

OUR GUIDELINES FOR THE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF FABRICS

THE COMPLETE GUIDE



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CLEANING IS KEY

At Chieftain Fabrics, we recommend regular cleaning to keep our fabrics looking good for as long as possible.

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

- 1 **Vacuum** our fabrics regularly to avoid build up of dust and dirt.
- 2 **Tend** to stains quickly, don't allow them time to soak in or dry out.
- 3 **Clean** our fabrics regularly with a mild solution of soapy water and a clean cloth to remove build up of dust and grime.
- 4 **Don't** over wet OR soak our fabric

CLEANING OUR FABRICS



Plain Soap and Water

The best way to clean our fabrics is with soap and water. This will remove the daily build up of dust and grime as well as light staining.

Warm water and any dish soap will do. Using a clean cloth, squeeze out all excess moisture before wiping the fabric clean.

- Vinyl fabric should then be dried with a clean cloth.
- Be careful not to over soak our woven fabrics. This can result in shrinkage or discolouration. Allow fabric to dry after cleaning.



Alcohol

A rubbing alcohol solution / Isopropyl Alcohol has been shown to be effective at stain removal on vinyl. It is essential to treat the stain as quickly as possible before it sets.

If using isopropyl alcohol on Chieftain Fabrics vinyl, ensure to rinse the treated area with water and dry. This method applies to our PVC fabrics only.

Please check Cleaning Grid for reference.

DISINFECTING OUR FABRICS

It is important to note that all of our contract fabrics (apart from Earthly), are inherently antimicrobial. This means that there is a continuous level of disinfection present and our fabrics will not support the growth of harmful bacteria.

However, if there is a requirement for further disinfection, Chieftain Fabrics recommend the following:



Steam Cleaning

Hot water extraction cleaning (also known as wet cleaning) or steam cleaning are 2 effective methods to clean our fabrics. A combination of high pressure and hot water (over 93°C) can cut through stubborn stains effectively. The high temperature of the steam kills bacteria and sanitizes the surface of the fabric. We recommend this method to clean our woven fabrics in particular. The hot steam lifts stains without releasing too much moisture into the fabric which is essential.



Antibacterial Sprays and Wipes

Antibacterial sprays and wipes offer an effective solution against many viruses and bacteria. Based on peracetic acid, quaternary ammonium or Benzalkonium formulations, they can be used to disinfect upholstery, especially vinyl upholstery.

It is advised that, where possible, vinyl upholstery should also be cleaned with a warm water and soap solution in order to remove residue from antibacterial wipes and sprays. See [video](#)



Bleach

Bleach is a powerful disinfection agent and an excellent stain remover. The active ingredient is sodium hypochlorite, which is effective in killing bacteria, fungi and viruses. Diluted household bleach disinfects within 10–60 minutes contact time and is widely available at a low cost. It is recommended for surface disinfection, especially in the healthcare sector. Generally speaking, household bleach contains 5.25% sodium hypochlorite. Always remember, ventilation should be adequate and consistent with relevant occupational health and safety guidelines.

For **general** disinfection, dilute household bleach with water to a ratio of 1:10. Take a clean cloth and using suitable PPE, wring it out carefully in the bleach and water solution before wiping the fabric. Dry with a clean cloth.

Where a **stronger** level of disinfection is required, it is possible to use a more concentrated bleach and water solution, at one part bleach to four parts water (1:4). This stronger bleach solution of diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part 5.25% bleach to 4 parts water), can be used to disinfect surfaces or articles contaminated with blood spillage as well as for wider disinfectant purposes.. Apply as for general disinfection and be careful to use appropriate PPE.



Alcohol

Isopropyl alcohol or rubbing alcohol is an effective disinfectant, especially a 70% alcohol solution. Both sprays and wipes containing this solution are effective at destroying bacteria. Disinfection with bleach & alcohol is only suitable for our vinyl fabrics. Always ensure to rinse with warm water after disinfection.

Please check Cleaning Grid for reference.

FAUX LEATHER DOs AND DON'Ts

- 1** Avoid cleaners containing abrasives as they may discolour the vinyl.
- 2** 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.
- 3** Certain dyes, including indigo dyes commonly used in denim jeans, may migrate onto the surface of the vinyl and become visible on lighter colours. Chieftain Fabrics will not accept responsibility for dye transfer from clothing.
- 4** PVC is not leather and 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 layer and the vinyl will crack and split over time.
- 5** 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.

STAIN REMOVAL GUIDE

It is essential that stains or spills are treated as quickly as possible.

CLEANING METHOD A

(Not suitable for Earthly or Carousel Fabric)

Mix two tablespoons of bleach with 1 litre of water. Blot the stain gently with a cloth dampened with this solution, turning continually so that only the clean part of the cloth is in contact with the stain:

- Wine, Milk, Soft Drinks: Method A
- Blood or Urine: Method A
- Mud: Gently remove as much soil as possible with a dull knife or spatula. Allow to dry, and vacuum. For persistent stain, use Method A
- Vomit: Gently lift off vomit and sponge thoroughly with cold water. Then use Method A

CLEANING METHOD B

(not suitable for Earthly or Carousel Fabric)

Treat with rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol and a clean cloth. Then rinse area with warm soapy water and blot dry to remove residue.

- Ballpoint Pen/Ink: Method B
- Pencil: Method B

CLEANING

FABRIC	CLEANING SOLUTION				
	VACUUM	SOAP AND WATER	UPHOLSTERY SHAMPOO	STEAM	DRY CLEAN
JUST COLOUR	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
LIONELLA	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
PASHA	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
PROTECT 7	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
CARINO	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
CHIEFTAIN HEALTHCARE / HERITAGE	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
MULTISTRECH	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
TRIMCELL	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
JUST PATTERNS	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
VINTAGE	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
EARTHLY	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
RAVEL	✓	✓	✓	X	✓ (safe to dry clean in situ)
CAROUSEL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

DISINFECTION

FABRIC	DISINFECTANT					
	BLEACH 1:4	BLEACH 1:10	MILD SOAP & WATER	ALCOHOL	STEAM	ALCOHOL, ANTIBACTERIAL SPRAYS, WIPES
JUST COLOUR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LIONELLA	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
PASHA	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
PROTECT 7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CARINO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHIEFTAIN HEALTHCARE / HERITAGE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MULTISTRECH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TRIMCELL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
JUST PATTERNS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VINTAGE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EARTHLY	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X
RAVEL	X	X	✓	✓	X	X
CAROUSEL	X	X	✓	X	✓	X

Please Note: It's essential to thoroughly rinse off disinfectants using warm, soapy water to prevent the accumulation of the product.

NHS APPROVED CLEANING PRODUCTS FOR JUST COLOUR & CHIEFTAIN (HERITAGE & HEALTHCARE)

PRODUCT	Active substance %	Can we use it for Chieftain Fabrics?
CLINELL UNIVERSAL RANGE (GREEN)	Benzalkonium chloride and Didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride	✓
CLINELL DETERGENT RANGE (YELLOW)		✓
CLINELL PERACETIC ACID WIPES (RED)		✓
CLINELL ALCOHOL WIPES (ORANGE)		✓
ACCEL TB	Hydrogen peroxide - 0.5%	✓
CHLORCLEAN		✓
HAZ TAB		✓
MILTON		✓
TRISTEL		✓
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	✓
TUFFIE 5 WIPES	Cocoalkyl dimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride	✓
ACTICHLOR PLUS	The effervescent chlorine releasing tablet.	✓ YES for 1 tab of Actichlor per 1l water
CHLORINE DIOXIDE	10%	✓
SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE (BLEACH)	1:4 Bleach to Cold Water Dilution	✓
AZO WIPES	Isopropanol 70%	✓

Please Note that if there are any products not included, it is advisable to check with us directly to confirm their suitability for our fabric.

SEWING TIPS

Select the Right Needle

For vinyl fabric, we recommend a minimum 30mm stitch length to avoid too many perforations which may result in tearing. Plastic coated needles are not advised and needle size should be from 16-90, 17-100, 18-110, 21-130 to 22-140 depending on the thickness of the fabric. You may also need to lower needle tension if stitching thicker fabric. Please do not use pins: The holes made in vinyl fabric are permanent.

Select the Right Thread

We recommend bonded polyester or bonded nylon thread for sewing our vinyl fabrics. Our fabric has been tested to ISO 13936-2 2004 using 80D polyester cone thread and is classified for Severe Contract upholstery use applications.

UPHOLSTERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Quality Foam for Support

Always use high-density foam to provide optimal support for your upholstered items. This ensures longevity and comfort in your finished products.

Understanding Backing Cloth

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.

Applying Heat for Shaping

Vinyl can be shaped as needed by applying heat. This allows for customization and adaptation to the desired form during upholstery.

Proper Tension is Key

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.



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