

when you buy an easy chair

Buying an easy chair is no easy matter. You want it to be pleasing to look at and well-designed. You want it to be in harmony with other furnishings of the room. It must be comfortable. As people work, study, relax, watch television and eat, much time is spent seated, so comfort in a chair becomes most important. If a chair proves to be other than comfortable, it is an extravagant waste regardless of cost. You want the chair to give good service and maintain good appearance over several years. Your best assurance is to go to a reliable dealer, ask questions and discuss your problem with him. The best you can afford is a wise investment.

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CHOOSE A CHAIR IN HARMONY WITH YOUR FURNISHINGS

What style of furnishings do you have? Traditional and perhaps formal, provincial and informal, contemporary and tailored, or a modified version? Some furniture looks heavy, while other pieces have a feeling of lightness. Some have a rugged look, others a refined look. Usually woods such as maple, oak or teak look heavier and more rugged. Fine grained woods such as walnut, mahogany and fruit woods are more refined looking. The style and scale of chair should harmonize with your furnishings.

What is your color scheme? Will color of fabric in the chair enhance other colors in the room? If there is wood visible in the chair does the color of the fabric complement the wood color.

Observe the fabric pattern. Does it harmonize with the design and scale of the chair? And with other designs in the room?

Textures should harmonize. Mahogany requires rich, smooth textured fabrics, such as upholsterer's satin or damask. Oak and other sturdy woods are better with coarse textures such as tweed and homespun.

Good design is timeless. If your chair is well-designed it will not go out of fashion and you will not tire of it. Today's well designed chairs are not bulky, but have simple, clear-cut graceful lines.

CHOOSE A CHAIR FOR COMFORT

Fatigue, discomfort, poor posture, muscular pain and tension may be results of trying to relax or work in an unsuitable chair. A chair should support the body adequately in a comfortable, relaxed position for as long as you wish to sit in it. It should be comfortable for you in more than one position.

No ideal chair exists, since chairs are built for people of average height and weight. Comfort, then, depends partly on your own body proportions. In choosing a chair have the person who expects to use it most often give it a thorough sit-test. Body proportions vary greatly. The human body sometimes gains its height by greater distance from heel to back of knee. Sometimes the length is comparatively greater from knee to hipline. Many people with average length underpinnings have longer backbones. Each of these measurements is important in choosing a chair for comfort and real relaxation.

Check the Chair for These Points

Do your feet rest comfortably on the floor? Pain and swelling can result when the seat is high enough that the edge of the chair exerts pressure underneath the thighs just above the knees.

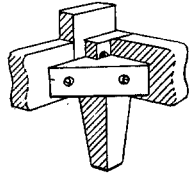
- Does the seat depth conform to your measurements and help give you good back support?
- Does the seat slant slightly to the back to help hold you in? The ideal sitting position requires at least a 90-degree angle at the hips and also at the knees. If a chair seat is noticeably lower at the back it is usually hard to get out of and it causes you to sit in an uncomfortable, jackknifed position. Chair seats that sink way down, but with a relatively firm front edge, cause jack-knifing at the hips and knees. Stretching and cramping of muscles result.
- Does the chair back have sufficient slope? A nearly vertical back forces you to drop forward in a round-shouldered position. A tilt of 15 or 20 degrees behind the vertical makes a chair more comfortable. Loose back cushions on easy chairs and sofas are useful in providing an adjustable incline. The tilt of a rocker provides this kind of comfort.
- Is the height and shape of the chair back right? For proper support a chair should allow your shoulder blades to drop slightly back of the center of your spine. In watching television you will be more comfortable if the chair back is high enough to support your upper back and neck. However, a high-back, scooped chair, such as the barrel or Windsor chair, rounds your back and may cause muscle strain.
- Are the arm rests of the right height for you? Arm rests should be of a height to support your arms without raising your shoulders and pushing them forward. As you sink down into a big upholstered arm chair, you will find that it can be a bad offender in having too high arm rests, though it looks so comfortable.
- Is there enough width so you can move around easily in the chair?

LOOK FOR GOOD CONSTRUCTION

Upholstered furniture is difficult to buy because so much of the construction is concealed. Don't be afraid to ask your dealer how the chair is made and why it is better or poorer than another.

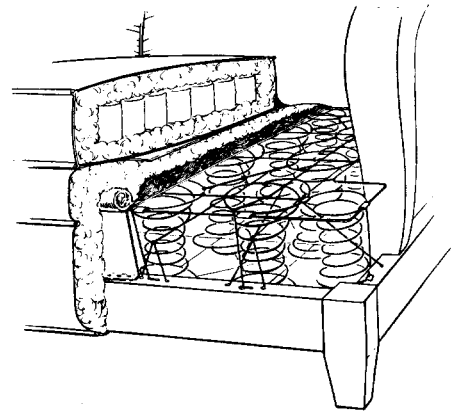
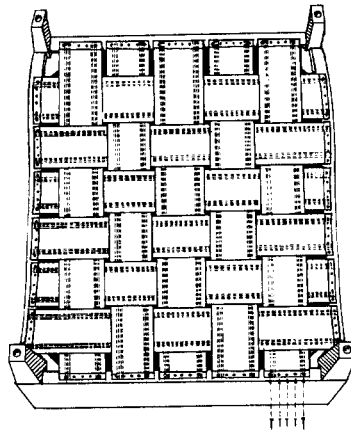
Some Important Questions to Ask About Construction:

- Is the frame, even the part you can't see, made of thoroughly seasoned hardwood? Soft woods do not hold upholstery tacks as well as hard woods. Is the wood kiln-dried to prevent warping and cracking caused by temperature changes.



- Is the frame well braced with corner blocks, securely joined with screws and glue? No piece of furniture should be nailed together.

- Is the webbing on the bottom of the seat firm and well anchored? Turn the chair over and check the webbing through the dust cover. Many types of construction are used for holding springs in place: Wooden slats, wire, steel, or woven jute webbing. When jute webbing is used, be sure it is tight and firm. Strips should be laced together so that they are about an inch apart. Coil springs are fastened to intersections of the webbing. Nine to twelve springs for a 16-inch seat opening makes a comfortable, strong seat. In some contemporary lightly scaled chairs you will find rubber webbing used with a loose cushion of foam rubber latex or urethane foam.



- How many times are the springs tied? Poor and insufficient tying causes slipping or breaking of the twine and sagging of the seat. With the addition of an edge wire all around the seat, tying the spring four times is satisfactory, while formerly each spring was hand tied eight times. A good quality burlap is fitted over the top of the springs and is sewed to them.
- What kind of filling is used? Look for a label indicating the filling material on upholstered furniture. A separate label must be on loose cushions. Fillings for upholstered furniture, listed in the order of quality, are foamed rubber latex, urethane or vinyl foam, curled horsehair (rubberized or plain), moss, tow, cotton, sisal and excelsior. A thin layer of cotton or Dacron polyester fiberfill is used over the filling to insure a smooth surface for the upholstery fabric. The filling of loose cushions may be latex foam rubber, urethane foam, rubberized curled hair, goose down, feathers, kapok, or cotton. Cushions also may have springs covered with cotton or Dacron polyester fiberfill.
- Is the upholstery fabric serviceable? Quality of upholstery fabric varies greatly in price and can amount to nearly half the cost of the piece of furniture. A firm fabric closely woven of good quality yarns is essential to withstand the strain of long, hard wear to which most furniture is subject. Loosely woven fabrics stretch and lose shape and threads are easily caught and snagged. A balanced weave --all yarns about the same count, size and strength--wears better than a weave with heavy yarns in one direction and light weight yarns in the other. Rubberized backing on loosely woven fabric improves its wearability.

Flat fabrics generally are less durable than pile fabrics, but they have a beauty and adaptability to modern styling which is not equaled in pile fabrics. Pile fabrics have a third dimension which gives the material height and thickness. This offers a resilient surface which protects base yarns against wear and soil.

Other fabrics slow to soil are those woven of smooth, tightly twisted fibers rather than soft, fuzzy ones. Middle value colors, neither so light as to show grease or so dark as to show lint, are practical.

A well-tailored cover which fits smoothly and snugly looks better and wears better. Welting and trim should be even and snug for good appearance. Button, piping and channelbacks help to keep the upholstery and padding in place, but may be uncomfortable to lean against and difficult to recover. Ask about color-fastness of the fabric to light and whether it is preshrunk or sanforized shrunk. Has a protective finish been applied to the fabric? With a silicone finish the fabric is resistant to water-borne stains. A fabric treated with a fluorocarbon finish, such as Scotchgard or ZePel, resists oil-borne stains and soil as well.

If the upholstery material is vinyl, a knitted backing will have greater flexibility and longer life. A "breathable" vinyl means more comfort. Vinyls may have a dirt-resistant finish.

Questions Affecting Wearability of Fabric That Only You Can Answer:

How long do I want this fabric to last in terms of a probable desire to change my decorating scheme?

What is the relation between appearance and wearability? Is one more or less important than the other for my purpose?

How much wear will the fabric receive because of the pattern of our family living. Entertain often? Children rough on furniture?

SEAL OF INTEGRITY

This is your warranty that the chair meets the standard of quality for workmanship, materials and construction set by the National Association of Furniture Manufacturers. It means that the manufacturer will make any reasonable adjustment during a period of one year from the date of delivery to the consumer.



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