



If You Can Imagine It We Can Build It!

CARING FOR YOUR CHURCH FURNITURE FABRIC

This article contains information on how to care for the fabric in your church furniture. You have made a significant investment in your furniture and we, at New Holland Church Furniture, would like to help you to take care of it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us.

There are literally thousands of fabrics that have been used on church furniture. The following tips for fabric maintenance are only suggestions. If your fabric is seriously damaged or stained, consult a professional cleaning service or further damage will result from inexperienced individuals trying to repair fabric.

MINOR CLEANING PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

1. Sand, grit, dust, ashes, and dry dirt.

New Holland Church Furniture recommends vacuuming furniture at least once a month to prevent this type of dirt from damaging or embedding into the fabric. Ignoring this type of dirt for long periods of time may result in excessive wear to your upholstered furniture, thus reducing the life of the fabric. Make sure the vacuum has a ULPA or HEPA filter. Use vacuuming suction attachments only. DO NOT use the power brushes that could damage the fabric.

2. Mud, liquid spills (such as drinks and detergents), and food.

We recommend using a mixture of a mild household detergent and water (1 teaspoon of detergent to 3 gallons of water). With a cloth dampened by the cleaning mixture above (not sopping wet), clean the soiled area(s). Be careful to not use too much detergent or water.

Caution: Excessive amounts of liquid will damage fabric and foam, reducing the life of the upholstery.

3. Grease, tar, greasy foods, and airborne oils.

Using a soft upholstery brush or sponge, apply the pre-mixed mild solution (1 teaspoon of detergent to 3 gallons of water):

- Rub the stained area until you see a foaming lather appear, being careful to not use too much liquid.
- Blot clean the area with a soft, absorbent towel.
- Allow to dry for 48-72 hours before use.

Caution:

- ❑ Excessive rubbing of a stained area may cause color fading – do not rub too hard.
- ❑ Excessively saturating the foam and fabric with a cleaning solution will cause damage to both.

4. Wax Removal.

- Place a paper towel over the wax and iron with a warm iron (not too hot to touch) over the area. If the iron is too hot, the fabric will burn.
- Another solution is to apply dry ice on wax and pick wax off.

5. Chewing Gum Removal.

- Use commercially available chewing gum removers and a white absorbent cloth. Blot the gum until completely removed or freeze the gum with ice and scrape hardened gum from fabric.
- Clean fabric using either cleaning procedure above.

MAJOR FABRIC DAMAGE

Fabric that has been damaged by any type of grease, tar (on kneelers being used as a foot rest), marking pens, ink from pens, and difficult stains from food-stuffs (grapes, strawberries, candy) – anything with dye in it, New Holland Church Furniture considers this major fabric damage. Furthermore, fabric that has been torn, stretched (as evidenced by rippling fabric), or pulled is also considered major fabric damage by New Holland Church Furniture.

Caution: Inexperienced individuals trying to resolve these types of major damage will result in further serious damage of fabric.

- Any cleaning other than minor damage must be done by a professional cleaning service. New Holland Church Furniture expressly recommends only professional cleaning service for this type of damage

DISINFECTING FABRIC

- Use your vacuum cleaner to remove dirt and other loose particles from the upholstery. Make sure the vacuum has a ULPA or HEPA filter. Use vacuuming suction attachments only. DO NOT use the power brushes that could damage the fabric.

Note: The following has been recommended for disinfecting by mills that produce our line of “standard fabrics”. Always test the disinfectant products on a less noticeable spot to make sure it does not discolor or damage the fabric. Be aware that the fabric may show signs of deterioration if products are overused or used multiple times per day. Use caution as to not touch the wood furniture as these products may contain chemicals that will cause damage to the wood finish.

Instructions for Disinfecting Fabric

- Mix a 1:16 ratio of bleach to water in a container. (1 cup of bleach to 16 cups of water).
- Stir mixture and fill a bottle container that has a head with a mist nozzle.
- Mist lightly on a clean rag as to dampen only. Do not oversaturate rag.
- Lightly rub over surface of upholstery uniformly to avoid spots or uneven drying patterns.
- Wait 5 minutes for the bleach mixture to disinfect.
- Wipe the remaining residue with clean cloth.
- Allow the fabric to dry completely to prevent a moist environment where microorganisms could grow.