

General Guidelines for Maintaining Outdoor Cushions

A NOTE ABOUT STAINS

Trees are often the biggest culprit for debris on cushions. Insect repellants & suntan lotions can also stain outdoor fabrics. Avoid damage by wiping clean & removing debris as soon as possible.

GENERAL OR LIGHT CLEANING:

Cushions should be cleaned regularly before substances such as dirt & food particles are allowed to accumulate & become embedded in the fabric. The fabric should be cleaned without removing the inner foam core by simply brushing off any loose dirt & cleaning with water & a mild soap solution. To clean, prepare a cleaning solution of 1/4 cup mild soap, such as Woolite, Joy or Dawn dishwashing liquid, (DO NOT USE DETERGENTS) per gallon of lukewarm water. Use a sponge or a soft bristle brush to clean. Allow cleaning solution to soak into fabric. After sponging briskly with soap & water, rinse thoroughly & air dry completely before storing. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue. Allow fabric to air dry, cushions dry quicker when placed on their side.

SPOT CLEANING:

Using a spray bottle, apply a light mist of mild soap solution (1/4 cup mild soap per gallon of lukewarm water). Work the solution into the stain by lightly scrubbing the area with a sponge or very soft bristle brush. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue. Blot excess moisture with a clean, soft towel or sponge. Blot excess water. Air dry. Repeat until all soap residue is removed. If spot cleaning or hosing the cushions off for general cleaning, cushions dry quicker when placed on their side.

HAND WASHING:

Soak fabric in soap solution above. Use a sponge or a soft bristle brush as necessary. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue. Air dry.

MACHINE WASHING:

Machine wash in cold water on delicate cycle using mild laundry detergent, add up to 1 cup of bleach as necessary. Allow fabric to air dry.

HEAVY CLEANING FOR STUBBORN STAINS OR MILDEW:

Outdoor fabric does not promote mildew growth, however, mildew may grow on dirt & other foreign substances that are not removed from the fabric. We have found that a solution of bleach & water is the most effective mixture for cleaning stubborn stains.

Diluted chlorine bleach will not affect the coloration of the fiber or cloth & is therefore acceptable for stain removal. Prepare a solution of 1 cup of bleach plus two caps full of a mild soap per gallon of water. Spray on entire area & allow to soak into the fabric. Scrub with a sponge, clean towel or soft bristle brush. Let the bleach do the work. You don't want to repeatedly scrub the fabric (because it will pill), although you can also apply the bleach with a soft scrub brush. You will see the stains begin to disappear in a matter of minutes. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO COMPLETELY RINSE THE BLEACH FROM THE CUSHION. CHLORINE BLEACH WILL EVENTUALLY AFFECT THE STRENGTH OF ANY FIBER OR CLOTH. Allow fabric to air dry. If stain and/or mildew are severe, bleach quantities may be increased. We do not recommend bleaching cushions while on the furniture frame. Chlorine bleaches are very aggressive & corrosive & could damage the finish.