

















INSPIRY

*Live an
Inspired Life*

KEY TO CARE SYMBOLS

SYMBOL	METHOD	SYMBOL	METHOD
	Wash at 40° C		Hot iron temperature
	Wash at 40° C, careful cycle		Medium iron temperature
	Wash at 30° C		Cool iron temperature
	Wash at 30° C, careful cycle		Do not iron
	Hand wash		Do not tumble dry
	Do not wash		Tumble dry – cool temp.
	Do not bleach		Tumble dry – medium temp
	Do not dry clean		Professional dry clean using perchloroethylene.

General

The principal causes of soiling are airborne dust, cigarette smoke, gas or open fires and accidental spillage or staining. Most of these can be avoided or at least reduced; others can be remedied by timely and appropriate maintenance.

The regular use of a vacuum cleaner with an appropriate attachment can significantly extend the life of furnishings. Curtains and upholstery should be vacuum cleaned once a week.

The professional application of a proprietary stain resist agent can aid in preventing premature soiling, particularly on upholstery.

Always follow the recommendations given by the care symbols in price lists and pattern books.

Never wait until an article is visibly dirty before washing or cleaning.

Washing

Washing is an appropriate cleaning method for small items and has the advantage that it can be carried out at home, although there are certain pitfalls to be avoided.

Wash fabrics regularly and do not wait until heavy soiling has occurred.

It is important not to wash large items such as full-length curtains or loose covers in a domestic washing machine as the abrasion resulting from too large a load will cause colour loss, shrinkage and/or creasing.

Follow the fabric manufacturer's recommendations in relation to temperature, wash method, drying and ironing procedures. These are all indicated by the Care Symbols, a key to which can be found below.

Never use bleaches when washing soft furnishings. Remember also that almost all washing powders contain bleach or optical brightening agents for that 'whiter than white' look. Unfortunately they do also have the disadvantage of dulling colours, or causing apparent fading, so use mild liquid detergents for items that will be washed regularly. Nowadays there are specialised detergents or washing powders specifically designed for colours or dark items.

Do not soak fabrics for prolonged periods of time, or leave in a washing machine while still damp, as migration of colour can occur.

Dry Cleaning

Where dry cleaning is advised make sure the cleaner is made aware of the appropriate process. Many types of fabric require careful treatment with reduced agitation, and specific solvents. This is indicated by the Care Symbols.

Remember also that there are good and bad dry cleaners – The Association of British Launderers and Cleaners can provide a list of approved establishments.

It is generally inadvisable to use proprietary spot-cleaners or dry-cleaning aerosol sprays, except when specifically approved for certain fabric types: it is better to use professional on-site cleaning contractors.

Shrinkage

All woven fabrics, particularly those made from natural fibres such as cotton or linen will shrink to some extent. It is quite normal for furnishing fabrics to shrink in washing, sometimes by as much as 6 – 8%.

Dry-cleaning (which, of course, is not a 'dry' process at all) can also cause shrinkage, although generally to a lesser extent.

It is generally accepted that wash temperature is an important factor but equally significant are the effects of mechanical agitation and drying temperature and method. Again be careful to follow the instructions given by the Care Symbols.

Take care not to dry washed items too quickly. Tumble-drying should be avoided whenever possible, as it can cause creasing and shrinkage.

Curtains should always be made with an adequate hem, loosely tacked until after the first washing or cleaning. An allowance of at least 5% should be added to the length required.

Side seams or attached linings should be hand-slipped to allow for differential movement between face fabric and lining. Always use a thread of the same fibre as the fabric you are sewing.

Curtains may shrink or extend in use owing to fluctuations in atmospheric temperature and/or humidity. This is particularly so with fabrics contain a high proportion of viscose.

Make sure that curtains do not hang too close to windows or radiators where either excessive moisture from condensation or excessive heat and dryness can have dramatic effects, in terms of dimensional stability and soiling.

Movement of curtains in situ cannot be accepted as a fault in the fabric and claims will not be accepted.

Light Fastness

Printed or dyed furnishing fabrics nowadays have good inherent resistance to fading in light, but all fabrics do fade eventually.

Curtains and blinds should always be lined and, if possible, drawn right back from the windows during daylight hours. Do not assume that because you live in a northern climate your curtains will not be affected: the damaging UV rays in sunlight, which cause fading, do penetrate cloudy skies!

Shutters or sun awnings will give added protection in sunny areas.

Sheer curtains and voiles are particularly vulnerable to fading. Whenever possible hang lining curtains to protect them.

Silk, in general, has low light fastness characteristics and no claims will be accepted for fading. Lightproof linings and interlinings must be used when making silk curtains and blinds.

Straightness of Print or Weave

Fabrics often appear to be bowed or skewed but this is usually a temporary condition caused by uneven rolling. If fabrics are slightly out of true they can usually be corrected by gently easing the fabric prior to cutting

Printed fabrics should always be cut at right angles to the selvedge, rather than on the grain of the cloth.

Wide width fabrics

Wide width fabrics are very useful as they can be 'railroaded', i.e. made up horizontally to avoid the need for seaming widths of fabric together. Note that many wide width fabrics can be made up with the pattern either vertical or horizontal. This will always be indicated in the pattern book.

Silks

It is well known that silk fabrics can be more fragile than other types and a certain amount of care should be exercised in their make up and maintenance. Silk curtains should always be lined to protect them from sunlight, and should not be used for Roman blinds where any degree of fading will be more apparent. Silk should always be dry cleaned by professional cleaners with experience of furnishing fabrics, and be cleaned using the careful cycle as indicated in the Care Symbols.

Linens

Linen fabrics, whether 100% linen or mixed with other yarns such as cotton or viscose, are more prone to shrinkage than other fibre types, especially in washing. For this reason we generally recommend that all linen fabrics should be dry cleaned. Where linen fabrics are recommended as being suitable for washing, it is usual that they will have been given a pre-shrunk finish in order to minimise shrinkage. This may result in curtains extending once hung and a loosely stitched hem is advisable so that curtains may be adjusted once they have "settled in".

Velvets

Always store rolls of velvet in a horizontal position or in the original box within its suspension. Never stand rolls of velvet on end as this will inevitably cause permanent creasing. When re-rolling velvet, always roll with the pile on the inside.

For curtains, velvet should be made up with the pile facing upwards for cotton velvets and polyester/Trevira velvets; pile should face down for viscose and other lustrous velvets, as well as for patterned velvets. An upward facing pile provides a deeper and richer appearance, whereas downward facing pile enhances the lustre on viscose velvets.

It is also strongly recommended to line velvet curtains, this prevents pile-loss, and fading from the effects of sunlight. Lining also gives a more luxurious drape, especially if curtains are also interlined.

Marking and/or pile distortion are normal characteristics of velvets and are not an indication of poor wear. Movement or displacement of the pile is quite normal and should be expected, especially in areas of high use such as arms, seat fronts and back cushions.

During use shading and pressure marks should diminish or disappear altogether. Regular turning of seat and back cushions should prolong the appearance, together with regular vacuum cleaning using an appropriate attachment.

Take care not to spill liquids onto velvet, especially those with a viscose pile. It will cause staining or watermarks which are extremely difficult to remove.

Cotton velvet is a natural product and when made up for curtains or on a sofa, it will acquire its unique appearance after some time due to usage and the natural humidity of the surroundings. Pressure marks, rolling stripes and smaller irregularities, which are inherent for the product, will disappear in a ventilated and relatively humid environment.

As an aid to restoring the pile and removing pressure marks the use of a soft brush and light steaming may be effective.

Upholstering with velvet

Make sure that the velvet you choose is suitable for upholstery and be sure to apply the right technique. This means seaming the cut edges and folding the edge twice before nailing or stapling the velvet to prevent the fabric from unnecessary rupture and tearing.

Do not cover velvet directly onto foam fillings but use an interlining even if the velvet has been backcoated. The fabric will last longer and pile-loss will be limited.

Mezzola™

Mezzola™ is the registered trade mark of a superior microfibre textile product developed by Designers Guild. It is luxurious and comfortable, soft to the touch yet hardwearing and durable. Mezzola™ combines the best of both worlds – not only beautiful to look at but also easy to care for and soil/stain resistant.

As with all furnishings, regular and careful maintenance will preserve the beauty and prolong the life of your Mezzola™ product. Whilst regular cleaning is desirable it is important not to use excessively vigorous methods and always take great care when dealing with localised stains.

It is recommended to vacuum—clean or brush with a soft brush two or three times a week.

Every two or three weeks run a damp, white cloth over your furniture to remove dust. Do not use coloured cloths or paper towels.

- Once a year you should clean your furniture by one of the following methods:
- If the covers are removable they can be washed on a low temperature setting in a washing machine or taken to the laundry. The covers should not be spun dry, to avoid creasing but may be tumble dried at the lowest temperature setting.

- If the covers are not removable they may be cleaned in situ by a professional cleaning company, but make sure you tell them that the fabric is 100% polyester microfibre as excessive heat may damage the covers.
- If you wish you can clean the furniture yourself using a damp clean cloth, well wrung out, and run it over the Mezzola TM fabric, being sure not to wet it too much. Repeat as necessary until no further soiling is removed the leave to dry thoroughly.
- After drying you may brush with a soft bristle brush to restore the surface appearance.