



Chieftain Fabrics

Caring for Coated Fabrics

The Complete Guide



Sewing

- The key element when it comes to upholstering with coated fabrics is to ensure that you are using the appropriate needle and thread.
- It is not recommended that needles and threads used for sewing natural leather are used. These can damage artificial leather and may tear the fabric. Threads for artificial leather should be similar to those used for woven fabrics.
- Chieftain Fabrics vinyl has been tested according to test method ISO 13936-2:2004 using 80D tex polyester cone thread and classified for Severe Contract (SC) market upholstery use applications.



Upholstery Recommendations

- Always use a good quality high density foam which provides good support.
- Backing cloth used in coated materials such as PVC and PU has a diverse structure and can be either knitted or woven with different elongation parameters on the warp and weft.
- Fabric direction during upholstering is important especially if it has a knitted backing cloth. Knits have more stretch in one direction than the other. The application direction is best determined by the upholsterer.
- It is possible to apply heat to vinyl to form it into the shape required.
- Tension during upholstery is important. The fabric must be appropriately sized. Tension that is too tight can cause torque, bulking and puddling, whereas tension that is too loose can result in wrinkles and sagging.



Cleaning is Key...

At Chieftain Fabrics sustainability is at the heart of our ethos, which is why we have removed Phthalates from our recipe. This means it is vital to clean our fabric on a regular basis in the **correct way**.

A regular cleaning regime every 3-4 days is all it takes.

1. Wipe Clean

Brush down with a dry cloth.

2. Rinse

Clean the area with warm soapy water and a damp cloth.

3. Dry

You must dry the area with a soft cloth or towel.

Caution:

Chieftain will not accept responsibility for dye transfer from clothing.

All oils must be cleaned from the fabric ASAP.

All persistent stains must be cleaned immediately.

What NOT to do when cleaning your 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 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.

NB If antibacterial wipes or sprays are being used as part of an intensive cleaning regimen, it is extremely important that the fabric is cleaned weekly with warm water and soap to remove all residue.



Advice

We do not recommend the following:

- Dry cleaning with Perchloroethylene
- Ironing
- Close contact of the upholstery with a source of direct heat (radiator, dryer, direct sunlight etc)
- Cleaning with undiluted (highly concentrated) alcohol, gasoline, acetone, chlorine liquid and other oxidants
- Cleaning products for natural leather (e.g waxes, sprays, pastes) and other oil based preparations.



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NHS Approved Cleaning Products for **Just Colour** and **Chieftain**

Product	Active substance %	Can we use it for Chieftain Fabrics?
Clinell Sporocidal Wipes	Sodium percarbonate, Tetraacetylenediamina, Citric acid	YES
Clinell Universal Sanitizing Wipes	Benzalkonium chloride	YES
Clinell multi-purpose wipes (green)	Benzalkonium chloride and Didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride	YES
Accel TB	Hydrogen peroxide – 0.5%	YES
Chlorclean		YES
Haz Tab		YES
Milton		YES
Tristel		YES
Certainty Disinfectant Wipes	Quaternary ammonium compounds as a n-alkyl (C12-18) dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride and n-alkyl (C12-14) dimethyl ethylbenzyl ammonium chloride	YES
Tuffie 5 wipes	Cocoalkyl dimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride	YES
Actichlor plus	The effervescent chlorine releasing tablet.	YES for 1 tab of Actichlor per 1 l water
Chlorine Dioxide	10%	Yes
Terralin		Yes
Sodium Hypochlorite	<10%	Yes



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 as Mr Sheen / Pledge will remove the protective lacquer layer over time and the vinyl will crack and split.

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