

How to Remove Upholstery Stains

Cleaning an upholstery stain is tricky. You can't really get at both sides of the stain so you're trying to draw the stain out without drenching the cushion under it. And you can't usually throw it in the wash without shrinking the textile.

Try these tips to remove the spot.

1. CLEAN UP THE SPILL

- You'll have a better chance of getting the stain out completely if you act fast. Blot up a liquid spill thoroughly, before it soaks in, by pressing clean, white towels onto the spot. Repeat until they've absorbed the liquid. Scoop up solid spills, and vacuum the spot. If they're dried into the fibers, scrape up what you can with a spoon and vacuum it up.

2. TEST YOUR CLEANER

- Check the fabric label to be sure the cleaning solution you use is safe for your upholstered fabric. If there's no fabric label, test your spot remover on an area that doesn't show. If discoloration occurs, try a different cleaning product.

3. APPLY YOUR CLEANER

- Apply your cleaner and let it work in. Don't scrub it in or you could damage the fabric and set the stain. Always follow manufacturer's recommended safety precautions and instructions.

4. BLOT IT UP

- Don't rub at the spot; press your cleaning cloth into the spot repeatedly to blot up. You can't really get at both sides of the stain so this helps to draw the stain out from the top. Only use white cloth or paper towels – never patterned or colored. As the stain transfers to the towel, shift to a clean spot. Keep it up until there's no more spot transferring to the cloth.

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NOTE: Always follow manufacturer's recommended safety precautions and instructions for the products you use.