

THE STATED HOME

www.thestatedhome.com



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SOFA SHOPPING

MADE WITH CARE IN THE U.S.A.



At The Stated Home, quality furniture that is made in America is at the core of what we believe in: Made-to-last furniture that doesn't end up in landfills and doesn't waste your money.

We partner with U.S.-based manufacturers to create furniture that is:

- Made with environmentally responsible materials that minimize exposure to potential toxins
- Built with lumber from sustainably managed forests
- Constructed using best practices for longevity
- Timeless, not trendy

We know that buying a sofa or other upholstered furniture is a big investment, which is why we created this guide. Our hope is that it will help you make more informed decisions and shop wisely.

And if you choose to shop at The Stated Home, you can rest assured that we have already qualified our furniture and fabrics to meet these standards.

Please reach out if you have any questions or connect with us on social.

Thank you!

Laura Oglethorpe

Founder of The Stated Home





ELEMENTS OF A WELL-CONSTRUCTED SOFA

There are three main components of an upholstered sofa (or chair) that determine how long your piece will last. Some manufacturers are more forthcoming than others about how their furniture is made — and it's worth finding out as much information as you can about a piece before you make a big purchase.

Here, we review the three main elements that determine if a piece can be considered a solid purchase, along with things to look out for and what to avoid.

FRAME

Imagine the joy of coming home after a long day and stretching out onto your sofa. The romance of this suffers a bit if your sofa is wobbly and unstable. This can be avoided if the sofa has a solid frame. When it comes to frames, both materials and construction methods matter.

The sturdiness of the frame depends on its material and how the pieces are joined together. Oftentimes, well-made, sturdy furniture comes with a lifetime warranty on the frame, ensuring that you are getting the most out of your purchase.

Keep the following in mind when considering frames:

BEST MATERIALS

Solid Hardwood: Look for kiln-dried and "FSC-certified from domestic forests" to ensure the lumber is properly sourced.

Engineered Hardwood: Not to be confused with lower-quality plywood, engineered hardwood is made of at least seven layers of wood. This option can be just as sturdy (if not sturdier) than solid hardwood because it doesn't expand or contract from changes in climate and humidity.

MATERIALS TO AVOID

- **Standard Plywood**
- **Medium-Density Fiberboard (MDF)**
- **Particle Board**

BEST JOINERY

- **Double Dowel**
- **Corner Block**
- **Mortise and Tenon**

JOINERY TO AVOID

Pieces that only use screws, nails, or glue

SUSPENSION

Suspension, the part of the sofa directly underneath the seat cushions, is key to durability and comfort. If suspension is poorly made, your sofa will sag in no time.

BEST OPTION

Eight-Way Hand Tied: The well-established, gold standard of suspensions, this option holds up the longest. The price tends to be higher than other options as it is more labor intensive to craft. Beware of imported furniture claiming to be eight-way hand tied as it is likely untrue.

GOOD OPTIONS

Sinuous Springs: One of the most common types of sofa suspensions, this is a solid option if you're on a budget. The quality of sinuous springs varies widely, so make sure the piece has a good warranty — the best manufacturers offer a lifetime warranty on suspension.

Pocket Coil: A newcomer to the sofa suspension scene — and still somewhat



rare — this suspension is similar to mattress coils.

OKAY OPTIONS

Webbing: Certain sofa and chair styles require this type of suspension because they are designed with a slim seat deck.

Webbing quality varies widely and it is not recommended for hard-working sofas. That said, it can be fine for chairs that come from reputable manufacturers and only get occasional use. Webbing should be avoided on very inexpensive pieces.

OPTIONS TO AVOID

- **Drop-In Coil Springs** (often referred to as just coil springs)
- **Grid/Flexolator systems**



☀️ CUSHIONS ☀️

As both the most visible part of a sofa and the part you interact with directly, cushion quality and construction are crucial to consider when furniture shopping.

Comfort is highly personal, so THE perfect cushion option does not exist — you need to determine what feels perfect for you. Let's review some things to consider (and some to avoid) as you weigh out cushion feel versus look and longevity.

SEAT CUSHION CONSTRUCTION

The best seat cushions feature an inner core of either foam or innersprings, and are wrapped in polyester fiber, down, or memory foam (which is newest on the scene). The combination of these materials will determine the cushion's softness and the amount of maintenance you'll have to do (ie, regular flipping and rotating of cushions). Here, we suggest cushion types based on different preferences.

Innerspring Seat Core

This is our top recommendation because seat cushions with an innerspring core will hold up a bit better than one with a foam core, that will inevitably break down with time. Please note that these seats will feel a bit firmer.

Foam Seat Core

Foam core is what is typically used for softer seat construction, but it may break down sooner than the innerspring. Don't let that turn you off though! Cushions with foam core from a reputable manufacturer should last you 7-10+ years before you start to notice a softer, smushier seat.

This versatile material can also be the key to an extra firm seat. Most furniture manufacturers accomplish this by using extra dense foam core to construct cushions.

Fiber Wrap Seat Cushion

Yes, ALL sofa cushions should be flipped and rotated periodically, but a fiber wrapped seat cushion will require the least amount of attention as this filling tends to stay in place. It will offer a soft — but not a “sink-in” — seat.

Down Wrap Seat Cushion

A down wrap seat cushion will offer you more of a very soft, “sink-in” feeling, but can be considered more high maintenance than other options. Down tends to shift within the cushion, requiring frequent flipping and rotating.

Memory Foam Seat Cushion

A newer option now offered by some manufacturers, memory foam seat cushions may be the best of both worlds. They are composed of a foam seat cushion wrapped in memory foam, providing a soft seat without the fickleness of down.

Options to Avoid

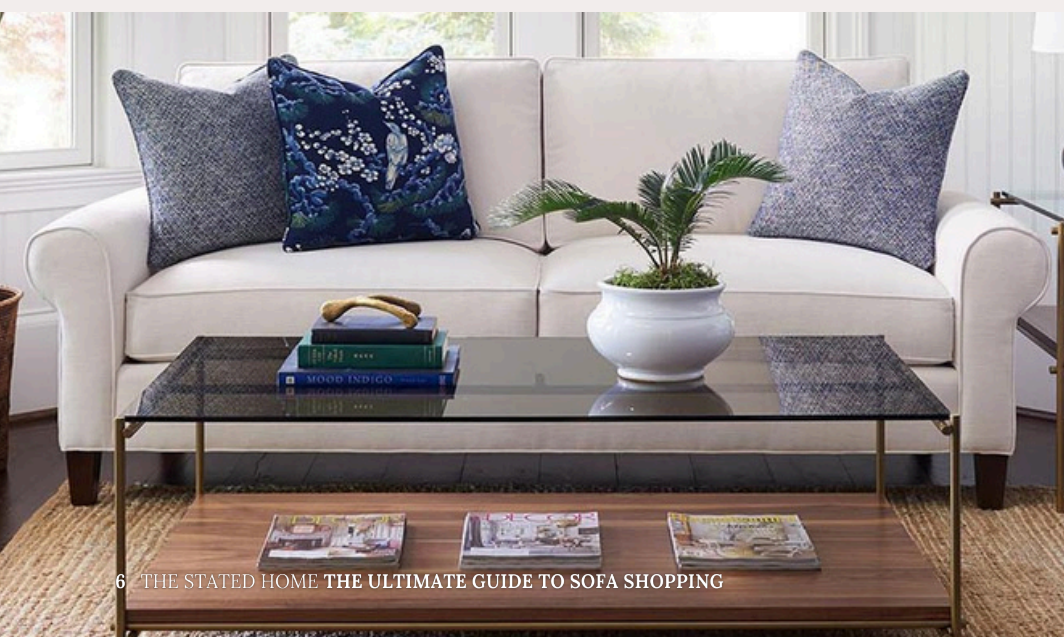
- **100% Down Seat Cushions:** These are simply too flat and difficult to maintain. Not to mention you can often feel the sofa springs through the cushion.
- **Foam-Only Cushions:** We enjoy the softness added by a fiber or down wrap — not to mention, foam-only cushions look very “square.”

DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Not all furniture manufacturers will offer every type of seat cushion. At The Stated Home,

we have chosen offerings that we feel capture popular preferences and priorities to make it easier for you to choose. Our sofa cushion selections are as follows:

- **For longevity, low maintenance, and good support:** Spring Fiber, an innerspring core wrapped in fiber.
- **For a soft seat:** Memory foam wrapped around a hi-density foam core.
- **For a supportive seat with a touch of softness:** Spring Down — our most popular option! It's an innerspring core wrapped in down (Note: This will require a little more maintenance than other options).
- **For a medium-soft support:** Foam fiber foam core wrapped in polyester fiber
- **For an extra-firm seat:** Extra-firm foam core wrapped in fiber
- **For a VERY soft seat:** Foam Down, foam core wrapped in down. Please note that we actually try to steer people away from this option because of the DAILY flipping and fluffing required. But, if you know you want a very soft seat and don't mind a “lived-in” look then this may be the cushion for you.



BACK CUSHION CONSTRUCTION

The majority of back cushions are constructed of loose filling – either 100% fiber, 100% feathers, or a combination of both. Most furniture manufacturers will offer either type of solid fill, but the hybrid options may vary and may not be available in the particular style you're looking for.

Here are our recommendations for back cushions as follows:

- **For soft, but supportive and low maintenance:** 100% polyester fiber (Bonus points if it's regenerated from plastic waste).
- **For something softer and down-free, with some maintenance:** A down-alternative fiber fill, sometimes called micro-denier or trillium.
- **For something even softer with more maintenance:** A combination of down and fiber.
- **For the softest option with a “sink-in” feeling:** Recommended with reservations, 100% down. This fill will require the most maintenance, but offers a nice soft feel.

Keep in mind that larger back cushions will be more difficult to fluff and rotate, so if you want this fill, consider sofas with three back cushions to keep the maintenance easier.

For extra-supportive: Some, not all, manufacturers will offer an extra support back cushion that is constructed with a foam inner core and is wrapped in fiber. It will offer minimal sinking in and maximum support.

Things to Consider

- Avoid attached back cushions! It is necessary to flip and rotate your back cushions to give them their longest life and keep things looking neat.
- Back cushions should be channel stitched to keep their filling in place
- Don't get too stressed out about this! Cushion cores are very easy to change out. You just open the case and slip in a new one.

At The Stated Home, we offer FREE cushion exchanges if you don't like the one you've ended up with – shop with a retailer that will do the same. ♦





COMFORT BY THE NUMBERS

Paying attention to the dimensions of a sofa can ensure you get something that's going to fit just right.

INSIDE SEAT DEPTH:

The distance from the front of the seat to the back cushions.

This is the key factor for determining comfort, so decide if you like a deep or shallow seat. Please note that taller people may like a deeper seat while shorter ones may prefer something less deep. And for those who like to lounge? Go deep!

- **25 - 26 INCHES:** The deepest seat we would recommend. (Any deeper than 26" starts to feel a little ridiculous.) This seat is good for really tall people or for those who want to comfortably fit two people laying down.

- **23 - 24 INCHES:** A seat that feels deep, but still allows most people to sit upright. Shorter people can always sit with a pillow placed behind them for more comfort.

- **21 - 22 INCHES:** A comfortable depth for sitting upright and good for smaller spaces.

- **LESS THAN 21 INCHES:** Usually found on small sofas, settees, or chairs.

INSIDE BACK HEIGHT:

The distance from the top of the seat to the top of the back.

How high the back is determines if you'll be able to lean your head back or not.

- **18 INCHES OR MORE:** The tallest end of the spectrum — look for this height if you like to lean your head back on cushions.

- **16 - 17 INCHES:** A middle of the road choice — you may not be able to lean your head against the back cushion, but this height will still provide a lot of support.

- **15 INCHES OR LESS:** The lowest back height, this sofa can still provide a comfortable spot to sit, you just sacrifice some lounging options.

INSIDE ARM HEIGHT:

The distance from the top of the seat to the top of the arm.

Pay attention to arm height if you want to be able to lean against the side of the sofa.

- **10 INCHES OR MORE:** The tallest arm height creates a cozy nook to lean against.

- **7 - 9 INCHES:** Very versatile arm height that gives you plenty of support for leaning.

- **4 - 6 INCHES:** Less ideal for leaning against, but a pillow can usually help make up the difference.

SEAT HEIGHT:

Sofa seat height doesn't vary too much, but you may want to pay attention to this dimension if you are nervous about how easy it will be to get in and out of the sofa. Firmer, innerspring seat cushions will make it easier to stand up from the sofa.

Seat heights typically range from 16 inches to 20 inches. If you want a taller seat, look for something with a seat height of 19 to 20 inches. ♦





FUNDAMENTALS OF FABRIC

When it comes to fabric for your furniture, there are infinite options — but what will actually stand the test of time? Fabric will typically wear out before the structure of the sofa does, so be mindful of details that will help your piece last as long as possible.

Here are four things to consider:

1. Double-Rubs

A test to determine durability — the higher the number, the longer it takes for the fabric to wear out. Look for a heavy-duty rating of at least 15,000 double rubs.

2. Performance Fabrics

A term used to describe fabric that has an inherent ability to resist soiling and is easy to clean. It's a great choice for busy homes or for those who prefer light-colored fabrics.

Some popular performance fabric brands are Crypton, Revolution, and Sunbrella. Also, most fabrics categorized as indoor/outdoor can be considered to be performance.

3. Warranty

Fabrics are usually not covered under warranties, although exceptions do exist. If there is a warranty, it's likely that neither wear, fading, shrinking, nor pilling would be covered. A good manufacturer will work with fabric companies to assist with any issues if they arise.

4. Washing Codes

Fabrics come with their own language of how they should be cleaned. Make sure you know your fabric cleaning code and keep the necessary supplies on hand to quickly address any spills or dirt. Always spot test a small, inconspicuous area before cleaning. Here are the codes to note:

- W: Spot clean with water-based shampoo or foam upholstery cleaner.
- S: Spot clean with water-free cleaning solvent. Do not use water.
- SW: Spot clean with water-based upholstery cleaner or a mild cleaning solvent.
- X: Clean only by vacuuming or light brushing with a non-metallic stiff brush. ♦

BESTSELLERS

The Stated Home offers a curated selection of sofas that can be customized to your preferences. Below, take a look at some of our bestsellers. If you don't see what you're looking for on our site, we can easily special order additional styles.



Palm Springs Sofa

Starting at \$3,490 | 2 sizes | slipcover (shown) or upholstery | available as a sectional or armless chair



Chicago Sofa

Starting at \$3,680 | 2 sizes | upholstery | available as chair and ottoman



St. Paul Sofa

Starting at \$3,895 | 3 sizes | slipcover, leather, or upholstery (shown) | available as sectional, chair, swivel chair, sleeper sofa, or loveseat



Nantucket Sofa

Starting at \$3,805 | 2 sizes | slipcover (shown) or upholstery | available as sectional, chair, loveseat, or sleeper sofa



Nashville Sofa

Starting at \$4,315 | 2 sizes | slipcover or upholstery (shown) | available as sectional or chair



Louisville Sofa

Starting at \$4,045 | 3 sizes | slipcover or upholstery (shown) | available as chair, sectional, or swivel chair



DESIGN INDECISION? WE'RE HAPPY TO HELP

CONTACT OUR TEAM FOR FREE
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New shoppe coming soon
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