

DFS – Upholstery Care Guide

When you've spent hours researching and testing to find the perfect piece of furniture for your home, you'll want to maintain that brand new feeling for as long as possible. To help keep your furniture looking its best for longer, we've created an in-depth DFS sofa care guide.

Read on for advice on textile, leather and upholstery care.

Great upholstery care starts as soon as your sofa arrives

Whether your furniture is supplied by one of DFS' factories or supplier partners, you can rest assured that all our products undergo a robust code of practice. This ensures that you always receive the best quality possible.

However, there are certain furniture care considerations to bear in mind when your order arrives.

Delivery

In stock DFS products usually result in shorter delivery times. This is due to DFS working with multiple suppliers to ensure we have a variety of delivery times across various products, some are within just a couple of weeks.

We also have a variety of ranges that are made to order, which means you can customise these to the colour of your choice and choose your preferred interior. These ranges do tend to take a little longer – since they're made just for you!

Products are packaged for protection in transit, which may cause slight creasing or flattening. Once unwrapped, they should return to their original shape.

Although our delivery teams are always super careful, now and then, some products may suffer damage in transit. If this happens, don't panic – just get in touch with our friendly customer service team, who will happily work with you to put things right.

Unpacking and installation

Ensure you read all product care, operational and assembly information, and awareness advisories before using your product.

New product smells are perfectly normal and part of the manufacturing process. Just allow some time for your new piece of furniture to settle and the odour will naturally dissipate.

To keep your sofa looking it's very best, avoid placing it in direct sunlight as this can cause discolouration and fading over time.

If you choose your new furniture based on a store model, bear in mind that the seat may feel firmer initially. This will soften over time, depending on how frequently you use it.

Unless stated otherwise in the product description or operational information, all DFS furniture is for indoor use only. But we're sure you knew that!

The lighting, size, and established décor of a room may make the product colour appear different from website images or DFS store showrooms.

Use easy glides on non-carpet floor types with caution to avoid any personal injury.

Maintenance and cleaning

Covers, cushions, and interiors should not be hand or machine-washed, otherwise you risk damaging the fabric.

Depending on the material, everyday cleaning products could damage your new furniture. To play it safe, always read the fabric care advice on the product.

The DFS sofa care guide should be used as general advice. Any specific product care documentation should take precedence in furniture care.

Always ensure children and pets are supervised around motion furniture when in use.

Overloading plug sockets, over-connecting extension leads, and trapping wires may cause a fire risk or electrocution with your motion furniture.

How to check the health of your sofa

The first step of furniture care is actually understanding when your sofa or armchair is in need of repair. This knowledge is invaluable for checking whether your purchase suffered any damage in transit.

Plumping your furniture

For the best start to upholstery care, it is imperative that you plump the furniture seat, back, and lumbar cushions, as well as the arm bolsters and headrests on arrival.

You should also continue to do this on a daily basis to ensure your new sofa remains in good shape. This regular routine allows air to return to the interiors of your furniture, and helps it stay looking its best for years to come.

How to plump fixed seat and back cushions

1. Pound down four to five times on the seat pads and back cushion. This helps reform the furniture interior's form.
2. If they become misshapen during use, use your hands to return any errant fillings to the corners of your sofa.
3. To smooth out any creasing, run your hands from front to back of your furniture, applying a good amount of pressure.

How to plump removable seat and back cushions

1. Every day, plump each seat and back cushion four to five times with both hands. You should also turn the cushions, if possible.
2. Smooth out any creasing on a regular basis, returning interior material to the corners and air into the cushions.
3. Plump arm bolsters four to five times, returning air into the area and reforming the interior.

Other DFS sofa care considerations

To ensure your new furniture maintains its fresh and firm feel for as long as possible, remember the following upholstery care considerations:

- Furniture interiors behave differently. Foam interiors provide immediate pushback to reform the seating area, whereas non-foams do not revert to the original shape as cleanly.
- Your hands are always the best option when plumping furniture. Using sharp objects or tools could damage the fabric.
- Leather and velvet sofas require a different type of fabric care, as it's harder for the interiors to return to their original state following use. Customer upkeep is essential to maintain a product's form and longevity. They need a little extra looking after to stay looking their best - but we think it's totally worth it!
- Avoid any spillages or messy situations that may damage your new furniture.
- Large seating areas typically lose their plumpness faster than smaller pieces of furniture. This is a behavioural characteristic of the product design, not a fault, quality, or upholstery care issue.

How to care for your fabric sofa

To maintain the quality and longevity of any type of fabric sofa, you need to clean the upholstery regularly and be vigilant to any spills or potential stains.

Read our 11 tips and considerations to ensure your fabric care is consistently effective.

1. Ensure you dust off your fabric sofa regularly. This includes under the seat cushions, using either a soft, dry white cloth or a vacuum cleaner with a small soft brush attachment.
2. If you are to use a vacuum cleaner, avoid direct suction and hard brushes, as they can damage the fabric, especially velvets. Instead, for proper upholstery care, use a soft brush or low-suction vacuum.
3. Regarding fabric care for accessories, do not hand or machine wash sofa covers or scatter cushions.
4. To avoid discolouration and fading over time, do not position your fabric sofa near direct or open flames, radiators, or in direct sunlight (UV light).
5. Lighting has a big effect on textiles, depending on pile length and how the textile is made.
6. Be wary that some clothing textile dyes can transfer to your furniture. Check your clothing labels to see if it includes any transferable dyes.
7. If spillages do occur, always dab them with a paper towel or a clean dry cloth. Never rub the spillage as it can damage the fabric sofa.
8. Be mindful of unaccompanied pets around your fabric sofa. Pet claws can pull threads out of the upholstery and damage the furniture.
9. Always use DFS sofa care approved cleaning products on your furniture, as 'off-the-shelf' alternatives can cause damage. We have these products available in-store or you can talk to our dedicated customer service team about suitable cleaners.
10. Heavier textiles, such as velvet, with non-foam interiors need daily plumping. That's because the interiors eventually compress, giving the fabric a more 'lived-in look' unless proper upholstery care is maintained.
11. Depending on the fabric and composition, piling, bobbling, and loose fibres can be common characteristics of textiles. It is not always a quality or upholstery care issue.

How to care for your leather furniture

Leather furniture may have a reputation for being easy to clean and care for, but they still need proper maintenance to look their best for longer. In this handy guide, we've broken down the essential dos and don'ts of leather sofa care.

Continue reading for nine top tips on how to care for leather furniture.

1. Do not use any form of liquid cleaning product, such as washing up liquid, on your leather covers. The best way to clean leather furniture is to soak up and dab any spillages as soon as possible, either with paper towels or a clean, dry cloth.
2. Avoid using soaps, bleaches, household detergents, oils, all-purpose cleaners, or solvents when cleaning leather furniture. These cleaning solutions may damage the leather protection, resulting in cracks, peeling, and discolouration.
3. Wipe down your sofa regularly to avoid dust build-up. This routine leather sofa care includes wiping the seat cushions with a soft, dry cloth.
4. Use the small soft brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner when cleaning leather furniture. Direct vacuum cleaner suction or hard brush attachments can damage the leather.

5. Do not hand or machine wash leather covers and scatter cushions. Instead, clean with a dry cloth or DFS-approved cleaning products available in-store.
6. Keep away sharp objects, such as tools, cutlery, keys, and belt buckles from your sofa. You should also keep an eye on your pets around your sofa. Some pets, such as cats, dogs, and even rabbits may use furniture as a scratching post causing damage.
7. Do not position leather upholstery in direct sunlight as it can cause colour fading. The same goes for placing leather near direct flames, open fires, radiators, and element heaters. In addition, be mindful of electronic devices and other heated items near leather upholstery.
8. Avoid 'off the shelf' supermarket cleaning products and wipes, as they may damage the leather. Only use DFS-approved leather furniture cleaning products, which are available in-store, or speak to our dedicated customer service team.
9. Check whether any intended hides and treatments include colouring. Leather is an organic material and, as such, its colouring can be tricky to replicate. Treatments with colouring can cause contrasting shades to appear on your furniture.

What are the different types of furniture leather?

Every leather hide is unique, with natural variations in shading, evenness, and textures. As a result, methods for leather finishing differ depending on the type of leather required.

Read on for a short explanation of different types of furniture leather.

Aniline leather

Exuding beauty like no other type of leather, full aniline leather is the most natural look of leather types. Very little treatment, such as colour or protection pigments, is used in the process and showcasing its all-natural markings and colour differences.

However, these types of leather may need a little more attention to maintain. When you're looking to care for your aniline leather, you should only use dry cloths and soft brush vacuum attachments.

Semi-aniline leather

Unlike full aniline leather, semi-aniline leather is treated with additional protective finishes during manufacturing. This helps to prolong the colour and lifespan. Otherwise, you'd be hard-pressed to tell the difference. The grain of the material remains unchanged, which also highlights the all-natural features and patterns in the leather.

While semi-aniline leather has added protection, you should still conduct regular leather care. Just like aniline, avoid using any 'off the shelf' bleaches or cleaners, opting only for gentler cleans with dry cloths and soft brush vacuum attachments.

Corrected leather

Corrected leather has the most persistent look from sofa to sofa. That's because the material has been lightly buffed and embossed for better uniformity of grain, while pigmentation treatment ensures colour consistency.

With these protective treatments, corrected leathers are much more durable and resistant to stains. As such, this type of leather is perfect for families and frequently used furniture in the home - although we still advise cleaning your sofa regularly with DFS-approved cleaning products to maximise its long lifespan.

Natural markings and characteristics of leather

While we may associate leather with a sophisticated smooth look, natural markings on the material are inevitable and part of its inherent charm. That means the likes of grain variation, wrinkles, skin folds, scars, or patterns of original hair follicles are 100% natural, rather than a product of poor leather or quality.

Below are some examples of the natural markings and characteristics of leather.



General product safety and user warnings

Regardless of whether it is a brand new addition to your home or an already established part of your décor, furniture should always be treated with care and caution.

To maintain proper furniture care and keep users safe, please consider the following:

- Due to the variations and different types of models available, all children should be accompanied at all times around the furniture.
- Do not stand or jump from a height on the seat platforms, arm bolsters, or back rails.
- Avoid moving any furniture alone as this may cause injury if not performed correctly. Always ask a friend or family member to help with any significant moves.
- Do not drag or pull your furniture across the floor or carpets as you can damage both the furniture and the flooring in the process.
- When you are moving furniture, ensure that there are no children or pets in the room who may run underfoot.
- Check for any power connection or connecting brackets and universal tabs before lifting the furniture.
- For module units that push together, such as corner sofas, ensure all units are properly connected before sitting on them.
- Accidents could happen based on different floor surfaces. Take care with furniture with glides on potentially slippery floor types such as wood, tile, and laminate.

If you would like to always have this DFS sofa care guide close at hand, download the original PDF to your device by clicking the link below. Alternatively, you can get in touch with our friendly customer service team with any more questions you may have regarding leather sofas or upholstery care.