



SOFTCARE[®]

Care instructions for textile furniture and carpets



Make your life easier!
www.softcare.eu



Furniture textiles and carpets require treatment and protection

Upholstery protection should be completed for all new pieces of furniture immediately after purchase, before first use. This ensures that the protection is functional from the very beginning, and you can be carefree when using the furniture. On average, the protection will last for 2–4 years, and you can easily test its efficiency with a drop of water: if the water remains as a droplet on the surface of the fabric or carpet without getting the fibres wet, the protection is still working.

In addition to moisture, furniture fabrics and carpets absorb dirt. Cotton, linen and paper thread in carpets are particularly sensitive to accumulating moisture and dirt. That is why they are often paired with artificial fibres, which improve durability and make maintenance easier.

Protection can help prevent the absorption of moisture and dirt into fibres. The dirt can be liquid, greasy or oily, coffee, ink from ballpoint pens, food, or muddy paw prints. Softcare provides efficient protection against all of these.

Things to remember when buying a new couch or a carpet:

- If you choose a washable fabric, check whether it is machine-washable or not, whether it can be removed, and how durable the zips are.
- Remember that solidly upholstered frame parts cannot be detached for washing.
- If only dry cleaning has been marked on the fabric label, ask the seller how it should be done. You cannot drag an entire couch to the dry cleaners. This mark is often included on the label if the manufacturer does not trust the consumer's ability to wash the product's surface. The Softcare cleaner is suitable for all textiles!
- The zips on cushions are not a sign that the covers are washable: the fabric might be washable, but the zips could break.
- Washing detachable parts can make their colours fade, and any parts attached to the frame will be of a different colour.
- The covers can also shrink when washed in a machine. The covers must always be ironed before reattaching.



Quality testing for textiles

Fabric durability is tested with the Martindale test. It is sufficient for domestic furniture to withstand 20,000 rubs. Some pile fabrics have received values exceeding 100,000 rubs.

However, average consumers should be critical of these test results, as practical wear and tear can be different from the smooth rubbing by a machine. For example, the paws of your pets can cause permanent marks. Glued pile fabrics have high abrasion resistance, but they cannot withstand the claws of a dog.

Light fastness is also an important factor. Light fastness is measured on a scale of 1–8. Sufficient light fastness for domestic use is between 4–6. If the windows of a room face directly south or west, the light fastness of textiles must be taken into consideration.

The flammability of textiles is controlled by law. Domestic furniture must pass the so-called cigarette test. The consumer can have peace of mind, because statutory matters are monitored, and all upholstery fabrics must meet legislative requirements. The requirements are even more strict for textiles used in public places.

Position the furniture correctly

- Do not place a couch in direct sunlight or under an indoor plant lighting; the fabric colours will fade in UV radiation.
- Ensure that no doors can rub on the upholstery fabric.
- Do not place a couch directly in front of a radiator. High temperatures will damage the materials. Furniture placed near a radiator also accumulates dust.
- Artificial fibres can easily become charged with static electricity. When the heating is on and the indoor air becomes drier, these fibres start to accumulate dust and static electricity. Particularly in cold weather, they will discharge an unpleasant electric shock. Softcare Antistatic helps you get rid of this unpleasant feature. The product is easy to spray on the surface of a couch or a chair, and it will leave no marks. The product is also suitable for plastic-glass surfaces and accessories.

Increasing the lifespan of furniture and carpets

Furniture must be treated in a proper, gentle way, so that it can last in your home for as long as possible. This is how you can increase its lifespan:

- Do not sit on the armrest of a couch or stand on the couch; doing so may damage the springs.
- If you are moving furniture, grab from the bottom edge of the couch. Self-inflicted damage is not reimbursed by the manufacturer.
- Avoid all sharp objects near the couch. Do not sit on the couch with wet clothes, or clothes that are not colour-fast.
- Do not eat or smoke when sitting on the couch. Grease stains are difficult and cigarette burns will last forever. Newspaper ink can also easily transfer onto the fabric.
- Stop all dirt already in the hallway: get a good door mat. Remove your shoes in the hallway, and move around inside in socks or change into indoor footwear.
- Softcare Odour Control removes unpleasant smells (sweat, organic stains, etc.) Also suitable for refreshing the toilet and other rooms. It breaks down the smell and removes it completely.

Softcare protects textiles and carpets

Softcare Furniture Protector, Carpet Protector, the Water Based Furniture Protector and Outdoor Textile Protector protect furniture from dirt and moisture. Outdoor Textile Protector also provides efficient protection against pollen becoming stuck on the textiles, thus helping any allergy-sufferers, as pollen can simply be brushed off gently. Vacuuming carpets is also easier when dirt does not become attached to the fibres of the carpet. Softcare protectors are suitable for all textile fibres and their mixtures. The protection does not change the features of the textile, such as its flammability, breathability or

colour. It remains on the surface of the textile as a thin, invisible layer of molecules which prevent the absorption of dirt and moisture. It is easy to wipe off fresh stains from the surface of the protected textile, as they are not absorbed into the fabric or the carpet.

The protection is safe and efficient to use. Furniture and carpets treated with Softcare Protector will remain clean for a long time, but the furniture and the carpets must be vacuumed regularly, and all stains removed immediately. Softcare is also environmentally friendly, and proven to be safe to use.

This is how you can protect your fabrics

Always start by testing the suitability of the product with the material in an area that is not visible. Spray the protector evenly on a clean, dry textile surface from a distance of about 15 cm, making the area evenly damp but not wet. Ensure that the room has good ventilation. Let the furniture air-dry, with cushions separated (on a carpet, for example), for about 2 hours before using the furniture. Please note, that when using the water based protector, the drying time is 24 hours! Do not place damp fabric on, for example, leather or artificial leather surfaces. 500 ml is sufficient for an area approximately the size of the main surfaces of a five-seater couch. A single protection treatment will last for about 2–5 years. Follow the instructions on the bottle. Watch the user guide videos: www.softcare.eu

Furniture and carpet maintenance

Textiles absorb dirt. If surfaces become evenly dirty, it will not bother anyone straight away and it might not even be noticeable, but stains that have set in will be difficult to clean.

Regular, weekly vacuuming is part of the basic maintenance of textiles and carpets. Remember to use a textile nozzle, so that you can clean all crannies and seams. A plastic nozzle may damage sensitive surfaces, so you should be careful.

Remove stains as soon as they happen. More than 90% of stains can be removed without a trace, if you clean them immediately.

Wipe your protected couch on a regular basis a few times a month using a cloth dampened with Softcare Textile Cleaner. This helps prevent stains from setting in.



Softcare products for furniture care



Softcare Furniture Protector
for the protection of textile upholstered furniture

Water Based Furniture Protector
for all interior textiles



Softcare Textile Cleaner
a special detergent developed particularly for
cleaning textiles

Softcare Textile Care Kit
everything you need for taking care of your
textile furniture



Softcare Water Based Textile Care Kit
everything you need for taking care of your textile
furniture

Softcare Antistatic
removes static electricity from textile and plastic
surfaces



Softcare Odour Control
an efficient product for removing unpleasant smells

Softcare Carpet Protector
for protecting carpets, suitable for different
materials from silk to sisal



Softcare Carpet Care Kit
everything you need for protecting and cleaning
carpets

Softcare Outdoor Textile Protector
for protecting all outdoor garden furniture and
shades



Softcare Stain Removers
efficient stain removal for different textiles

Softcare Cleaning Sponge
cleans dirt, liquids and hair off home surfaces



Stain removal methods

A Dampen the stain with Softcare Textile Cleaner.

Let work for 2–3 minutes and rinse with a damp cloth, wiping towards the centre of the stain to avoid spreading it. After the stain has been removed, dampen the surface of the entire cushion or other limited area to prevent water marks.

You can also spray the detergent directly onto the cleaning cloth and rub the stain with it. Always remember to rinse off the detergent.

B Stain removal with Softcare Stain Removers.

Depending on the type of stain, remove it either with Softcare Stain Remover Pro or Wine Stain Remover. Otherwise, remove the stain as described above. You can try to clean the most difficult stains with white spirit.

Usually it also helps if you spray the stain remover on the stain, place a terry cloth dampened in hot water on top of it and let the solution work for half an hour. Afterwards, remove the stain.

Fruit and berry stains:

Unless the stains can be removed with cold water while they are still fresh, use method A or B. You can also repeat these measures until you achieve the desired result.

Ballpoint pen, spirit-soluble ink or graphite from pencils:

When removing a fresh stain, use Softcare Wine Stain Remover or Stain Remover Pro. If the surface has not been protected, try to remove the stain as quickly as possible, or else using method B.

Vomit:

First wash with water, then use method A or B, depending on whether there are any colouring elements present.

Soil and clay:

Let the dirt dry and vacuum it when dry. Use method B for any remaining stains.

Stearin:

Carefully scratch it off with a blunt knife.

Remove the rest with a paper towel placed on top of the stain and a warm iron. If the stain is coloured, finish the treatment using method B.

Chocolate and coffee:

Method A or B.

Blood:

Mix 2 tbsp of salt with 1 dl of cold water and soak the stain off.

Wine, milk, soft drinks:

Method B.

Urine:

Method A.

Sauces and oils:

Method A. If any grease stains remain, use method B, or in case of particularly difficult stains, please contact us.

Pitch and tar:

Method B. In difficult cases, please contact us.



How to remove stains



Remove all loose dirt using a tool or a paper towel to remove fresh dirt, and spray the stain with Softcare Textile Cleaner. Let react for a few minutes. Wipe the dirt and the detergent off with a clean, damp terry cloth, working towards the middle of the stain so that you can avoid spreading the dirt around. Always use the clean side of the cloth. Dampening a larger surface area, e.g. from one seam to another, helps prevent water marks from forming.



Remove stains immediately. Stains with an unpleasant smell can be sprayed with Softcare Odour Control to finish the treatment.

Washing and stain removal

When buying furniture or carpets, ask the seller for the proper maintenance and cleaning instructions. Not cleaning a product according to the manufacturer's instructions can lead to damage that the manufacturer will not reimburse. Therefore, always request written care instructions, and read them before starting any cleaning work.

Nowadays, dry cleaning is often the recommended form of treatment, but that is impossible to do at home. That is why it is particularly important to protect furniture and carpets. This kind of protection makes your life easier, while also saving money. Unlike cushion covers, upholstery fabrics cannot be removed, so the frame in particular must be carefully protected.

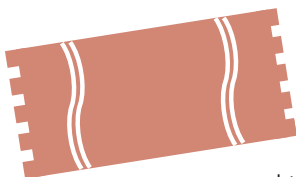
Although you cannot place the frame in a washing machine, there are methods that can help you. Softcare Textile Cleaner is perfect for this purpose.

Softcare Textile Cleaner has been developed for domestic furniture cleaning and stain removal. It is suitable for all washable materials and even for most textiles that

require dry cleaning. If the manufacturer recommends dry cleaning, test the product first in a spot that is not visible. Nowadays, fabrics like PP-fibre fabrics are also used, and these can sometimes be difficult to care for due to their poor features.

It is easiest to test the colour fastness and abrasion resistance on the bottom surface of the furniture. Even if the colour does rub off, this test area will not be visible. Dampen the surface with the detergent, rub with a white terry cloth, and see if any colour rubs off of the fabric.

You can use coarse fabric for an abrasion resistance test. If you notice any colours fading or pills forming, adjust the cleaning process accordingly. If the colour fades, it is best to use a fairly dry rinsing cloth and rub carefully. If a surface is prone to pilling, it should be cleaned by pressing down of rubbing.



Washing and stain removal

WASH: Spray Softcare Textile Cleaner evenly on the surface you want to wash. You can spray the product onto stains and other particularly dirty areas prior to washing (approx. 10 minutes). Let the product react for 2–3 minutes. Then wipe with a damp, clean cloth three or four times, and let dry. You will see how the dirt comes off. Continue like this, working on small sections at a time. Every now and then, rinse the cloth in clean water.

If the stain is not removed after the first treatment, repeat the treatment. You can improve the efficiency of the detergent by placing a damp cloth on top of the stain, with the cloth dampened with the hottest water available from the tap and plenty of detergent. Let the product sit for about half an hour. Rinse the spot carefully using a damp terry cloth.

If it is only a single stain, you can prevent creating water marks by also dampening the area surrounding the stain, blending it as evenly as possible. If possible, make a clearly limited area wet, for example from one seam to another.

Avoid getting the surface too wet, and let the piece of furniture dry thoroughly. If you have a spray extraction machine, you can use it to complete the rinsing process. Spray the detergent on first, and let it work. Then rinse with clean water. Pressure washing is only suitable for washable textiles.

Pile fabrics are brushed in the direction of the pile when damp, otherwise the end result will look untidy.

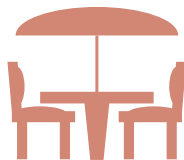
Zips on cushions do not always mean that the covers can handle machine washing. However, if you do wash the covers separately in a machine, use Softcare Textile Cleaner, approx. 2 dl/machine load. It has been developed particularly for textile fibres. There is no need to use a fabric softener. Textile Cleaner does not contain any bleach, so the colours will remain bright. Put the covers on the cushions when they are still slightly damp. This will straighten them out and stretch them to their correct measurements.

Wash in plenty of water, and do not spin or tumble-dry. Dry the fabrics horizontally, if possible.

When cleaning textiles, only use cleaning products specifically designed for textiles. Dish-washing detergents and other cleaning products can damage textiles, and they are difficult to rinse off.

Remove stains as soon as they happen. More than 90% of stains can be removed without a trace, if you clean them immediately. Softcare Textile Cleaner, Stain Remover Pro and Softcare Wine Stain Remover are excellent specialty stain removers.

When removing individual stains, always ensure that no water streaks are formed. After treating the stain, you can dampen the entire cushion from seam to seam, or blend the streak with the help of a damp terry cloth.





Environmentally friendly

The ingredients used in Softcare products are always chosen with great consideration towards the environment. The products are packaged in recyclable plastic packaging. Did you know that spray bottles contain up to twice as much product as aerosol bottles of a similar size?

Safety and quality

Softcare products are of high quality, and easy to use. There are also unscented options available. We choose all of the ingredients based on the latest technology, safety, and the best performance.

Finnish

Established in 1991, Soft Protector Oy is a Finnish company specialised in manufacturing protective and special cleaning products for textiles, furniture and clothes. The products are made in Finland.



**OVER 25 YEARS OF FINNISH
QUALITY PRODUCTS**

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