

LAURA ASHLEY
HOME

leather
upholstery
furniture

information and care guide

please read and retain for future reference

Afin d'obtenir ce guide en français, merci de vous rendre à cette adresse: http://www.lauraashley.com/page/care_guides

Hier finden Sie den Ratgeber in deutscher Sprache: http://www.lauraashley.com/page/care_guides

LEATHER UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

Investing in a true original

Genuine leather is natural and warm with truly individual characteristics. Laura Ashley only use high quality full and semi aniline leathers, many tanned using water based dyes or pigments and finished with natural substances like beeswax. This allows the natural markings, scars, shade variation and beautiful characteristics of real authentic leather to be enjoyed.

We offer leathers to suit all tastes. Some of our leathers have extra character with distressed and wax finishes which create significant variances in textures and colours, with enhanced markings under the wax. Selected leathers have had the surface texture removed and a finish applied which although more uniform in appearance may still feature characteristics.

Legs or feet are in dark wood some feature distressing.

See lauraashley.com for more details to help you choose a leather perfect for you.

True beauty comes with maturity

With a little care, leather can improve with age, the odd mark or scratch may occur, body shape moulding will happen and colours can mellow, this simply enhances the unique character of the piece without affecting durability.

Laura Ashley upholstered leather furniture is made to exacting quality standards, and will benefit from correct care and maintenance. To be sure you will be completely satisfied with your purchase, please take time to familiarise yourself with the details of our range of leathers.

UNDERSTANDING LEATHER

Natural characteristics and features of all good quality leathers include:

Scars

Recognised as dark lines in the leather, which vary in size, shape and texture and do not affect the durability or performance.

Neck, Growth Marks and Body Moulding

Caused by stretching in the hide during its lifetime these features may look like creases in the leather, after a time all leathers relax and mould from use, this is quite normal and do not affect performance.

Shade variation

Four hides are needed to make one large sofa, and every hide has a slightly different grain pattern; so variation in colour and texture may occur between the different parts of a piece and from product to product.

Pull Up

Leather must be stretched taut for perfect upholstery; this causes it to appear lighter in colour especially across tighter areas such as arms which will be more obvious on wax and oiled finishes.

Scratches

On some wax finished leathers, characteristic scratch type marks may occur during the tanning and tumbling processes, these will be under the wax. Scratches in use may be reduced by massaging the leather to redistribute natural oils.

SOFABEDS AND RECLINERS

- Ideal as an occasional bed for extra guests sofas contain a bed mechanism under the seat cushion; this will create a firmer seat than standard sofas, and raise the depth of the seat slightly.
- Operate the bed mechanism with care to prevent damage to the mechanism or upholstery.
- Remove the seat cushions and platform cover, lift the front steel rail using the handle. Do not lift from the back. The folded frame will move upwards and forward. Continue to unfold the mechanism until it is fully extended. Remove bedding before closing bed.
- Recliners require a firm body motion to operate, the mechanism does not lock when fully reclined and will return to the semi reclined position if weight is lifted. Take care when using the kickboard to avoid damage or premature wear of the material.
- There are many moving parts and it is normal for minor squeaks and creaks to emit from the recliners and sofas whilst in use.

SEAT CUSHIONS, FILLINGS & SEAT COVERS

Cushions contain high quality fillings carefully calculated to give the correct loft for each range. All seat and back cushion fillings will compress when used, just like a pillow. The appearance and performance of your cushions can be preserved by regular maintenance. Follow these simple steps as soon as your furniture is in use:-

Fibre or Feather (selected ranges only)

- This is a soft and comfortable filling which requires frequent maintenance.
- After each days use plump cushions firmly on the outside borders to restore air between the fibres or feathers, this will maintain the look and comfort, and help prevent fibres binding.
- At least weekly complete the following maintenance; the more often this is carried out the better the filling will perform.
 1. Place the cushion on one of its outside edges and beat the opposite border of the cushion inwards with the flat of your hands. The more vigorously you do this, the better.
 2. Turn the cushion round a quarter turn onto the next side and repeat until all four sides have been beaten.
 3. Finally, give the cushion a shake and replace.
 4. Remove the filling interiors from their covers occasionally to plump them.

Foam with Fibre Wrap (selected ranges only)

- This is a firmer and more supportive filling than fibre which softens with use.
- Due to small tolerances in polyurethane foam manufacturing process, hardness of foam may vary from cushion to cushion within the same product or order, the variance may reduce with use over time.
- Plump cushions firmly on the outside borders occasionally to restore air between the fibres and maintain the shape.
- Seat covers should be rotated, and redressed regularly to realign the seat edges.
- All foam is manufactured to meet stringent flammability regulations; additives used to comply with this standard may occasionally give rise to a slight odour which will dissipate over time once the product is unwrapped, aired and in use

All Cushion Fillings

- Fillings which are not maintained correctly from the beginning will bind and become difficult to restore, losing comfort and shape.
- Swap reversible cushions around and turn where possible to ensure equal wear.
- Leather and selected upholstery ranges have cushion covers which are not fully reversible. Non-reversible fibre filled cushions should have the pad removed from the cover and turned over occasionally.
- Cushions are likely to have moved during transit and because they need time to settle may cause slight lifting of the back pads. Redressing may be required so they sit correctly, ensure the cushion pads are positioned well back, squarely and flat on the seating platform so backs sit flat to the seat.
- The feel of the seat will vary dependent on the leather and size chosen; leathers will vary and this can give a more relaxed or firmer feel to the seat when in use. Larger versions of a range have more cushion surface area for air to escape; so may compact more and feel different to smaller options in the same range.

LEGS, FEET & LEVELLING

- Furniture must be positioned on a level solid surface to ensure the product does not rock and damage the frame, as even the most modern of properties can experience minor variations in surface levels. Using felt pads or castor cups is recommended to help level, and these will also protect wooden and delicate flooring from possible marking by feet or castors.
- Removable legs which screw in may loosen with use, check monthly that they are secure by gently turning, be careful not to over tighten, those with castors should be tightened with a screwdriver on the end brass screw and firm hand grip on the wooden leg.
- Avoid dragging or dropping your upholstery onto corners or feet, or leaning back on two legs as this may cause damage, lift with two people and place down gently in place.

CORNER UNITS

- Protect connecting brackets by maintaining stability especially on hard slippery surfaces.
- Some corner seats have by design to be a webbed construction so will feel softer than sprung sections on the main seat units.

VALANCES

Valances are taped up during transit to protect them; any creasing caused will drop out after a short period of time.

GUARANTEE

- Robust and durable frames and springs are manufactured to comply with British Standards, and are guaranteed for a reassuring five years of normal domestic use.
- The guarantee does not apply to the covering leather or cushion fillings as we have no control over their use, or the environment in which they are kept.
- Seconds and ex-display pieces are not covered by the five year guarantee.

SUNLIGHT AND ENVIRONMENT

If your upholstery is exposed to direct sunlight for long periods of time, the colour and leather will deteriorate. Use in hot and sunny conservatories is not recommended.

- At least a 30cm clearance from heat sources is advised to prevent colour change or permanent marks.
- Do not place hot items such as cups, or laptops on leather as this may mark.
- Avoid locating products in excessively high or low temperatures, or where the environment is often damp as this may cause product issues.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Laura Ashley recommends the purchase of a Guardsman Protection Plan* at time of ordering to offer extra peace of mind in case of accidents. To help prolong the life of your leather upholstery we advise the following:

Cleaning

- Apply specialist leather care products only as directed on the container and try first on a hidden area of leather. Do not use leather soaps, leather wipes, hide food, or any polish other than that recommended by a reputable retailer. Suitable leather care kits can be obtained from Laura Ashley.
- For atmospheric dust and dirt that could cause premature wear, clean regularly with a soft cloth, avoiding vacuum cleaners on leather.
- Keep show wood clean with a damp cloth rinsed in warm water; never use detergents and polish periodically with natural wax.
- Remove all spills immediately. Blot liquid spills with a clean, dry, white cloth, work towards the centre of the spill. Do not rub or use abrasive cleaners, solvents or detergents.
- Should the piece become stained or suffer other damage we recommend professional help is sought. If you have a Guardsman Protection Plan* contact them immediately for advice, alternatively a nationwide service is offered by Safeclean* on 0800 585 693 or Guardsman Home Services* on 0845 6020789 as one of many nationwide furniture specialists.

Care

- Protect delicate flooring from potential marking by feet or legs using felt pads or castor cups.
- Do not drop furniture onto corners or feet, or lean backwards on two legs as this will weaken and damage frames, feet or legs.
- Prevent sharp objects such as toys, buckles and heels from coming into contact with your furniture.
- Avoid sitting on the arms or edges of furniture; or pushing feet against or placing them on the arms; as this may cause distortion or damage to the arms or frame.
- Using a footstool as a seat may cause damage to the legs and frame.
- Air pollution such as cigarette smoke and cooking fumes, can cause premature wear.
- When unzipping covers, never force a zip and avoid trapping leather when fitting, or lifting by the zips.
- Avoid contact with chemicals such as hair and skin preparations, household or baby wipes, fake tans, insect repellents and other cosmetics, or household cleaning materials, other than those recommended as these may affect the finish.
- If your furniture becomes soiled, scratched, chipped or suffers other damage we recommend professional help is sought to restore it.
- If you have relevant insurance you may wish to contact your provider for advice. Alternatively a number of nationwide services are offered including Guardsman Home Services* 0845 6020789 or for cleaning Safeclean* on 0800 585 693.

Following the guidelines above will ensure product performance is maintained. Laura Ashley is not responsible for defects caused by the misuse of your product.

www.lauraashley.com

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* Available UK and ROI only