chieftainfabrics

Your Essential Cleaning Guide

Fabrics Don't Look After Themselves...

Cleaning is Key...

At Chieftain Fabrics sustainablity is at the heart of our ethos. We want our vinyl fabrics to last as long as possible and to be replaced less often. This can be very easily achieved through correct cleaning and care. A regular cleaning regime every 3-4 days is all it takes.

1. Wipe Clean
Brush down the area with a dry cloth. Following this, clean the area with warm soapy water and a damp cloth.

2. Dry
Following this step you must dry the area with a soft cloth or towel.

Where disinfection is required, there are some rules to follow dependent on the range in question.

What not to do when cleaning vinyl:

Do not use an alcohol-based cleaner on Lionella and Pasha

Do not use an oil-based product on any range apart from Lionella and Pasha.

Do not allow your fabric to come into contact with ink from ball point pen. This will cause permanent staining.

Do not use solvents,abrasives, synthetic detergents, wax polishes, leather cleaners or aerosol sprays to clean your fabric. It must not be treated like real leather.

Do not machine wash or dry clean your fabric.

Failure to comply with our recommendations will result in the breakdown and deterioration of our vinyl fabric. Using cleaning products contrary to the manufacturer's instructions may compromise the integrity of the fabric. Unsuitable cleaning products will remove the lacquer layer which protects the vinyl fabric and result in hardening and/or cracking of the fabric. This will forfeit your warranty.

Phthalates-The Bad Guys

Why did Chieftain stop using phthalates?

At Chieftain, we are very aware of ingredients or products that may be considered harmful in any way and are careful not to include them in our recipe. Our technologists were aware for some time that certain phthalates would be proved harmful and added to the REACH list of dangerous chemicals. We had therefore been looking for a safer and kinder replacement for some time before we started to eliminate phthalates from our formula in 2012.

By 2015 we had completely eliminated Phthalates from all of our fabrics. In 2019 the EU Commission banned them from all manufacturing within the EU.

We replaced them with a more ecological alternative ingredient which meets all REACH and OEKOTEX requirements, meaning that it is safe. Safe for all contact with skin, for children and for the environment. Unfortunately, our replacement is not as oil resistant as phthalates but with the correct treatment and cleaning regimen, our vinyl fabric will last as long as it should.

Top Tips for Cleaning

1. Tend to spills and stains quickly. The longer a stain remains on the vinyl, the more difficult it will be to remove.

2. Do not over saturate the vinyl or let water pool in seams.

3.Mop up excess liquid using a damp cloth. Always dry the surface after cleaning.

4. Avoid cleaners containing abrasives as they may discolour the vinyl.

5. Never apply full strength bleach, we recommend 10% bleach to 90% water solution where disinfection is required. Always rinse with water and dry following disinfection.

6. PU is not as resistant to cleaning as PVC. Do not use an alcohol-based solution when cleaning PU as this will damage the lacquer layer causing the fabric to become brittle and crack.

7. Certain dyes including indigo dyes commonly used in denim jeans may migrate onto the surface of the vinyl and become visible on lighter colours. This phenomenon is increased by humidity and temperature and may be irreversible. Chieftain Fabrics will not accept responsibility for dye transfer from clothing.

8. PVC is not leather, therefore cannot be treated in the same way. The use of oil, leather cleaner or wax polishes such Mr Sheen / Pledge will remove the protective lacquer layer over time and the vinyl will crack and split.

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