

HIGH PERFORMANCE POLYOLEFIN UPHOLSTERY

CARE & CLEANING GUIDE



The Australian Government's Department of Health (2020) suggests that the length of time that SARS-COV-2 (the cause of COVID-19) survives on inanimate surfaces will vary depending on the amount of contaminated body fluid present, such as respiratory droplets, and environmental temperature and humidity. It is unlikely that Corona viruses will survive for long once droplets produced by coughing or sneezing dry out¹.

Safe Work Australia (2020) recommends a combination of cleaning and disinfecting as the most effective way to remove the COVID-19 virus from surfaces in the workplace. They make the following distinction between cleaning and disinfecting²:

- Cleaning is the physical removal of germs, dirt, and organic matter from surfaces.
- Disinfecting is using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces.

It is important to clean before disinfecting because organic matter and dirt can inactivate the ability of disinfectants to kill germs.

CLEANING

Warning: Do not saturate fixed upholstery with water or other cleaning liquids.

Regular cleaning

- Vacuum regularly using low suction and smooth attachment.
- Apply a mild soap and water cleaning solution (1 part soap to 10 parts lukewarm water) to the fabric and blot with a clean dry cloth.
- Reapply as necessary until soiling is gone. Some stubborn stains may require light agitation with an old toothbrush, or a brush designed for cleaning upholstery. NEVER use stiff bristles or wire brushes, as they damage the fabric.
- Always rinse with clear water to remove soap residues.
- Blot dry with a clean, dry cloth and allow to air dry.

Spot cleaning

- Treat spills and stains as soon as possible.
- Avoid concentrated rubbing and use minimal pressure only.
- Gently scrape soil or mop liquid from the surface of the fabric, do not scrub.
- This fabric is made from solution dyed yarn and is suitable to be cleaned with bleach (recommended 1 part bleach to 4 parts water), however a mild soap and warm water solution is all that is required for most spills.

CARE SYMBOLS

Please refer to individual product specification sheets for care symbols.

DISINFECTING

The Department of Health (2020) suggests the use of a disinfectant where the manufacturer claims antiviral activity, such as commonly used chlorine-based disinfectants like household bleach with active ingredient Sodium Hypochlorite, or hospital grade disinfectants with active ingredient Benzalkonium Chloride.

A variety of strengths of household bleach are available. The concentration of active ingredient can be found on the product label. The Department of Health (2020) recommends using a 1000ppm (0.1%) bleach solution.

For example; White King Premium Bleach has a concentration of 4.0% Chlorine, so to achieve a 0.1% bleach solution, you would use 1 part bleach to 39 parts water, or 250ml bleach in a 10L bucket of water.

Preparation and use of bleach solution

Bleach solutions should be made up daily using manufacturer's instructions for appropriate dilution and use. Using a disposable paper towel or cloth, wipe the cleaned surface of the upholstery with bleach solution. Sufficient time is required to kill the virus, i.e., at least 10 minutes contact time. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and protective eye wear, should be worn when handling and preparing bleach solutions or disinfectants.

Use of disinfectant wipes

Using a disposable disinfectant wipe with active ingredient Benzalkonium Chloride 0.47% w/w, wipe the cleaned surface of the upholstery. Sufficient time is required to kill the virus, i.e., at least 10 minutes contact time.

References:

- 1 Australian Government Department of Health. (2020). Environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for COVID-19. <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19.pdf>
- 2 Safe Work Australia. (2020). Cleaning to prevent the spread of COVID-19. <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/COVID-and-Cleaning-info-sheet.pdf>