



Furniture Care
A guide for maintenance



Congratulations! You have chosen furniture from **Luke Hughes and Company**. We have been designing and making furniture in Covent Garden for more than 25 years. Over that time, it has been fascinating to witness not only how our furniture mellows with age but also how it is treated. Some installations still look immaculate after two decades, others are beyond economic repair within five years. Much depends on how the furniture is cared for.

We monitor our furniture and support our clients for much longer periods than our warranty period of twelve months, but it is not possible to give warranties against careless abuse.

Typical examples include:

- wilful damage (standing in drawers, shoes on desks, electricians servicing ceiling panels from table-tops)
- cuffing and impact damage to surfaces, edges and mouldings (e.g. studs under briefcases, impact damage from metal edges, diamond cuff-links and heavy metal watches)

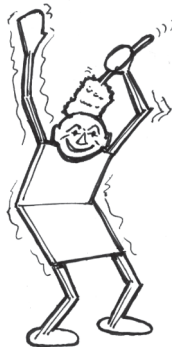
Most damage can be repaired but the cost of doing so (including the costs of collection and redelivery if pieces have to go back to the workshop) can be very high. If you follow these guidelines, then most problems can be avoided.



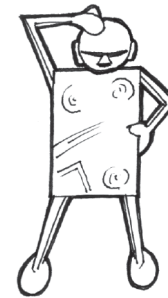
Wood and lacquered surfaces, especially tops

If they are finished with catalysed lacquer, properly applied:

- modern furniture will be resistant to (but not proof against) moderate heat and limited exposure to alcohol
- the only cleaning necessary is a wipe with a slightly damp cloth followed by a soft, dry duster



- do not use abrasive cleaners; they will scratch the surface
- table tops should be protected from hot, damp items (such as the unglazed bottoms of coffee cups) and the heat from certain laptops (if not placed on a mat). Spillages, especially of alcohol, should be wiped immediately with a damp cloth and should never be left for long periods or overnight. **Alcohol is a solvent - it is imperative not to leave surfaces exposed to it for long periods**
- more stubborn marks (in the lacquer and which have not affected the timber below) may



be capable of repair - please contact us for advice

- prolonged contact with vinyl compounds (such as a polythene-covered ring binder left in the sun on a table-top or bookshelf) may also react with the lacquer
- **beware silicone spray polishes.** These build up an unsightly film and will react with the lacquer and cause irreparable damage; the only remedial action is to strip the whole top and respray, even then the results are unpredictable
- keep furniture out of direct sunlight; the colours of all timbers will mellow with time and exposure to UV; it is wise to periodically move desk accessories to allow equal exposure



Metal finishes

- for brass and other non-ferrous metals a proprietary cleaner is ideal but avoid contact with the wood or lacquered surface; apart from the occasional wipe with a duster, stainless steel needs no cleaning, nor does anodised aluminium or powder-coated mild-steel



Glass

- proprietary glass cleaning fluids are suitable but avoid contact with the wood or lacquered surface

Moving

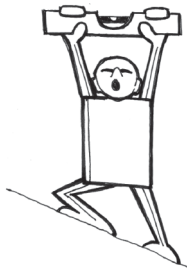
Most damage occurs to furniture when it is moved, so

- beware dragging furniture; it should be lifted clear of the floor
- disconnect the sections of large tables and lift the tops clear of their bases
- folding leg tables are best handled by two people and should be turned upside down on a carpeted floor or protective blanket before dismantling
- avoid dropping the corners of tables onto the floor and beware door architraves when moving furniture



from room to room

- purpose-made trolleys and storage racks greatly help extend the life of furniture that is moved regularly



Levelling

- if doors or drawers do not align, the unit is probably not level; the hinges can be adjusted but an easier way is to use levelling wedges to compensate for uneven floors

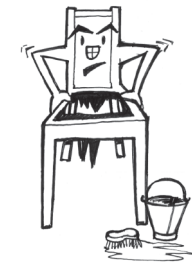


Leather

- Virtually all consumer complaints with upholstery leather arise through well intentioned but improper over-enthusiastic cleaning
- the principal cause of deterioration is dust worked into the pores
- for regular cleaning, simply vacuum and take a soft cloth, wring it out in a warm, mild, soap solution (but not detergent); wipe the

leather using a light circular motion taking care not to soak the leather; repeat using clean water

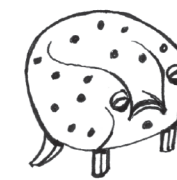
- do not attempt to 'feed' upholstery leather in any way; spray polishes, saddle soaps, waxes and so-called 'hide foods' may create a sticky surface attracting dirt and causing irreversible damage



Wool fabrics

As a rough guide:

- weekly vacuuming greatly extends the life of wool fabric
- annual cleaning can also help; in the absence of professional help, use only reputable brands of upholstery shampoo and be sure to test the solution on an inconspicuous part; never use soap, ammonia, bleach or other cleaners intended for hard surfaces



- spots and stains - act quickly! Most will vanish if they are treated immediately and not allowed to dry in. Mop

up excess liquid with white absorbent tissues or a clean cloth; scoop up solids with a spoon or blade of a knife, use small amounts of cleaning fluid at a time and blot between each application; avoid pressing liquid through the fabric. If possible, place a wad of white tissues between the fabric and filling. Never rush! work patiently and thoroughly

- A more extensive guide to treating stains is printed overleaf



Wool fabric - spot and stain removal guide

Use these tables to identify the type of stain and the corresponding stain removal treatment.

Stain	First treatment	Second treatment	Third treatment
Alcohol	1		
Blood	5	15	
Burn or scorch marks	14	13	
Butter	3	1	
Candle wax	7	6	3
Chewing gum	7	2	
Chocolate	1	3	
Coffee	15	13	6
Colas & soft drinks	4	1	
Cooking oils	3	1	
Cream	5	15	3/2
Egg	5	15	3/2
Floor wax	2	1	
Fruit juice	5	1	8
Furniture polish	3	1	8/10
Gravy & sauces	4	15	1
Ink (fountain pen)	4	1	8
Ink (ball point)	8	1	
Lipstick	3	1	
Metal polish	3	10	1
Milk	4	15	1
Mustard	1		
Nail polish	9	3	
Oil & grease	3/2	1	
Paint (emulsion)	5	1	3
Paint (oil)	10	3	1
Salad dressing	3	1	
Shoe polish	3	10	
Soot	11	3	1
Tar	2	17	
Tea	4	16	15
Urine (fresh)	4	15	
Urine (old)	4	1	17
Vomit	4	15	1
Wine	12	4	8/18

Type of treatment	Number
Proprietary upholstery shampoo solution	1
Dry cleaning fluid (preferably 1.1.1. trichloroethane)	2
Proprietary agent for greasy stains	3
Clean warm water	4
Cold water	5
Absorbent paper and hot iron	6
Chill with aerosol freezing agent (or ice cubes in a plastic bag); scrape off excess	7
Surgical alcohol/meths	8
Nail polish remover	9
Turpentine or white spirit	10
Vacuum	11
Proprietary absorbent powders	12
Hydrogen Peroxide (e.g. 'Brintoverite') diluted to 5 volume (1.4g /100ml water)	13
Scrape lightly with fingers or coin	14
Biological washing powder (2g/100ml)	15
Spirit vinegar (acetic acid)	16
Call professional cleaner	17
White wine, followed by white absorbent towels and then cold water	18



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