

# OUTDOOR FABRICS CARE & MAINTENANCE



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## Material Properties

Gloster works with only the best materials, which means that all of our upholstery fabrics are from Sunbrella solution dyed acrylic yarns. Sunbrella yarns are produced using a solution dyed process, where the colour is added to the liquid solution that the yarn is extruded from. This means that the colour is 'solid' and runs all the way through the yarn. Only solution dyeing can make a fabric that is resistant to fading with exposure to UV rays from the sun. All of our fabrics have a surface finish that makes the fabric water and stain repellent. If you spill liquid onto the fabric it will 'bead' on the surface and can generally be dabbed away.

Gloster cushions are offered with fabrics that fall into 3 distinct groups based on their construction and their performance characteristics.

## Outdoor Performance

Sunbrella fabrics without the water-resistant coating. Offered in a wide selection of stylish and sophisticated fabrics with a soft hand, our Outdoor Performance cushions use the softest, most luxurious fillings that give the feel of the most comfortable indoor furniture. A highly water-resistant barrier beneath the outer fabric cover protects the fillings, keeping drying times to a minimum.

## Water Resistant

Sunbrella fabrics that have a highly water-resistant (RAIN) coating layer applied to the reverse face, helping prevent water travelling beyond the surface of the fabric. This coating makes the fabric itself water resistant, but not 100% waterproof. Although not offering quite the same soft hand as our other fabrics, these water-resistant fabrics are very cost-effective, practical and quick drying. The fillings inside the cushion are engineered using open cell materials to allow for maximum air circulation, helping to speed up the drying process even further.

## Soft Touch

Combining with all the benefits present in Outdoor Performance cushions, Gloster offer this range of exclusive, knitted outdoor fabrics, the first to be produced using 100% solution dyed acrylic yarns. The 3D knitted structure of these fabrics give levels of texture and softness unparalleled in outdoor fabrics. Soft Touch fabrics provide a sumptuous and cosy feel, while the inherent stretch allows for the perfect fit to even the most demanding of cushion shapes. The Wave fabrics feature a filling material in between two layers of fabric.



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## Cleaning

Dirt and stains are, in the most part, unavoidable with outdoor fabrics. If left outside and exposed to the elements, fabrics will become dirty very quickly. So, when not in use, we recommend that furniture is covered using the specially designed furniture covers available for most Gloster products. This will help keep dirt and stains from occurring due to environmental pollution, falling debris, leaves, passing birds, splashes etc. If covers are not used, we recommend that cushions are stored in a dry location when not in use.

One of the best ways to keep cushions looking good and to delay the need for deep cleaning is to properly maintain the fabric cushion cover to remove and loose dirt or debris before it can stain. This can be accomplished by simply removing dirt before it becomes embedded, wiping up spills as soon as they occur or spot cleaning immediately after stains occur. In general, most of our cushion covers are not intended to be removable. We don't recommend, and it should not be necessary, to remove the covers for cleaning. To protect your fabric further, and to help repel water and stains, we recommend that Gloster Teak & Upholstery Protector is applied once a year.

## Light Cleaning & Spot Cleaning

1. Remove any loose dirt and debris.
2. Blot (don't rub) any spills with a clean, dry cloth.
3. Prepare a cleaning solution of 1:16 mild detergent to lukewarm water (less than 100°F/40°C).
4. Spray or sponge on the cleaning solution.
5. For Soft Touch fabrics, use a sponge or soft cloth to clean.
6. For Outdoor Performance & Water Resistant fabrics, use a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle brush to clean.
7. Allow cleaning solution to soak into fabric.
8. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue.
9. Allow fabric to air dry.

We recommend you periodically use Gloster Teak and Upholstery Cleaner to give your furniture a deep clean.

## Deep Cleaning with Gloster Teak and Upholstery Cleaner

1. Before using Teak and Upholstery Cleaner, eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn.
2. Cover the ground under your working area before cleaning.
3. Test for colour fastness in an inconspicuous area before using.
4. Moisten the surface to be treated thoroughly with clean water beforehand.
5. Spray the cleaner onto the wet stained area and let it soak in for 3 minutes.
6. For Soft Touch fabrics, remove any dirt and grease with a sponge or soft cloth.
7. For Outdoor Performance & Water Resistant fabrics, remove any dirt and grease with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle brush.
9. Rinse the treated surface thoroughly with clean water and allow to air dry.
10. Once dry, use Gloster Teak & Upholstery Protector to make the fabric water repellent again.

In certain circumstances, and if the upholstery has not been well cared for and protected, mould and mildew can develop. The fabric itself does not promote the growth of mould and mildew, but if organic materials such as food or plant matter are left for prolonged time on the surface of the fabric, mould and mildew can easily develop. Sunbrella fabrics, due to their solution dyed construction, are safe to clean with bleach.

## To Clean Mould and Mildew Stains

1. Protect any surfaces other than the fabric that may be affected by bleach.
2. If possible, remove the cushion from the frame before cleaning.
3. Where protective gloves and eye protection in case of splashes.
4. Prepare a solution of 4 teaspoons of household bleach & 1 teaspoon of mild detergent per 235-355ml (1-1/2 cups) of lukewarm water.
5. Spray or sponge the cleaning solution onto the stained area of fabric and allow to soak in for 15 minutes.
6. Remove the stain with a sponge or clean towel.
7. Triple rinse thoroughly to remove all soap and bleach residue and allow to air dry.

For severe mould and mildew stains, the bleach concentration can be increased, up to 1 part bleach to 1 part water and mild liquid detergent solution. Always clean the entire surface of the fabric to avoid water rings and stains from local cleaning. Although Sunbrella fabrics are generally safe to clean with bleach, always test a small, less visible area of the fabric first before cleaning any visible surface. Any residual bleach left in the fabric can cause premature deterioration. Prolonged exposure to diluted bleach and full-strength household bleach are not recommended for cleaning fabrics. Bleach can have harmful effects on the natural environment around you, so please follow all safety and environmental precautions according to the bleach label.



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## **Pilling**

Fabric pilling is the term for loose strands or balls of fibre that form on fabric. Pilling occurs when loose fibres in the fabric move out to the surface (this is just a natural tendency all fabrics have). Once there, friction twists them into small balls – more commonly known as pills. Pilling does not indicate any fault with the fabric, nor does it mean your fabric is wearing out prematurely. You won't start to see bald spots or notice thinning areas - pilling is just something that happens with all new fabrics to a lesser or greater extent. Before long, the excess fibres eventually stop floating to the top and the pilling will cease.

## **Removing Pills**

To remove pills on the surface of the fabric, we recommend using a generic fuzz removal tool such as the "Gleener".