

How to maintain and clean mohair velvets and upholstery cover fabrics

General

As with other articles, dust settles on upholstered furniture as well. Dirt can also be caused by contact with soiled materials. Do not allow the dirt to become too excessive, otherwise it will be more difficult to remove. Upholstery cover fabrics should be cleaned regularly to ensure prolonged life and appearance.

Regular maintenance should consist of:

- > vacuuming with a nozzle, always in the direction of the nap
- > brushing with a hard clothes-brush
- > removal of stains

The fundamental cleaning should be undertaken by an expert specialized in cleaning upholstery fabrics. Depending on the degree of dirt and the color of the fabric, a fundamental cleaning is advisable every 4-5 years.

Stain removal

Naturally, a professional upholstery cleaner has more expertise in removing stains, but it is possible to remove minor stains by following these instructions:

Damp stains

These should be treated as soon as they occur using a white absorbent cloth or tissue slightly moistened with lukewarm water. It is very important not to use colored cloths or tissues, as the color may rub off and stain the upholstery fabric.

If water alone will not remove the stain, a diluted carpet/upholstery shampoo can be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Never apply the cleaning solution directly onto the upholstery, but onto a dampened white cloth. This should then be rubbed gently onto the stain (rubbing too hard may affect the surface structure of the fabric), working from its edge to the middle. Any residual shampoo should be carefully removed with a damp cloth.

The last rubbing should always be in the direction of the nap.

The upholstery fabric should be dried thoroughly (at least 24 hours) before being used again.

A hair dryer on a low temperature setting can be used for this purpose.

Treatment of marks due to wear and tear

If mohair velvets are not regularly maintained, certain well-worn areas (seats, arms) will show pile tangling and matting over a period of time. Depending on the color, this will be seen by a change of shade.

By sitting, pressure is exerted onto the velvet fabric forcing the nap in different directions. This, together with heat, rising air humidity, body moisture, and the type of stuffing underneath the fabric, can 'fix' this change of direction, noticeable by a change of color. This is a typical property of velvets and is neither indicative of a defect nor a sign of inferior quality.

The effect can be removed by applying a **damp** (not wet) cloth overnight, which will restore the mohair fiber.

Again, the upholstered furniture should not be used until it is completely dry. If necessary, a hair dryer can be used at a low temperature.

The same result can be achieved by spraying the fabric with distilled water for a few seconds, at a distance of approximately 20 cm, and again leaving it to dry overnight.

Before treatment with a damp cloth or sprayed water, make sure the fabric is absolutely clean! (See regular maintenance.)

Care should be taken not to spray large quantities of water onto the fabric. In order to avoid shading, it is advisable to treat the whole surface in this manner. The treatment can be repeated as necessary.

After this treatment, the upholstered furniture must be completely dry before it can be used again (at least 24 hours). A hair dryer at a low temperature setting can be used for this purpose.

Characteristics of mohair velvets

Due to the structure of the mohair fiber, small knots may occasionally appear during spinning and weaving. This does not affect the look or performance of mohair velvets.

These effects are less visible in thicker velvets.

A few single black and white hairs of the Angora goat that do not absorb color during the dyeing process may be visible in the finished fabric. These characteristics do not in any way reflect depreciative quality, but rather emphasize the natural character and authenticity of mohair velvets.