. Always scrub along the grain of the wood. Rinse away all soap, and finally dry thoroughly. Do not place objects or a tablecloth on the table before the surface is completely dry.

**Varnished and painted wood surfaces:** These surfaces are normally strong, smooth and water repellent with normal use and cleaning. Clean with a slightly damp cloth. Do not use solvents.

**Wax-polished wood surfaces:** Hard wax is almost comparable with varnished surfaces, while the quality of softer waxes is more comparable with oil-treated surfaces. The surface is easy

to care for, but not particularly robust. It should be cleaned carefully with a slightly damp cloth, and treated according to the instructions of the manufacturer and supplier.

**Oil-treated wood furniture:** Surfaces are slightly greasy, and more receptive to dirt and fluids than other treated surfaces. They must therefore be washed and treated frequently. They must be cleaned carefully and should be treated with furniture oil as recommended by the manufacturer and furniture dealer. Do not place objects or a tablecloth on the table before the surface is completely dry.

#### **POWDER-COATED SURFACES (STEEL, MDF ETC.)**

The surface can be finished in different ways, according to the customer's wishes. Powder-coated surfaces can be described as hard wearing. They can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Stains can be removed with a universal cleaning agent, and in some cases with white spirit.

**Steel surfaces:** As a rule, a soft cloth can be used for daily cleaning. To protect the surface and simplify cleaning, a thin layer of

wax with added silicone may be applied.

Plastic surfaces: Plastics have different properties, depending on which types of use they will be put to. It is best to clean them with a cloth moistened with warm water to which small amounts of synthetic washing agent have been added. To remove stains, a stronger solution of washing agent can be used. (See also the supplier's or manufacturer's instructions.)

**Furniture with assembly fittings:** The indoor climate varies with the different seasons. It is driest indoors late in the winter, when the house is heated, and most humid in the autumn. Woodwork is hygroscopic – it absorbs moisture and releases it again according to the climate, and it shrinks and swells as the climate changes. This means that furniture assembled with assembly fittings may become loose in dry periods. Check the fittings, therefore, and adjust them if necessary.

# Caring for leather

Always follow the supplier's instructions about use, care and maintenance of leather furniture. The individual furniture dealer, manufacturer and supplier of the leather are responsible for what individual products require and can withstand.



↑ Furniture leather is a natural product with its own characteristics and individual shades. Leather is easy to maintain and will stay beautiful for years.



## **LEATHER – A NATURAL PRODUCT**

Furnishing leather is made from the skins of cattle. It is natural that there may be scars, insect bites, variations in colour etc. How far these natural marks are visible on leather furniture will depend on various factors, such as what treatment the leather surface has received. The appearance of the leather will often change after long periods of use. If you buy leather furniture, you must accept and appreciate this patina.

## **DIFFERENT TYPES AND QUALITIES OF LEATHER FOR FURNITURE**

The leather used for furniture today normally comes from cattle – hides from cows, oxen or buffalo. Most is cowhide, because there is a relatively stable supply, and because the size and qualities of cowhide make it suitable. There are many phases from the time the animal is slaughtered, until the hide becomes upholstery leather. It is important for the tanneries that supply the leather for upholstery to know what the customer (the furniture manufacturer) requires with regard to quality and surface treatment. Prices vary considerably, depending on the quality classification or grading, and the required properties.

**Aniline leather** – aniline-dyed leather – is selected early in the process and these hides receive very little treatment after tanning. They have the original grain, and insect bites and healed

scars will be visible on this type of leather. Sometimes aniline hides are coloured with a thin pigment coating or finish over the base colour. These hides are very soft and comfortable, retain their breathing qualities, and are regarded as the finest quality. Aniline hides are only a small proportion of the total production from a tannery, and the price is very high. As a rule, the colour selection is not determined by the furniture manufacturers: they must choose from the selection available from the tannery.

**Semi-aniline leather** is processed slightly more than aniline leather, and comes between aniline leather and smooth leather. Slightly more pigment is used, and furniture manufacturers can determine the colours to a greater degree. The grain of these hides may be artificially pressed.

**Smooth leather** is the cheapest and most highly processed. Furniture manufacturers can order precisely the colour and shade they want, from completely black to white. Because of the surface finish, these leather types do not have the same breathing qualities as aniline leather.

### **PRECAUTIONS WITH LEATHER UPHOLSTERY**

- Armrests and head cushions are particularly exposed to grease and perspiration, which may produce dark stains, and over time can damage the leather.
- Chemicals in products such as hair gels and hand creams can cause similar damage.
- All dust and dirt from clothing etc. will damage the leather if it is not removed.
- Pets should definitely not be allowed to lie on the furniture!
- Sunlight causes fading and dries out the leather on furniture. Heat from other sources will also cause a risk of drying out and change in colour, e.g. in light leather. (Avoid placing a laptop with a warm battery directly on upholstery leather.)
- Use of protective covers, plaids and sofa cushions can help to prevent damage.

### **GENERAL CARE FOR LEATHER UPHOLSTERY**

It is important to follow the supplier's advice about use, care and maintenance of leather furniture, and it is important to know about the quality of the upholstery leather you have. Care instructions attached to the furniture should always be followed – most furniture manufacturers send out their own product information with each item of furniture.

### **STAIN REMOVAL AND CLEANING LEATHER UPHOLSTERY**

- Water-soluble stains should be washed off as soon as possible with a clean, soft white cloth or sponge dipped in warm water and firmly wrung. (Preferably boiled water.)
- Normal cleaning should be frequent removal of dust by vacuuming with a soft brush and dusting with a clean, damp white cotton cloth.
- Do not use chemicals on leather upholstery. If it is necessary to remove stains, deep clean etc. then contact the furniture dealer, who can advise you on the specific situation.
- Leather furniture stays in the best condition when it is protected from sunlight, heat and drying out.

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