

PRESS RELEASE

Spoilt for choice

20 April 2015, Johannesburg: Equally good options in their own right, fabric and leather upholstery each come with their own set of pros and cons. Sue Scott, from leading furniture manufacturer, Grafton Everest, weighs up the case for and against these options so that you can avoid taking a shotgun approach when purchasing a furniture piece. “When there are two equally good options to choose from, it’s often difficult to make a call, but with some careful consideration you can make an informed decision, choosing an upholstery that suits your lifestyle and tastes, as well as your budget,” nods Sue.

Fine fabrics

Fabric upholstery comes in such a wide variety of options that it’s a bit tricky to offer general pros and cons. However, it’s this ample amount of choice that makes it so popular amongst consumers. “Picking out the perfect fabric can be exciting and overwhelming all at the same time, so ask for samples of a few of your favourites to ponder over at home,” suggest Sue. She believes that despite the myriad options, there are a few basic principles that tend to ring true when choosing fabric upholstery:

Pros

- Fabric is considerably more affordable than leather upholstery.
- You can get a stain guard applied so that spills and dirt don’t absorb as quickly.
- The wide variety of fabric designs means you can personalise your sofa to suit your individual style.

Cons

- Fabric is highly inviting as a scratching post for cats, and it tends to absorb animal’s odours and attract fur.
- Get ready to dab and scrub should you spill on your fabric upholstery as it stains easily.
- Whilst cosy in winter, fabric upholstery isn’t always the best option for hot climates as it can feel a bit stifling.
- Fabric tends to take strain in high traffic areas.
- Certain fabrics can be highly flammable if not treated correctly.
- One needs to take care not to let your fabric seating receive too much sunlight as this can cause the fabric to fade and even weaken over time.

Lovely leather!

A timeless classic, leather is equally at home in a modern or more traditional interior. It tends to fall in the top price ranges, but for good reason, as it’s incredibly durable, easy to maintain, and improves with age, making it an ideal long-term investment. “At Grafton Everest we are dedicated to producing furniture pieces that utilise only the finest quality raw materials available at the various price ranges,” points out Sue in reference to their range of leather seating.

Pros

- Compared with fabric upholstery, spills don’t absorb as quickly and can simply be wiped off with a damp cloth, making leather a lot easier to clean.

- Over time, leather develops a patina and suppleness, developing a unique character all of its own, and making it perfectly imperfect.
- Leather is a lot more pet-friendly, as cats generally avoid scratching it, and it absorbs less odours compared to other fabrics.
- Leather is more fire-resistant than untreated fabric.

Cons

- Leather is not completely maintenance-free; it still requires occasional treatment to keep it from cracking and fading.
- Special cleaning products and methods are required for serious stains.
- The surface tends to get cold in winter and hot in summer, but it adjusts quickly to your body temperature, providing a perfectly comfortable experience if you can bare the discomfort a few minutes.
- Compared to other upholstery options, it tends to be the more expensive choice.
- Full aniline leather tends to stain very easily and absorbs bodily oils due to its more porous nature.

The best of both worlds

Much like genuine leather in terms of aesthetics, Leatherlite upholstery is a more affordable alternative. Explains Sue: “Comprising 60% leather by weight, Leatherlite fabric offers the best of both fabric and leather upholstery, and because it is so resilient, Grafton Everest offers a 5-year guarantee on this upholstery.” So whether you’re on a tight budget or simply want added durability, whilst still getting the leather look, this new generation upholstery may be the best choice for you.

Pros

- Highly durable, so spills can simply be wiped off with a damp cloth, making it ideal for high traffic furniture items that are used by the whole family.
- Leatherlite is suitable for people suffering with allergies as it’s hypoallergenic.
- It is considerably more affordable than the genuine leather.
- Retains the look of genuine leather upholstery due to its high leather content and drapability.
- Grafton Everest offers a 5-year guarantee for added peace of mind.

Cons

- Much like genuine leather, you can expect sticky thighs in summer and an initial chill in winter.
- Unfortunately it’s not completely stain-proof. If spills are left to soak in, they can be difficult to remove.
- If you’re after characterful markings and scars, then this upholstery may not be for you. However, if you like a more uniform look, Leatherlite is a perfect choice.

“Take this checklist with you when out purchasing sofa’s so that you are empowered by knowing what to consider, and ease your furniture buying woes,” nods Sue, who believes it’s worth taking the time to choose the right upholstery so that you sidestep any (expensive) regrets later.

ENDS

Released on behalf of Grafton Everest (www.graftoneverest.co.za) by The Line Communications (www.theline.co.za, ant@theline.co.za).