AMERICAN LEATHER®

COMFORT WRINKLES

As you settle into your new fabric or leather upholstery, “comfort wrinkles” will begin to appear. This is a natural part of the upholstery maturing process.

Comfort Wrinkles are caused by many things. They are normal in upholstered furniture that is designed to have soft seating and back support. The type of covering and filling has a significant role reducing comfort wrinkles.

The standard foam seat cushion is constructed with an inner core of high density, high resiliency premium urethane foam between thick layers of resilient polyester fiber. Loose back pillows are filled with 100% polyester fiber. This is the same material used to fill high quality bed pillows. Like bed pillows, furniture cushions must be hand fluffed and turned frequently to maintain a soft, well filled appearance.

The soft and comfortable cushions and pillows used with better quality furniture will provide years of lasting service if properly maintained. Fabrics and leathers that provide flexibility combined with filling materials that compress softly, provide the best comfort benefits. These same features also create Comfort Wrinkles in cushions and pillows that are characteristic of the construction and should not be considered defect.

Some fabrics and leathers will show Comfort Wrinkles when the cushion casings are originally filled. Most fabrics will develop wrinkles with use. The more flexible fabrics will generally develop more wrinkles.

All leather will stretch and form comfort creases as a result of being sat on. The effect is called puddling. Puddling occurs from the initial use period and generally does not continue beyond this, as the amount of stretch is directly related to the amount of compression. Factors that contribute to the amount of puddling are the size of the leather panel (large panels verses smaller segmented panels), the density of the foam, type of suspension (webbing/no sag springs) and the amount of weight placed on the seat. Puddling is not a fault with the leather; rather it is a good indication of quality manufacturing as large pieces of leather are used.

Longer cushions tend to wrinkle more readily than narrow cushions. One-piece sofa or love seat cushions will develop comfort wrinkles more quickly than two or three-piece cushions regardless of the fabric. The larger expanse a fabric covers, the less support there is to stabilize it, allowing for more

deflection of the fabric. In thicker cushion cores, softer foam is used to achieve the desired comfort. However, when filling cushions, these softer cores do not allow as much push from front to back and side to side, thus permitting more wrinkles to occur.

The tighter a fabric is woven, the less it will breathe. The less a fabric breathes, the firmer the product will sit. The firmer it sits. The less it will wrinkle. Therefore, the same style in two different fabrics will sit differently. Latex backed fabrics will help eliminate wrinkles in the fabric but will alter seating comfort and the appearance of softness.

Even when using the highest quality foam and fiber wrap available, there will, over time, be a loss in loft in the fiber wrap and a slight loss of compression strength in the foam. These factors added to the fact that fabrics stretch and lose some of their recovery properties, result in comfort wrinkles. Fluffing and stroking cushions regularly, along with reversing them, will reduce the amount of wrinkles and aid the fabric in wearing better.

There are approximately 500 fabrics and leathers in our line. Even though the materials are of the same general quality, they can be different because of their fiber content, construction, wearability and stretch ability. All materials are tested to meet our high-quality standards.

Climate affects fabric just as it does wood. Heat, cold, humidity and sunlight contribute to fabric instability.

Soil repellent coatings or treatments applied other than in the manufacturing or finishing process may break down the backing of the fabric. It can also react to the cushion cores themselves.