

**3 YEAR  
QUALITY GUARANTEE**

# Upholstery Care Guide



CHARLES PARSONS  
Interiors Est. 1915



# Why choose Charles Parsons Interiors?

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Commencing in 1915 supplying fabrics to suit manufacturers, Charles Parsons expanded in the 1970's to supply the home textile market, offering soft furnishing drapery and upholstery fabric for commercial and residential uses.

Since then Charles Parsons Interiors has continued to grow and is now one of the best known brands in home textiles. Always first to market with new trends and industry technology, we have a fantastic product offering and a reputation for outstanding quality and customer service.

When you purchase a Charles Parsons fabric, you are obtaining the highest quality of service and materials. From the design process to production, we will ensure your fabric will stand the test of time.

## Make the right choice

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This care guide has been compiled to help you select your chosen fabric with confidence and to maintain the feel, comfort and appearance of your fabric throughout its lifetime.

When choosing the upholstery that is right for you, the first considerations are usually colour and design and then quality and performance characteristics. All our upholsteries are labelled with an abrasion testing result which is referred to in the industry as the Martindale abrasion testing. This gives you an indication of how your material will wear after continuous friction.

The ratings are explained as below.

### **LD -light domestic (up to 15,000 rubs)**

Recommended for use on furniture intended for occasional, decorative or light usage

### **GD – General Domestic (15,000 – 25,000 rubs)**

Suitable for general daily domestic use

However if the level of use will be very high, for motion furniture or furniture with a fixed seat or back we recommend selecting a fabric rated as heavy duty or commercial use

### **HD - Heavy Domestic (25,000 – 30,000 rubs)**

Suitable for heavy duty domestic use, to be used on the main furniture in the house that will be subjected to high levels of everyday use.

### **HC – Heavy Commercial (30,000+ rubs)**

Suitable for heavy duty commercial and heavy duty domestic use. Suitable for all commercial furniture applications and environments.

At Charles Parsons' interiors all our textiles comply with current industry standards and are put through rigorous testing in our own independent laboratory. All fabrics are tested for abrasion resistance, seam slippage, pilling, color fastness, the absence of Free Formaldehyde, pile retention for velvets and dimensional change for drapery. This is all supported by our 3 year quality guarantee across all Charles Parsons Interiors fabrics.

The maintenance of your fabrics plays a huge part in extending the life of your purchase. Below we have outlined how to care for your fabrics and we have provided advice on cleaning your upholstery in case of spills and stains.

## Upholstery maintenance

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**Pilling:** Pilling can occur occasionally as a result of normal daily wear and should not be considered as a fault. As the fabric surface is rubbed, a single or small group of loose fibres on the surface begins to twist upon itself, forming tiny balls or 'pills'. Pilling can be successfully removed with battery operated pilling tools available from most haberdashery stores. Please note that 'De-pilling' only removes unsightly loose surface fibres and does not affect fabric performance.

**Maintenance:** We recommend regular vacuuming (minimum of fortnightly) to avoid the build-up of dust as this will reduce the build-up of soiling and any ingrained dirt. This may cause a breakdown of the yarns in the fabric, resulting in premature wear. We recommend professional cleaning every 12-18 months and rotating reversible cushions if possible on a weekly basis. Please ensure you follow the recommended care code for each fabric for specific cleaning instructions relevant to each fabric.

**Dye Transfer:** Certain clothing and accessory dyes (such as those used on denim jeans) may migrate to lighter colors. The chance of this is increased in humidity or high temperatures

**Color fastness:** It is important to note that no fabric is 100% colour fast and that it is impossible to prevent colours fading.

**Shrinkage:** All fabrics are prone to shrinkage and it is important that sufficient allowances be made. An allowance of 3% is considered an acceptable industry standard.

**Sun damage:** Constant exposure to the direct rays of the sun will break down fabric fibres, causing them to become brittle and resulting in the affected area breaking when cleaned. Charles Parsons recommend the use of sun filters to protect your furniture.

**Yellowing:** Fumes and atmosphere in any room where tobacco is smoked will cause a yellow/brown stain on most fabrics. This is a particular problem in fabrics with a light background.



# Upholstery cleaning

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**General cleaning:** Do not remove cushion covers for separate cleaning, even though they may have zippers. Clean with hot water extraction machine (hot). Professional cleaning recommended. Do not use dishwashing or laundry detergents – use only upholstery detergent. Do not wet filling. Dry in shade, away from direct heat and sunlight. Gently vacuum to restore pile. Allow to dry thoroughly before reuse.

**Dry cleaning:** May be dry cleaned with an onsite dry cleaning machine. Professional cleaning recommended. Do not wet filling with solvent. Extract solvent thoroughly after application. Do not scrub with a stiff brush. Caution: Exhaust solvent vapour outside building. Provide adequate ventilation during cleaning and drying. Avoid use of room during drying period.

**Upholstery shampoo:** May be shampoo cleaned using upholstery shampoo. Do not use dishwashing or laundry detergents. Do not wet filling. Do not scrub with a stiff brush. Gently vacuum to restore pile. Dry in shade, away from direct heat and sunlight. Allow to dry thoroughly before use.

**Spot cleaning:** Treat spills and stains as soon as possible. Test on hidden area to ensure fabric and colour are not removed. Gently scrape any soil or mop any liquid from the surface of the fabric. Use of soap and detergent with water should be approached with caution since overzealous rinsing to remove soap residue may result in over wetting and fabric damage may occur.

## Stain removal instructions

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**Non oil based stains:** use warm water and soaps which do not contain optical brighteners. Mix a small amount of soap and warm water solution and apply to the stain, dabbing gently. Blot dry with a clean towel. Apply cool clean water and blot dry again. Then with a hair dryer, working out from the centre of the stain, dry quickly to prevent watermarks appearing. It is generally preferable to clean whole panels of fabric in this way rather than trying to spot clean specific areas.

**Oil based stains:** oil-based stains, follow the same basic guidelines as above; apply a proprietary brand solvent based cleaner to panels rather than spot cleaning specific areas. Professional on-site dry cleaning is recommended to fully remove spills and stains.

**Chewing Gum:** Scrape away as much as possible first. Rubbing the stain with ice will harden the gum and make this easier. To remove remaining residue, use dry cleaning fluid.

**Alcoholic beverages:** After the moisture has been blotted up, dab at the stain with a clean cloth dampened in rubbing alcohol. Then blot repeatedly with liquid detergent mixed with cool water. Blot dry with a towel. Dab again with clear cool water and blot dry.

**Blood:** After the moisture has been blotted up, dab at the stain with a clean cloth dampened in rubbing alcohol. Then blot repeatedly with liquid detergent mixed with cool water. Blot dry with a towel. Dab again with clear cool water and blot dry.

**Chocolate:** This is a combination greasy/non-greasy stain. Scrape excess away, and then go over the spot with cool water mixed with a liquid detergent. Blot thoroughly and then clean with dry cleaning fluid.

**Coffee and tea:** Sponge with warm water. Apply warm glycerine. Leave for 30 minutes. Flush out with water and dry quickly.

**Cosmetics:** Sponge with warm water. Apply warm glycerine. Leave for 30 minutes. Flush out with water and dry quickly.

**Fruit and fruit juices:** After excess is blotted up or scraped away, blot the spot with cool water. If a stain remains, add liquid detergent and a drop of vinegar to the water. Dab the spot with this mixture and blot until there's no trace of a stain. Then go over the area lightly with clear water to remove traces of vinegar.

**Grease (including hair grease and oil):** Scrape away excess if necessary and then dab repeatedly at the stain with dry cleaning fluid. If any stain remains, go over the area with a lukewarm mixture of liquid detergent and water. Always make sure you use a clean portion so you don't put the stain back in the fabric. Last, go over the area with a clean cloth moistened with cool clear water.

**Ink:** Moisten with warm glycerine. Leave for 10 minutes. Apply liquid detergent and brush lightly. Flush out with water and dry quickly.

**Soft drinks, sweets and syrups:** Sponge with water, add warm glycerine and work into stain. Flush out with water and dry.

**Shoe polish:** Apply liquid paraffin to loosen the stain, and then sponge with dry cleaning fluid.

**Water spots:** Blot thoroughly and then dampen the entire spot with clear white vinegar. Wait a few minutes. When the area is dry, moisten it again with clear water, blotting with a dry cloth after every application of the damp cloth. Brush in the direction of the pile when it is dry, if applicable.

**Urine:** It is especially important to treat this stain right away, before the urine dries. Otherwise, the urine may react with the fabric dyes and cause permanent discoloration. First, dab at the stain with a solution of white vinegar and water and blot dry. Then apply a mixture of liquid detergent and cool water, blotting frequently and with a dry cloth to avoid saturating the fabric. Finally, dab the spot with clear cool water and blot thoroughly.

**Milk & vomit:** Blot or scrape away the excess, then take a clean soft cloth and blot. Apply clear cool water to the area, blotting frequently. Then blot with a detergent solution to which you've added a small amount of ammonia. Blot dry and wait a few minutes. Go over the area with dry cleaning fluid, blot dry. Finally, blot the area lightly with a cloth moistened with rubbing alcohol.

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