

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Upholstery cleaning

Part 1: Fabric upholstery

AS/NZS 4849.1:2003

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee TX-023, Upholstery Cleaning. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 27 March 2003 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 4 April 2003. It was published on 8 May 2003.

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Australian Consumer & Specialty Products Association
Building Service Contractors of New Zealand
Certification Interests
Commercial Furniture Industry Association of Australia
Drycleaning Institute of Australia
National Upholstery & Carpet Cleaners Association
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TX-023, Upholstery Cleaning.

This Standard was developed to provide cleaning practitioners with requirements and guidelines for the maintenance and cleaning of upholstery fabrics.

Although similar in some respects to AS/NZS 3733, *Textile floor coverings—Cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial carpeting*, this document is specific to the techniques required for cleaning a huge variation of fibres, fabrics, weaves and finishes that differ greatly to the requirements of carpets.

Detailed in this document are guides to cleaning chemicals, apparatus, cleaning techniques, waste disposal and safety. Further information is provided for maintenance programs and fabric construction.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

Most people choose their new lounge suite for its appearance and give little consideration to the effects of ongoing, day-to-day use. Standards have been written for the durability and performance of upholstery fabrics but as yet not much consideration has been given to the cleanability or cleaning of upholstery furniture.

While care labelling standards have improved, they do not cover the technical intricacies required by the restorative cleaning technician to achieve an acceptable result without subsequent damage to the fabric or furniture. This ultimately leads to consumer disappointment in the manufactured goods.

The carpet industry and consumers have benefited enormously from the introduction of AS/NZS 3733:1995, *Textile floor coverings—Cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial carpeting*. It is used by cleaning practitioners as a general code of working practice, and forms the basis of a number of cleaning and restoration training schools' carpet cleaning courses.

It is envisaged that this Standard on upholstery cleaning will be of equal benefit to the community and industry alike.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard provides specifications and guidelines for cleaning and maintenance techniques for domestic and commercial fabric upholstery.

Such techniques form the basis of the cleaning maintenance program.

NOTES:

- 1 Guidelines on planning a cleaning maintenance program are given in Appendix A.
- 2 Information on fabric weave texture and colour is given in Appendix B.
- 3 Household chemicals which can have a damaging effect on fabrics are discussed in Appendix C.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide cleaning practitioners with, and inform consumers of, the minimum requirements for cleaning maintenance programs and cleaning techniques to enable textile upholstery coverings to be kept in a clean and hygienic condition.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1957 Care labelling

AS/NZS

1715 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protection devices.

Worksafe Australia. National model regulations

NOHSC: 2003 Control of work place hazardous substances

NOHSC: 2007 National code of practice—Control of workplace hazardous substances

The Textile Institute—Textile terms and definitions

1.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in *The Textile Institute—Textile terms and definitions* and the following definition apply.

1.4.1 Upholstery fabric

Textile fabric used to cover furniture.