



# TIPS & TRICKS

For everyday use and maintenance  
To extend the life of your furniture



1. Moments @ your service.....	3
2. How to maintain healthcare furniture? .....	4
2.1. What to look out for in buying/maintaining healthcare furniture? .....	4
2.2. Fabric .....	5
2.2.1. Properties.....	5
2.2.2. Cleaning tips – maintenance and cleaning.....	5
2.3. Artificial leather.....	6
2.3.1. Properties.....	6
2.3.2. Cleaning tips – maintenance and cleaning.....	6
2.4. Wood .....	7
2.4.1. Properties.....	7
2.4.2. Cleaning tips – maintenance and cleaning.....	8
2.5. Stainless steel.....	9
2.6. Aluminium .....	9
2.7. Plastic.....	9
2.8. HPL.....	10
2.9. Outdoor decor.....	10
3. Maintenance contracts .....	11



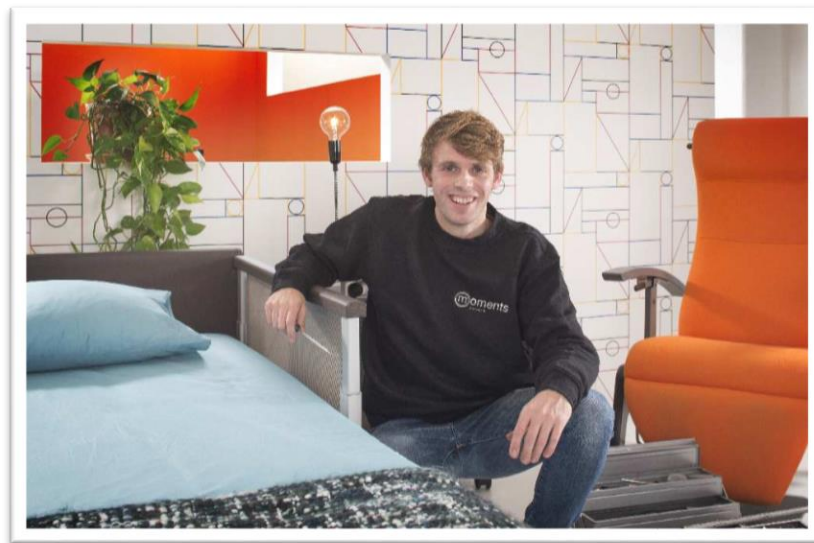
## 1. Moments @ your service

*"As experienced specialists and producers of furniture for the healthcare sector, we place safety and quality at the very top of our priorities. For long-term, carefree enjoyment of our products, we advise you to carry out regular maintenance. With our services and maintenance contracts we are at your beck and call."*

*Werner Kestelyn, Manager, Moments Services*

That's why at moments we find it an absolute must to offer you a handy manual full of useful information about the properties of the various materials and practical advice for daily maintenance. You will also find here the necessary solutions for preventing or removing damage.

If after reading these "tips & tricks" you still have questions about the maintenance of your healthcare furniture or wish to request maintenance, our technical team stands ready to serve you! Contact us without commitment for an appointment.



Tel. +32 (51) 489 258 of [service@momentsfurniture.com](mailto:service@momentsfurniture.com)

You can also easily request service via our website:

[www.momentsfurniture.com](http://www.momentsfurniture.com)





## 2. How to maintain healthcare furniture?

### 2.1. What to look out for in buying/maintaining healthcare furniture?

First of all, the user's comfort of course. But also the quality of the materials and the maintenance-friendliness of the chair, table, bed require the necessary attention. A quality item of furniture that is easy to maintain remains in good condition for longer and is thus a lasting investment. Here are a few **maintenance tips** that can optimise the useful life of an item of healthcare furniture.

#### Chairs

Artificial leather padding is easy to clean with an alkaline detergent such as Dreft. Always rinse the detergent off thoroughly with water to avoid stains on the seat.

#### Tables

- Always lift tables when moving them to avoid damage to the legs and to avoid the legs working loose over time.
- Preferably choose tables with levelling feet. They cater to unevenness in the ground, so that the table is stable and things don't fall off it.
- A table top in HPL (High Pressure Laminate) is more scratch-resistant than a melamine one. It makes for much more efficient cleaning too. Use a cleaning product such as Chemico for this. Coffee rings and other stains are easy to remove with this.
- Use Wondergum to remove stubborn stains.

#### Electric beds

- For the proper and safe operation of all electronic components (motors, cables, hand controls, etc.) we recommend an annual check. Any damage can then be detected and repaired in good time.
- Preventing falls is an important point of attention in the healthcare sector. So check regularly to make sure the side rails/lateral protection of the care bed still work properly.
- The motor is isolated under the bed. Even so as a result of careless use of a patient lift for example, the outer covering can be damaged. To avoid the motor's being damaged by dampness (if the patient is incontinent for example), checks are essential.

#### Seats

- Check to see that the directional wheels of the chairs still turn easily and that the bolts are tight. This is important not just for the user's safety but also for the ergonomic comfort of the care personnel. Wheels that don't turn properly are annoying and tiring for the people that have to push the wheelchairs.
- Make sure the gas springs are properly adjusted. This is necessary in order to get the back quickly into the right position for example.
- Check regularly to see that the electrical wiring and steel cables are well secured.
- The useful life of a wheelchair benefits from proper use. For example a seat is not meant to be stood on, and an armrest is not supposed to be sat on.



## 2.2. Fabric

### 2.2.1. Properties

**Fold forming** – In the beginning, the fabric of new seating furniture is still tight and sterile. It takes time for it to become comfortable and inviting. Because of the natural stretch in the fabric and the working of the filling and springs, folds may form during use.

**Flattening** – As a result of body heat, weight and moisture, velvet fabrics in particular may become flattened. Areas that have been flattened should be covered with a damp cloth and then the velvet should be brushed evenly and in the direction of the nap. Then leave it to dry completely!

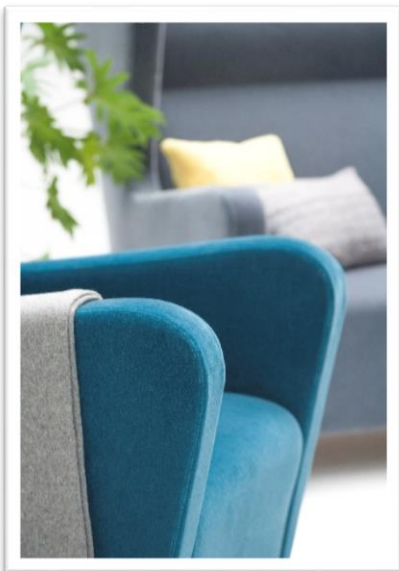
**Pilling** – Pilling is the felting and tangling caused by the circular motion of fibres. These bobbles are easily removed with a picking comb. Never pull out loose parts.

**Foam & filling** – The most common high quality foam fillings are made of polyester and cold foam. Both require 'sitting in', in other words, the foam will adapt itself during use. In the first few months, the filling will lose some of its rigidity and the sit comfort will increase. The furniture will not look as smooth and tight as it did in our showroom. These folds are evidence of normal use.

**Shading**– Apparent stains on fabric that have the appearance of spilled water. The reason for this is that the piles are not all lying in the same direction in those places. Depending on where you are when you look at the fabric, in the direction of the nap, or against it, the fabric will appear darker. It is an optical illusion and cannot be regarded as a manufacturing defect.

### 2.2.2. Cleaning tips – maintenance and cleaning

Regular vacuuming with the flat nozzle of the vacuum cleaner in the direction of the nap. Remove loose fluff with a slightly damp chamois.



- Removing stains
- Remove spill-stains as quickly as possible to prevent the stain from seeping into the material.
- Remove stains from the outside in to avoid making the spot larger than necessary.
- For stains on a resistant material scoop off the substance immediately with a spoon. Avoid pressing the substance into the tissue any more than is necessary.
- For liquid stains, blot up the substance with a clean cloth. On no account rub.
- Most stains are easy to remove with a sponge and the lather from green soap.
- Repeat the process as often as necessary. Avoid soaking, since this can damage the material under the fabric. If necessary, dry using a hair dryer.



**Tip** - If in doubt, try the treatment first on a small piece that is not visible.



## 2.3. Artificial leather

### 2.3.1. Properties

Artificial leather has different properties from genuine leather. Artificial leather consists of a plastic coating on a fabric base. A structure resembling that of a particular kind of fabric is then printed onto the plastic coating. Many artificial leathers “breathe” and are difficult to distinguish visually from genuine leather. Artificial leather is non-porous and easy to maintain and feels less cold to the touch than genuine leather.

### 2.3.2. Cleaning tips – maintenance and cleaning

Maintenance of artificial leather aims to conserve its physical and aesthetic properties by means of preventive care of the surface. Failure to look after the material will lead irreparably to premature ageing, with superficial wear and tear, cracks, peeling, etc. as a result.

**Harmful factors** are:

- Physical insults: wear and tear and use-related friction and stretching
- Sundry insults: stains, dirt, fatty or dry matter, etc.
- Chemical insults: more or less acidic perspiration, oils or creams containing organic solvents, varnish or scalp treatment products, etc.

While it might not be visible, material and dirt stick to the furniture on a daily basis.

If they are not regularly removed, a large number of micro-materials accumulate on the artificial leather and coalesce into an amalgam on the surface.

Acid from this amalgam gradually attacks the artificial leather and alters its physical state: chemical destabilisation, making the artificial leather more delicate, harder and brittle. The material may flake off or crack in parts that are physically confined (stretching, strain as a result of use). This wear and tear is deceptive: it starts from the first few days of use.

It may not be visible at first, but it is insidious, and when it becomes noticeable it is often too late for preventive care to have any effect.

To avoid this we recommend **preventive maintenance**.

#### *Weekly*

Dust off with a damp, non-abrasive cloth. This treatment hydrates the artificial leather and removes dry dust and water-soluble spots.

Dip the cloth in neutral water, wring it out gently and apply evenly to the parts of the furniture that get the most contact, such as backrest and armrests. Avoid excess water, which can easily penetrate the stitching of the cushion. Rinse the cloth regularly to remove cleaning materials, and leave to dry.



### *Every season*

Clean with a cleaning product from the manufacturer (\*) or an alkaline soap. This eliminates greasy spots, sweat marks, serum and micro-dirt, so that these do not accumulate and destabilise the chemical composition of the leather surfaces. After using alcohol-based cleaning products, always wipe the artificial leather clean with plain water so that no traces remain that might damage the surface of the artificial leather with hardening as a result. If the artificial leather is ribbed or contains a relief pattern then it's best to use a soft brush to clean the ribs. Dust that gets stuck in the ribs makes the artificial leather dull and accelerates ageing.

(\*) *Vescom (Vescomcleaner), Silverguard (Vyva cleaner), Stamskin Top (Ferrari Cleaner 500).*

Products that are **strictly forbidden**:

- Undiluted alcohol and/or acetone
- All solvents and detergents
- Abrasive maintenance products
- Perchloroethylene
- All kinds of wax
- Trichloroethylene



**Tip** -Also avoid prolonged exposure to radiators and other heating appliances

## 2.4. Wood

### 2.4.1. Properties

Wood is a rewarding material for producing furniture. The material is easy to handle and has a wonderful appearance. As a natural product however, one of the features of wood is that it reacts to its environment. We say that 'wood works'. It expands and contracts. Under the influence of humidity and temperature, the size and shape of the material change. The result is that the timber can become convex or concave and that cracks appear. Keep in mind the **following tips** for dealing with these properties as much as possible in daily use:



## 2.4.2. Cleaning tips – maintenance and cleaning



- Do not place hot objects directly onto your wooden furniture and be careful of excessive moisture or alcohol. Both will cause rings and/or moisture spots that are difficult or impossible to remove.
- Use coasters to prevent heat or moisture spots. Remove any spots immediately with a cloth.
- Do not place wooden furniture next to a heat source such as a radiator, to prevent warping and cracking.
- If wooden furniture has been in an overly dry environment for too long, it may crack.
- Wooden furniture placed in front of a window in direct sunlight, will fade faster. Wood will inevitably discolour after a while, becoming either lighter or darker.
- Areas with a humidity of 50% to 60% constitute the ideal environment for wooden furniture.

Clean stained and varnished furniture with a slightly damp cloth. Then wipe dry with a soft, clean, dry cloth.

Surfaces that have been stained and subsequently varnished have a closed structure. They cannot be treated with oil or wax, but of course they can be re-varnished, in case of wear and tear.

Oiled wood is more sensitive than varnished wood. Clean with a dry or slightly damp cloth. The wood may be treated a couple of times a year with maintenance oil.

Due to weather conditions, untreated teak will become grey; this is also known as 'ageing'. You can prevent this by cleaning and oiling the teak once or twice a year.



**Tip**

*Plan the care and maintenance of your furniture at set times!  
And repair minor damage straight away.*





## 2.5. Stainless steel

- Daily maintenance is best done with a clean cotton cloth, possibly slightly damp.
- Remove stains with dilute ammonia solution in warm water. Polish in the direction of the brush using a synthetic sponge.
- Never sandpaper, and do not use wire brushes, abrasives, scouring powders (Jif), or aggressive chemicals such as bleach.
- For stainless steel outdoor furniture, used in coastal areas or swimming pools some slight corrosion may occur. This can easily be removed with a Scotch-Brite sponge. But be sure to rub it in the direction of the brush!

## 2.6. Aluminium

- Check the abrasion caps regularly and avoid unnecessary damage to chairs and tables.
- Do not stack chairs too high, and never drag while stacking.
- Use a chair cart to protect the leg construction.
- It is easy to clean both powder-coated aluminium and anodised aluminium with water and a cloth.
- On anodised aluminium it is preferable to use the lather from green soap as a detergent.
- Never use abrasives, steel wool or wire brushes.



*Tip* - Store garden furniture indoors in the winter if possible to prevent damage caused by damp and cold.

## 2.7. Plastic

- Remove spots as quickly and easily as possible with water and a sponge.
- Plastic surfaces have a closed finish that protects the material from penetration of dirt. So do not use abrasives; they will damage the finish.
- Prevent permanent discolouration by treating stains immediately.
- Discolouration can also occur when furniture is left outside all year round and is not cleaned regularly. This often causes a green slime.



## 2.8. HPL



High Pressure Laminate or HPL and compact sheets are made from resin and cellulose and are produced by heating under extremely high pressure.

They have a coloured top layer and are extremely moisture resistant. Compact is also weatherproof.

### *Cleaning tips:*

- Wipe daily with a damp cloth and possibly a mild detergent.
- Do not use aggressive detergents, scourers or steel wool. Fingerprints will be more visible on dark or matt finish decors. These can generally be wiped off with a soft, dry cloth.
- Treat stubborn stains with a vinegar solution.
- Use Mr. Proper Wondergum to remove stubborn stains.

## 2.9. Outdoor decor

Outdoor decor table tops are particularly suitable for outdoor use. A pressed sheet of tropical wood fibre with a top layer of melamine and rounded corners makes this material extremely weatherproof.

Some practical points for use are:

- Never put table tops against each other. Fine sand, which is always on the surface, acts like sandpaper and will eventually cause numerous tiny scratches on the tops.
- Never leave the tables upside down outside in the rain. The water will eventually seep into the table top from below and cause it to swell.
- Dark patterns may show some reaction to bright sunlight and may warp slightly. It is therefore better to use dark decors indoors!
- The surfaces can be cleaned daily with water and a cloth.
- Do not use scourers or steel wool; these will damage the melamine top layer.



### 3. Maintenance contracts

*Safety and quality are among our top priorities!*

In order to ensure constant optimal quality, safety and long life of the products, we advise our customers to carry out regular (annual) maintenance or to have it done by a professional service team. Starting when you take delivery of the furniture.

Contact us without commitment for a preventive maintenance contract.  
Our service team stands ready for you!