
Soft furnishings test

BS 4723 specifies the make-up and performance requirements for cleanable stretch covers, made from knitted fabrics, for domestic upholstered chairs.

Testing in industry

Sewing threads

Strength tests are carried out on threads as well as colour fastness.

Stitching

There should be no fewer than 4 stitches per centimetre.

Securing

Made-up covers must be securely fastened either by cross over tape or elasticated edges.

Colour fastness

The colour fastness should be tested as for general requirements for soft furnishings.

Testing in school

All tests can be carried out as in industry.

Remember seat covers and other items, if to be made for leisure furniture, are subjected to bright sunlight so you may need to find somewhere in the school grounds to stretch a piece of fabric and place in direct sunlight.

Your results should be recorded, a conclusion drawn and a decision made regarding the material, trimmings and manufacturing method.