
Tips For Upholstering With Polyurethanes

These are not hard and fast rules, but are meant as a guideline.

It is important to note that upholstery methods for Polyurethane differ from vinyl, but they can also differ from PU to PU based on the backing fabric used, resin quality, and weight of the material.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN UPHOLSTERING WITH POLYURETHANES

Polyurethanes often stretch more than vinyl and, when upholstered improperly, may show a sagging or puddling effect. The following may assist in minimizing this:

- Always use good quality high density foam.
- Consider cutting the foam at least one inch oversize in both directions.
- Thick foam applications should have breathing holes to allow for quick foam recovery.
- Consider wrapping the foam to assist the backing fabric to slide freely over it, which will prevent the PU material from bunching up.
- It may be necessary to adjust sewing patterns that were used for vinyl or leather, to account for the increased stretch of Polyurethane. It is not recommended to railroad Polyurethane, especially when using the material for large areas.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SEWING

- Avoid extreme folding of the material around tight corners or sharp radius' without foam backing support. This may place undue stress on the PU film creating a potential wear point, regardless of the abrasion rating.
- Due to its thin surface structure, Polyurethane is not recommended for use on welt cord.
- Consider using a minimum of six stitches per inch using a light ball tip needle.
- Avoid sewing polyurethanes with a top-stitch technique, as this may stress the PU skin.
- Consider double stitching key seam areas.

All manufacturing processes differ. These tips are offered as general helpful hints that should be considered prior to upholstering with Polyurethanes.