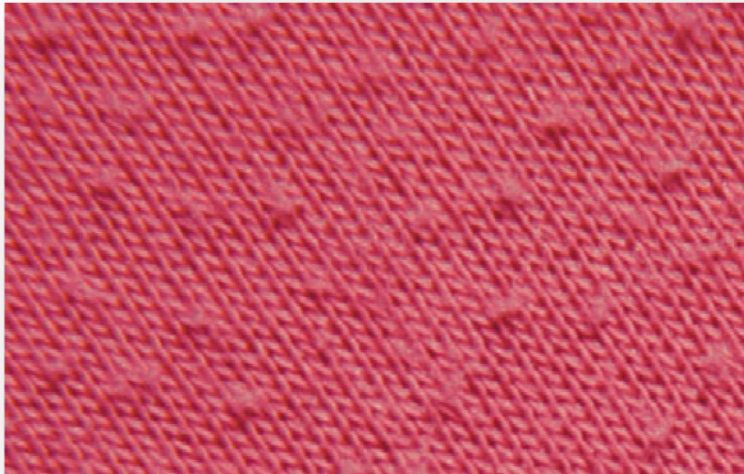




Pilling on Upholstery



Pilling is not covered by any manufacturer warranty. Read below to understand why it happens and for a solution.

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What causes pilling?

Pilling is caused when loose fibers move to the surface of the fabric, where they are subject to friction, which causes them to twist together into small balls or pills. These fibers will also become intertwined with the fibers that are woven into the fabric, so that the pill is secured to the surface of the material.

The friction that causes pilling is from normal use and will be present during the course of people using the furniture and rubbing against the surface of the fabric. Laundering can also cause this friction – washing machines agitate fabric, causing the surfaces to rub together.

Pilling is more noticeable on man-made fibers. This is mainly because natural fabrics shed loose fibers easily and less noticeably, while man-made fibers are notoriously strong, so the pills are anchored strongly to the fabric.

It is important to note that pilling is NOT a fabric defect or fault and it is NOT covered under warranty. It can be compared to shedding experienced when purchasing new carpet – think about the way the carpet behaves when newly installed, as there are constantly new loose fibers coming to the surface over a period of time and use. This is completely normal and will reduce once the excess fibers are gone.

Consumers are sometimes concerned that pilling means that the fabric is wearing away and disintegrating but this is not the case. Pilling is a normal occurrence caused by wear and tear, does not affect the durability or functionality of the fabric, and is easily removable.

Some fabrics pill more than others as some are coated/ treated during the manufacturing process to adhere to excess fibers coming to the surface of the fabric. Some fabrics are put through a process called singeing which quickly burns the excess surface fibers away.

Smooth, tightly woven fabrics and fabric made from tightly twisted yarns, are less likely to pill as these fibers are held tightly in the cloth. When a fabric is made of more than one fiber type, or one is stronger than the other (example poly-cotton), pilling will be more noticeable. The weaker fiber wears and breaks while the stronger fiber holds the pill to the cloth.

Solution

Pilling is common, so common that there are a number of very inexpensive but effective fabric pill removers on the market. They can be purchased online, Walmart, Target, or most craft stores for under \$20.



Tools needed:

- ✓ Vacuum cleaner with Upholstery attachment
- ✓ Fabric shaver (this can be found at many drug stores)
- ✓ Scissors

De-Pilling Procedure:

1. Vacuum piece with upholstery attachment to remove many of the loose fiber pills from the furniture.
2. Run the fabric shaver over the piece in slow circular motions until the majority of pills are removed.
3. Cut away any remaining pills that could not be removed by the shaver. Place the blades of the scissors as close to the surface of the upholstery as possible to remove the pills. ***Please take care so you do not accidentally cut the fabric.***
4. Vacuum the sofa with the upholstery attachment once more to remove the loosened pills.