

There's No Place Like Home

by Arlene Converse



There's no place like home! We know that creating that special ambiance in your home took time, money and effort. Whether your home furnishing are custom-made or off-the-shelf, they all need a thorough cleaning from time to time to extend their useful life. These items complete the look of your home, speak to who you are as an individual and with proper care can last for many years to come. The great majority of household articles and garments clean satisfactorily, without any problems at all. Home Furnishings consist of draperies, valances, bedspreads, comforters, rugs and upholstery. The greatest concern with any household furnishing items is the conditions they are exposed to in your home. That's why we carefully examine and evaluate them before undertaking any cleaning procedures.

BEDSPREADS AND COMFORTERS

Sometimes we are asked to clean bedspreads and comforters simply because of their size. Other times it's because the care instructions read "professional care is best." Be certain to save any care instructions, as they may be on a temporary label or on the packaging instead of being attached to the item since care labels are not required on household items. We strongly suggest that all matching or coordinating items are cleaned at the same time. This way any color changes, however minimal, will be uniform. Whatever the circumstance, we double check all available information and examine the fabric and construction before beginning any cleaning process.



DRAPERIES

We clean and restore a lot of draperies. With proper care, draperies made of an average grade of fabric can be expected to last three to five years. A higher price does not necessarily mean that they will last longer than less expensive draperies.

There are many conditions within your home that can have a dramatic effect on your drapes:

- Sunlight can discolor and weaken fabric resulting in a shredding of the drapes after a cleaning process.
- Exposure to moisture and humidity from rain, window condensation, leaks, or pet stains can cause dye bleeding and stubborn water rings that may be impossible to remove.
- If the fabric has not been properly preshrunk, drycleaning, laundering, or wetcleaning can cause shrinkage.

Manufacturing industry standards allow two to four percent shrinkage in household fabrics—a significant amount on a ceiling-to-floor length drapery. Loosely woven fabrics or those made of rayon and acetate blends are more susceptible to shrinkage. Separate linings, on the other hand, may not shrink at the same rate.

- Insulated or reflective coated backing may degrade to the point that some of the coating actually comes off.
- The combined effects of age, moisture, light, heat, smoke, and other atmospheric soils can cause fabrics to become permanently discolored. Unfortunately, even with the greatest precautions, after draperies and other fabric window coverings are cleaned, existing damage will sometimes become evident. For this reason, we discuss possible results before cleaning and require customer consent prior to undertaking any requested service.

UPHOLSTERY

Upholstery is usually cleaned by a professional cleaning process while still on the furniture. This ensures that the cushion covers continue to match the rest of the furniture, and it reduces the possibility of shrinkage. The zippers on furniture cushions are generally used by the manufacturer to get the cushion into the upholstery covering, not to remove the covering for cleaning. Often, removing the cover and cleaning it separately from the rest of the furniture can cause a color change and shrink, preventing the cushion from being put back into the upholstery.

Cleanability codes have been adopted by the American Furniture Manufacturers to help consumers better understand upholstery care. The codes can often be found attached to the upholstery item or may be found on a temporary label.

CLEANABILITY CODES

Cleanability Code W: Spot clean, using the foam only from a water-based cleaning agent, such as a mild detergent or non-solvent upholstery shampoo product.

Cleanability Code X: Clean this fabric only by vacuuming or light brushing. Water-based foam or solvent-based cleaning agents of any kind may cause excessive shrinking, fading, or possible pile distortion.

Cleanability Code S: Clean with pure solvent in a well-ventilated room. Cleaning by a furniture professional.

Because household furnishings are not required to have a care label that indicates the recommended methods of cleaning, Toudanines Cleaners may suggest a method of cleaning based upon our knowledge, skill or the type of fabric or construction of the item. We will carefully consider all options and advise you before beginning any process and may ask you to sign a consent form. Use of a consent form is a signal that a discussion has occurred between the customer and a Toudanines Cleaners representative, discussing the options for cleaning and the risks involved.

Toudanines Cleaners takes great care to process and clean your home furnishing items. These items are labor intensive and take longer than wearable garments to process. In the event of holiday's, visiting out of town guests or simply spring cleaning, please allow time for proper cleaning. Toudanines Cleaners considers it a privilege to service all your drycleaning needs. □

Arlene Converse is President of Toudanines Cleaners in Boerne, San Antonio and Schertz, Texas. They currently own and operate 3 locations in Boerne and throughout the San Antonio area. In 19 years they have owned and operated 17 stores in 11 cities throughout the state of Texas. For more information visit our website at www.ToudaninesCleaners.com, Facebook and Twitter. If you have a question for The Dry Cleaning Lady, please submit it to info@ToudaninesCleaners.com.

