



Upholstery fabric guide

The unique qualities of pile fabrics

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Three categories of pile fabric. What is a pile fabric?

All upholstery fabrics with a direction or pile are known as pile fabrics. Pile fabrics are subject to pile distortion due to the direction of the pile. The higher the pile, the stronger the effects of the pile distortion.

1. Velvet fabrics

Velvet is a woven or knitted pile fabric. This fabric is strong with a soft and full grip. A velvet is highly suitable for furniture intended for intensive use. Depending on the specific fabric, the velvet has a higher or lower pile. This determines the sensitivity of the fabric to pressure.

2. Chenille fabrics

Chenille is a term that refers to the type of yarn. The name Chenille is of French origin and translates as caterpillar in reference to its soft, fluffy texture. Chenille yarns are woven in the warp and/or weft direction. A Chenille fabric is soft and gives ample volume to the fabric.

3. Microfibre fabric

Microfibres can also be woven or knitted. A microfibre fabric consists of very small, closely packed fibres that are processed with a microscopic density. This adds great strength to microfibre fabrics and makes them very suitable for intensive use in the home.

An optical colour difference, what's going on?

When the pile of a fabric is in a downward position, an optical colour difference is created. When the pile is flattened, the fabric will look different than when the pile remains in its original position. Depending on the type of fabric, in certain areas the fabric may appear lighter/darker or matt/shinier. This effect is referred to as a 'seat impression'. These optical colour differences are product-specific properties and can never be completely avoided.

What causes a flattened pile?

Flattening of the pile occurs when pressure is applied to the fabric. We call these areas pressure marks or simply stripes. These can occur during transport and storage of a pile of fabric as the pressure on a rolled fabric is not evenly distributed. The closer to the centre of the roll (the tube), the higher the pressure on the pile.

During use of the furniture, the pile of the fabric can be pressed flat due to weight, body heat and perspiration or moisture from the users.



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Special handling of pile fabrics during storage and transport

We always supply Textaafoam fabrics on rolls. Our manufacturers pay great attention to the even distribution of pressure when rolling fabrics and to pile fabrics in particular. This prevents flattening of the pile as much as possible. The closer to the core of the roll (near the tube), the higher the pressure on the pile will be.

Because pile fabrics on the outside of the roll are exposed to external factors that can cause local pressure, we generally package our pile fabrics in bubble wrap or in a combination of bubble wrap + box. Cut lengths are delivered in bubblewrap and full rolls in suspended boxes or bubblewrap. This protection prevents the formation of pressure marks as much as possible by optimally distributing the external pressure.

Store rolls horizontally at all times to avoid unnecessary pressure. Never store rolls vertically (do not stand them up either, however briefly) and do not stock them crosswise. These are additional measures that you can take to prevent pressure points and stripes.

Transport and storage of upholstered furniture also requires special attention. Lashing straps and packaging wraps can exert disproportionate pressure on the furniture fabric. This can cause pressure points, stripes or permanent damage.

How do I return the pile to its original position?

There are several ways to bring the pile back to its original position. The pile springs up again after the fabric is unrolled and the pressure is removed. This can take a few days. If the pressure points are still visible or it is not possible to wait, we advise:



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Brushing the fabric

❖ For velvet, use a special velvet brush

- ❖ Intensive brushing with the special velvet brush. For best results, always brush an area larger than the pressure point or stripe itself.
- ❖ Brush in all directions and hold or secure the fabric to create tension on the fabric.
- ❖ This method also works well on upholstered furniture.



❖ For chenille and microfibre, use a soft brush

- ❖ Carefully brush with a clean shoe brush (see below); first against the pile direction and then with the pile direction. Repeat this several times and for best results, always brush an area larger than the pressure point or stripe itself.
- ❖ For clear or deep stripes, repeat the brushing at intervals. Leave the fabric to rest for a while between brushing treatments. This gives the pile time to return to its original position as much as possible.



❖ Vacuuming the fabric

- ❖ After unrolling the fabric, you can vacuum it. Always use a furniture nozzle. We recommend a maximum suction power of 500 Watt to prevent damage.
- ❖ It goes without saying that you can also first upholster the furniture and then vacuum it, as pressure points can also occur when applying the fabric to the furniture.

❖ Steaming the fabric

- ❖ The fabric or furniture can also be treated with a steam machine. The moisture and heat return the fibres to the desired pile direction. The process continues during the drying of the fabric.



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THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF PILE FABRICS CONSUMER INFORMATION

Preventing optical inconsistencies during use of the furniture

The consumer can minimize the formation of seat impressions (the flattening of the pile) by ensuring proper maintenance of the furniture. This also prevents dust and dirt from accumulating in the upholstery fabric.

'Proper maintenance' means:

- ❖ Carefully vacuuming weekly with a furniture nozzle at a suction power of up to 500 watts. Please note: a higher suction power causes the fabric to wear quicker.
- ❖ Always remove coarse dirt, such as crumbs, immediately.

Some furniture has a washable removable cover. Always wash the entire upholstery to avoid differences in appearance / colour, following washing.

How do I remove seat impressions?

If seat impressions are visible, the fabric can be brushed with a clothes brush.

- ❖ Begin by brushing the seat impression in all directions. Always return the pile to its original position afterwards.

- ❖ Continue to brush the entire seating area in the same manner.



- ❖ If the seat impression does not disappear fully using a clothes brush, you can try a shoe brush with soft, short bristles. Use this clean brush for this purpose only to prevent cross contamination.

This is a harder brush, so brush carefully!





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Shading: no optical inconsistencies

Shading is sometimes confused with optical inconsistencies, as referred to above, but they are two different things. Shading occurs when the pile of the fabric is applied to the furniture in a different direction. This causes visual differences between different parts or elements.

An example.

When walking around the sofa, you can see slight differences in colour. The side panel of the sofa, for example, has a slightly different colour than the cushions. This has to do with the direction in which you look at the pile of the fabric. If the fabric looks darker and deeper, you are looking into or against the pile. When looking in the same direction as the pile, you will see a lighter and flatter colour.

The way that light falls on your furniture enhances the effect. More light is absorbed when it falls against the pile. The fabric appears darker and deeper in colour. If the light shines in the same direction as the pile, the fabric reflects more light and appears lighter and flatter in colour.

The manufacturer of the furniture will always apply the fabric to the furniture in a single direction, as far as possible. This does not necessarily mean that all elements of a piece of furniture will be upholstered in the same direction. In the case of a corner sofa, for example, one element is at right angles to the other elements. In that case, the fabric is processed in such a way that, after assembly, the nap lies in the same direction over the entire piece of furniture.