

Regular Maintenance

It is important to vacuum upholstery regularly to remove the surface dust that builds up and slowly contributes to a greying effect that diminishes the clarity of the *original* color.

Please note that vacuuming should be done with the proper attachments to avoid breaking down the fibers and contributing to “pilling.”

In addition to regular vacuuming, a professional cleaner should come in at least once or twice a year to thoroughly clean the fabrics and remove the soiling that a normal vacuum cleaner cannot reach. The expense of this service is small compared to the reward of seating that looks good as new after a lot of use.

Cleaning Codes

W: Water-based cleaning agents or foam may be used for cleaning this fabric.

S: Only mild, pure water-free dry cleaning solvents may be used for cleaning this fabric.

W-S: Water-based cleaning agents and foam or mild, waterfree solvents may be used for cleaning this fabric.

W Bleach: Water-based or foam cleaning agents or diluted household bleach may be used for cleaning this fabric.

W-S Bleach: Clean with water or solvent-based cleaning agents or diluted household bleach.

X: This fabric should be vacuumed or brushed lightly to remove soil. *Warning:* Do not use water-based foam or liquid cleaning agents of any type on this fabric.

Cleaning vs Sanitizing vs Disinfecting

Cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing are often used synonymously, but they are not the same thing. Cleaning removes the visible foreign matter from a surface. Disinfecting, when done according to the instructions of a suitable cleaner, kills all bacteria and viruses present, while sanitizing reduces the level of bacteria and viruses present. Bleach cleanable woven fabrics may be sanitized and bleach cleanable coated fabrics may be disinfected. Please refer to [CDC recommendations](#) on disinfecting.

Bleach Cleaning & Disinfecting Steps

(W Bleach and W-S Bleach fabrics only)

STEP 1

Identify the recommended bleach:water cleaning ratio: A solution of 1 part household bleach to 4 or 10 parts water is recommended for cleaning KnollTextiles’ bleach cleanable fabrics. To find the recommended bleach:water ratio for a specific fabric, please refer to our Bleach Cleanable Fabric Specifications [document](#).

STEP 2

Pre-Cleaning: Use a detergent or general-purpose cleaner to first remove soil, organic matter and any germs from the surface of the fabric.

STEP 3

Applying for Disinfection/Sanitization: Appropriate bleach solution may be used for wiping down or spot cleaning the fabric. No disinfectant can kill a microbe or virus immediately upon contact. It is important to follow all the instructions per the cleaning agent's label, including those for dwell time.

STEP 4

Wiping Off: The bleach solution must be wiped off the product with clean water and a clean cloth in order to prevent fading or damage to the fibers or materials.

Stain Treatment

There are two types of stains: water-based and oil-based. The key to removing either type is prompt action. The longer a stain is allowed to remain on a fabric, the more difficult it will be to remove.

- For water-based stains, a solution of warm soapy water (not overly soapy) used in the following manner should remove them.
- In removing oil-based stains, the same procedure can be followed, but instead of warm water, a spray dry cleaning solution is used. Either treatment should be tried in a concealed part of the fabric first, to make sure there will be no adverse reaction between the dye stuffs and the cleaning solution.

STEP 1

Soak up excess staining material immediately with a soft absorbent material. Do not dry the stain completely or it may set.

STEP 2

Either by using the warm soapy water or a dry cleaning solution and a clean sponge or soft bristle brush, begin brushing the stain with light, quick strokes. Start at the outside of the stain and work toward the center. Be careful not to overly saturate the stain with cleaning solution or you may get a ring. Do not rub too vigorously or you may damage the nap of the fabric or break fibers.

STEP 3

Once the stain is removed, soak up all remaining cleaning solution and then use another clean cloth or sponge dipped in cool water to remove any residue that will attract further soiling.

STEP 4

Allow fabric to dry thoroughly and then vacuum well before using.

STEP 5

Several light applications are less harmful to fabrics than one concentrated one. If you go through the above steps and there is still a stain, repeat the entire procedure.

STEP 6

Remember, never use anything hot to clean fabric, as heat will set stains. Also, avoid a scrubbing motion.

STEP 7

If the stain is stubborn, call a professional cleaner and ask for their advice.

Spot Cleaning Treatment

STEP 1

As soon as possible, blot liquid spills with tissue, paper towels or a clean, colorfast cloth. Scrape and vacuum away dry, solid material. Avoid working soilant deeper into the fabric.

STEP 2

Apply household or commercial upholstery cleaner sparingly to the soiled area, as overwetting may spread the stain and damage cushion material under the fabric. Rub gently with a clean, white cloth. Turn the damp cloth frequently to a clean surface to avoid redepositing the soilant.

STEP 3

Work from the outer edge toward the center of the spot to reduce ringing. Cleaning the entire fabric panel, or at least a large area around the spot, further reduces the likelihood of ringing. A final water rinse of the entire panel with a hot water extraction cleaner is preferable.

Note on Cleaning Agents

The following procedure should be used with all cleaning agents. A clean, white cloth dampened with the recommended cleaning agent should be used in an inconspicuous place to test for colorfastness. Optimum cleaning will be achieved by not overwetting the cloth and by turning it frequently to keep it clean. Rings can be avoided by working from the outer edge of the spot toward the center. This process should be repeated until the spot is removed or there is no further transfer to the cloth.

Note on Environmental Cleaning of W fabrics

Environmentally Friendly cleaners can be used for general purpose cleaning. A few are listed below (manufacturers are identified in parenthesis) These cleaners can be substituted for “detergent” when spot cleaning:

- Enviro Care All Purpose Cleaner (Rochester Midland)
- Enz-Away (Naturally Yours)
- N1 All-Purpose (The Clean Environment)
- Cleaner Concentrate (Ultra Shield)

Environmentally friendly degreaser products that can be used for oily and greasy stains are listed below (manufacturers are identified in parenthesis):

- ECO 2000 Multiuse Degreaser/Cleaner (KC Products)
- Green Uniclean Degreaser and Floor Cleaner (Ipax Cleanogel)
- Formula G510 (Gaylord Industries)
- Magic 555 Industrial Degreaser and Cleaner (P&D Creative)

Note on Oily/Greasy Stains for W-S and S Fabrics

For oily and greasy stains, in addition to the recommended method, some stains (i.e. perspiration/body oils) respond well to dry cleaning such as “Host” (Racine Industries), “Capture” (Milliken), “Bonafides” (Drummond American), “Keft” (Texize) and “Carbona”. Carefully follow the directions on the label.

Stains and Recommended Cleaners

“W-S” Fabrics

STAIN	RECOMMENDED CLEANER(S)
Carbon, catsup, chocolate, coffee, cola, grape juice, inks, mucilage, tea, watercolors, wine	50/50 solution of warm water and hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate (Snowy/Chlorox) or detergent (Era/All/Gain)
Berry stain, gravy, pickle juice, urine, vomit	50/50 solution of warm water and hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate (Snowy/Chlorox) or detergent (Era/All/Gain); or detergent solution and water solution with 3% ammonia
Beer, furniture polish	50/50 solution of warm water and hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate (Snowy/Chlorox) or detergent (Era/All/Gain); or detergent solution and water solution with 3% ammonia; or undiluted white vinegar; or 10% acetic acid solution
Blood	50/50 solution of warm water and hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate (Snowy/Chlorox) or detergent (Era/All/Gain); or undiluted white vinegar; or 10% acetic acid solution
Nail polish	50/50 solution of warm water and hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate (Snowy/Chlorox) or detergent (Era/All/Gain); or solvent
Egg	Detergent solution and water solution with 3% ammonia
Butter	Detergent solution and water solution with 3% ammonia; or paint, oil, grease remover
Milk	Undiluted white vinegar or 10% acetic acid solution
Rubber cement, shoe polish	Solvent
Crayon, Latex paint, linseed oil, lipstick, oil, oil paints	Paint, oil, grease remover
Rust	Oxalic acid

“S” Fabrics: For “S” fabrics, All of the above stains should be cleaned with a solvent.

“X” Fabrics: Clean this fabric only by vacuuming or light brushing to prevent accumulation of dust and grime. Water-based foam cleansers or solvent-based cleaning agents of any kind may cause excessive shrinking, staining, or distortion of the surface texture and, therefore should not be used.

Note on Rust Stains: For rust stains on “W-S” always use oxalic acid.

Removal methods: For solvents and paint/oil/grease removers, apply cleaner, then blot. For all other removers, apply cleaner, blot, apply water, then blot. For the detergent and water solutions with ammonia method, apply detergent, blot, apply ammonia solution, blot, apply water, blot.