Cleaning Codes For Upholstery Fabrics

Some manufacturers have adopted the voluntary uniform standards for furniture cleanability developed by an industry committee. If used, each fabric will be marked with a code which indicates the appropriate cleaning method. The code may be printed on fabric samples, on a label under seat cushions and/or on hand tags. Use as a guide for spot removal, and for overall cleaning.

Code S or P: means that the manufacturer recommends that the furniture item be cleaned by a professional using a solvent cleaner. Solvents are waterless cleaners that won't damage fine upholstery the way water might. Using a water based cleaner on a sofa or chair that should have been dry cleaned can result in shrinking the fabric, ruining the dye, or causing a brownish water ring that can not be removed.

Code F: refers to foam clean. Instead of scrubbing with soap and water, it is recommended that this item is cleaned using jfoam.

Code W: means that this furniture can be safely cleaned using water based upholstery cleaners or water based foam. It's worth noting that upholstery can be damaged by most household cleansers, and that wet cleaning furniture should be done with cleansers especially designed for use on furniture. It's also important to recognize that wet cleaning does not mean that your sofa can be hosed off to clean, but that the water used during the cleaning should be kept to a bare minimum.

Code S/W or W/S: denotes that the sofa can be cleaned using either solvents, foam, or water based cleansers. When this symbol appears on the tag, it means that a professional upholstery cleaner should clean the item instead of the do it yourselfer.

Code X or X/S: refers to furniture that can't be cleaned by either solvents, foam, or water based cleansers. With this type of furniture, cleaning can damage the cushions, cause shrinking, ruin the dyes, or destroy the backing. The only way to clean furniture code with an X is to give it a good vacuuming with an upholstery brush.