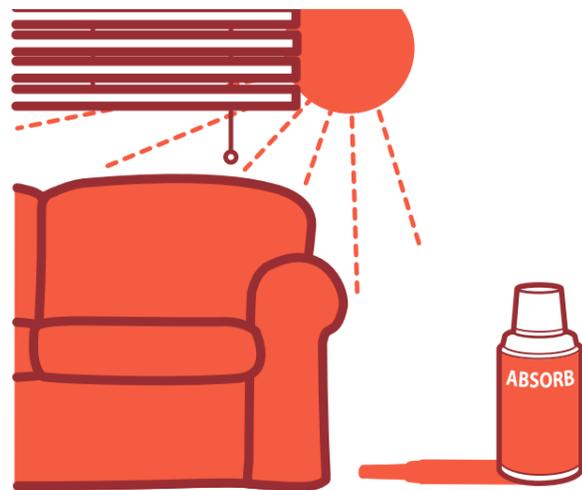


Leather and Other Sofa Materials

How do I care for my sofa?

There are a few simple things you can do to help keep your sofa looking great. Vacuum regularly with the soft brush attachment since dirt can damage the surface. Remove any grease stains as soon as possible, since grease can dissolve the protective finish on the surface and damage the leather underneath.

You can use our ABSORB leather cleaner and cream set, which can be applied once a year to clean and protect your sofa. Please note, do not use cleaning agents or cream (including ABSORB) on the IKEA SEGLORA leather as this will stain the leather rather than clean it. Instead, clean with the soft brush attachment on your vacuum, and if needed, wipe the surface with a slightly damp cloth. Coated split leather, which is coated with a thin glossy film, doesn't need to be treated with leather cream, but can be treated with the ABSORB cleaner, which is specially formulated to protect and restore the shiny surface. Coated fabrics do not need to be treated with any kind of cleaning product, simply vacuum and wipe with a damp cloth.



Keep your sofa out of direct sunlight and place it at least 40 cm (12 in.) from any heat sources to prevent the leather from drying out. Be extra careful with white or light-colored leather furniture, since spills will be more visible than on darker furniture.

Where does the leather come from?

The hides that the leather industry work with come from animals used by the food industry. We use cattle hide for most of our leather furniture, but we also use goatskin. To ensure high quality and low prices, we use leather from countries around the world, and around half of the leather we use comes from Brazil. We set minimum social, environmental and animal welfare standards for our direct suppliers, including a requirement that the leather does not come from suppliers linked to deforestation in the Amazon.



At IKEA we have a wide choice of sofas made of leather and other materials, so how do you choose the right one for you? What is aniline and coated split leather? What style of furniture are they best suited for? And how do you best care for your leather or coated fabric sofa?

Whether you choose real leather or coated material, both are a practical choice for families.

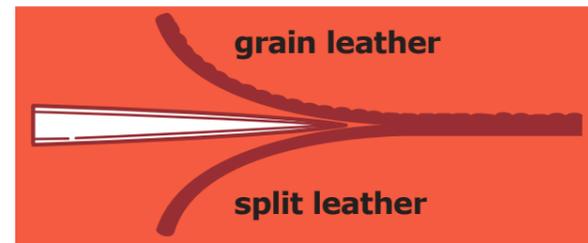
All our leathers and coated materials

have been treated, which protects them and makes them easy to care for. The different types of coated fabric are also tested and approved before we decide to use them, so you can be sure it's an investment that will last for many years. This guide is designed to help you choose a sofa in a material that best suits you and your home.



Different types of leather and materials

When it comes to leather, most animal hides are too thick to be used for furniture. The hide must first be divided into two layers. The top layer is called grain leather and the under layer is called split leather.



Grain leather is softer and stronger and split leather is less expensive. This is why IKEA often uses a combination of both, using grain leather on surfaces that are more exposed to wear, such as seating surfaces, backs and armrests, and split leather on other surfaces. Aniline leather and semi aniline leather are types of full-grain leather. Pigmented leather can be either grain or split leather. At IKEA, we also have a choice of materials with different characteristics, which have the look of leather.

What is aniline leather?

Aniline leather is the most natural-looking leather with no pigment on the surface. There may be natural flaws visible from insect bites or scars. The leather may also vary in color and structure. After tanning and through-dyeing, a thin protective surface of less than 0.01 mm is applied to aniline leather. This makes the leather soft and allows it to breathe, yet also makes it more sensitive to light and dirt. This sensitivity, together with its high price, is the reason IKEA rarely sells seating furniture with aniline leather.

What is full-grain leather?

Full-grain leather has the same characteristics as aniline leather but with a surface coating that is slightly thicker. The grain and original features of the leather remain untouched, and the surface has not been subjected to any mechanical corrective treatment. Full-grain leather, as well

as aniline leather, becomes softer and acquires a darker tone and a beautiful patina over time.

What is semi aniline leather?

Semi aniline leather is treated in the same way as aniline leather, but it has been coated with a slightly pigmented finish so that the natural grain is clearly visible.

What is pigmented and embossed leather?

Most of the leather sofas and armchairs that we sell at IKEA are made of pigmented and embossed leather. Like aniline and semi aniline leather, pigmented leather is tanned and dyed-through. But what differentiates pigmented and embossed leather from the others is that it is treated with a layer of color, which makes it resistant to bleaching from sunlight and protects it against stains. It makes the leather easy to care for, durable – and very practical! It lowers the price too, since more hides can be used for pigmented and embossed leather than for aniline leather. The reason is that irregularities in the leather, such as traces of insect bites or scars, can be corrected and hidden by the protective layer of pigment or an embossed pattern.

What is bonded leather?

Bonded leather is leather chips which are mixed in with a fabric that has a plastic coating on top. It is similar to coated fabric in both look and characteristics. Easy to keep clean and less expensive than leather.



What is coated split leather?

Coated split leather has a split leather backing that is covered with a shiny plastic film that makes it easy to clean and maintain.

What is coated fabric?

Coated fabric has a plastic coating which can be embossed to look like leather. You get the look of leather for a lower cost. It's a durable material that is very easy to care for.

How do the materials differ?

There are many characteristics that distinguish between the different materials, for example, suppleness, durability and texture. Therefore, certain types of materials are more suitable for certain furniture pieces and lifestyles than others.

Coated split leather is highly durable and thick, which makes it a practical choice for families with children. Coated fabrics are also hardwearing and less expensive. We sometimes use coated fabrics on the sides and backs of sofas, since the look and feel is the same, and it helps lower the price of the sofa. We also have sofas covered entirely in coated fabric.

The thickness of the leather can vary. The leather used in IKEA sofas are between 1.0 and 1.7 mm thick. As a general guideline, thinner leathers are a little softer and best for plump sofas, while thicker leathers are best for more robust and straight sofa models. Some leather types have a somewhat coarser texture, while others are smooth and soft. There's also a difference in how the leather is manufactured and treated.

All leather is tanned first, which means it is preserved. Then it is through-dyed and oiled. After tanning and dyeing there are different methods for finishing the surface of the leather. There are three main types of leather: pigmented leather, which has a protective surface of pigment; semi aniline, which has a slightly pigmented surface; and aniline leather, which has no pigment on the surface at all. There's also a coated split leather (sometimes known as PU-coated leather) which has a surface covered with a thin plastic film.



How are the different materials tested?

We test our materials thoroughly. First, we check the look and feel of the material. Then we check the thickness and softness. Next, technical tests are conducted, where the material is tested for tear strength, flexibility, color fastness to rubbing and light, and fire resistance.

To meet our standards in quality, we require that leather used on seating surfaces is able to withstand repeated flexing at a minimum rate of 20,000 times for grain leather and 10,000 times for split leather. Finally, we carry out a number of chemical tests on the materials to ensure they do not contain any hazardous substances.

What material is right for you?

Leather sofas and armchairs at IKEA come in many different styles and price levels. The leather differs in texture and finish, thickness and color, and the design on the furniture can be soft and plump or contemporary and elegant. We have a wide variety of sofas in different materials, so you can be sure to find something that's just right for you.

What all leather sofas have in common is that they're easy to care for and hard-wearing – and therefore also a practical choice for families with children. Leather sofas also have a special feeling. So, don't just look at the facts – think about your own personal preferences and choose what's right for you.