



Technical Bulletin

TB014

OUTDOOR CUSHIONS
CLEANING GUIDE

Water Staining on Outdoor Cushions

Water stains on outdoor cushions are usually caused by exposure to rain or accidental spills. When water seeps into the fabric, it can leave behind unsightly stains and discoloration. In some cases, the stains may be caused by mildew or mold growth, which can be a result of prolonged exposure to moisture.

Preventing and Treating Water Stains

To minimise the risk of water staining, cushions should be cleaned and thoroughly dried on a regular basis. Applying a suitable waterproofing treatment can further enhance water repellency, helping to reduce moisture absorption and surface marking.

If water stains do occur, they can typically be removed using appropriate cleaning methods and solutions. Always test a small portion of the fabric first.

By following the recommended care and maintenance procedures, you can effectively reduce staining and preserve both the appearance and lifespan of your outdoor cushions.

Step 1: Assess the Affected Area

- Before cleaning, visually inspect the cushion to assess the extent of any white water stains. Ensure the fabric is completely dry before proceeding with cleaning.

Step 2: Lightly Re-Dampen the Surface

- Using a clean cloth or spray bottle, lightly dampen the affected area with clean, lukewarm water. This helps to even out drying marks caused by mineral deposits.

Step 3: Prepare a Cleaning Solution

- Mix a mild solution of: 1 tablespoon mild dish soap and 1 cup of warm water.

Step 4: Clean the Entire Panel (Not just the effected area)

- Using a clean, soft clean cloth or sponge, apply the solution across the entire cushion panel, not just the stained area. This is critical to avoid further patching or uneven drying.

Step 5: Gently Work the Solution

- Lightly agitate the surface using circular motions. Avoid excessive pressure to prevent damaging the fabric coating.

Step 6: Rinse Thoroughly

- Using a clean cloth and fresh water, rinse the entire treated area to remove all soap residue. Note: Incomplete rinsing may lead to additional marking.

Step 7: Allow to Dry Evenly

- Blot excess moisture with a dry towel. Allow the cushion to air dry naturally in a well-ventilated area, away from direct heat sources. Ensure even drying to prevent further white marks forming.

For further assistance, contact our Customer Service team on: **+44 (0) 1889 272 056**

For Spills and Accidents

- Spills and accidents can also cause water stains on cushions. If you accidentally spill a drink or food on your cushions, it's essential to clean the stain immediately to prevent it from setting.

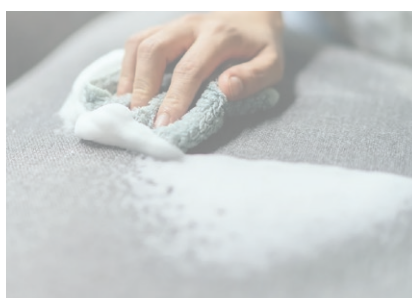
Action

- For wine and juice - white vinegar solution followed by a mix 1:2 solution of a mild, non-detergent cleaner mixed with lukewarm water, then apply it to the cushion.
- Allow the cushion to air dry naturally.
- Grease and oil - 1:2 solution of a non-detergent dish soap and lukewarm water and then apply it directly to the stain. Allow the cushion to air dry naturally.
- Repeat procedures, if stains are still visible. Avoid excessive pressure to prevent damaging the fabric coating.

Removal of Mould from Outdoor Cushions

Mould can develop on cushions exposed to prolonged damp conditions, typically appearing as black or green surface spotting. Prompt treatment is recommended, as mould can spread quickly and become more difficult to remove over time.

- Take the cushion outdoors and, while wearing a suitable face covering, gently brush off any loose mould spores using a soft or medium-bristled brush.
- Mix 1:1 white vinegar with water in a spray bottle and apply generously to affected areas.
- Let the vinegar solution sit for 20-30 minutes to kill mould spores. Scrub with a brush, then rinse thoroughly with clean water. For stubborn mould, create a paste with baking soda and water, apply it to remaining spots, and let it work for another 15 minutes before scrubbing again. Dry cushions completely in direct sunlight, which naturally kills any remaining spores.
- Repeat procedures, if spots are still visible. Avoid excessive pressure to prevent damaging the fabric coating.



Water Staining

- Mix 1:20 mild dish soap with lukewarm water.
- Lightly dampen a clean cloth.
- Gently wipe the affected area, in a circular motion.
- Do not scrub aggressively.
- Using a clean cloth and fresh water, rinse the entire treated area to remove all soap residue.
- Allow to air dry naturally.
- Repeat if required.

Removal of Mould

- Mix 1:1 white vinegar with water in a spray bottle and apply generously to affected areas. Leave for 20-30 minutes.
- Scrub with a brush, then rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- Allow to air dry naturally.
- Repeat if required.

Proper care will keep your outdoor cushions looking their best year after year. Regular maintenance significantly extends their lifespan. Simply brush or shake cushions weekly to remove surface debris, and rotate them periodically to ensure even wear.

At the start of each season, applying a fabric protector will enhance water repellency and help guard against staining. During prolonged wet or winter months, cushions should be stored in a breathable storage solution to prevent moisture build-up.

At HEX Living, our cushions are designed with highly durable, easy-care materials that retain their comfort and appearance with minimal effort, so you can spend less time maintaining and more time enjoying your outdoor space.

Can I Pressure-wash Outdoor Cushions ?

No we wouldn't recommend this. Our outdoor cushion upholstery are strong enough to withstand all-seasonal weather damage, but high pressure washing will damage the fabric.

Advisory:

Use the lowest pressure setting with a wide spray tip, and maintain a safe working distance from the fabric at all times to prevent damage.

Can I Use Bleach on Outdoor Cushions ?

While standard bleach can be safely used on white outdoor cushions, it is not recommended for coloured fabrics, as it may cause fading or discolouration.

For coloured cushions, a colour-safe (fabric-safe) bleach solution may be used, provided caution is taken. For general cleaning and more stubborn marks, Test a small portion of the fabric before you use it on an entire cushion, just in case it does cause colour issues.

We recommend using a 1:2 solution of a mild, non-detergent cleaner mixed with lukewarm water.

Improper Storage and Exposure to Moisture

Failing to store cushions correctly during prolonged wet conditions can increase the risk of water staining and material degradation.

Cushions left outdoors and exposed to rain, snow, and moisture may absorb excess water, leading to saturation of the fabric. This can result in visible staining, as well as the potential development of mildew if the cushions are not dried thoroughly.

Helpful Tips: Storage & Protection

- Store cushions indoors during wet weather - reduce prolonged exposure to moisture.
- For long-term storage, use a suitable storage solution such as our 1200L Farley Deck Box.
- Cover with our custom made air vented waterproof covers - short-term storage.
- Ensure cushions dry completely after light rainfall - Position cushions on their side.
- Position furniture in areas with good natural air circulation - prevent moisture & staining.
- Consider applying a suitable fabric protector to help repel water and extend the life of the cushions.. Test a small portion of the fabric before you use it on an entire cushion, just in case it does cause colour issues.