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Tips to Prevent Premature Aging in Your Furniture

Posted by [Will Hand](#) | September 26, 2012 | [Flag as inappropriate](#)

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It's just been made official; the summer of 2012 is the [third-warmest summer on record](#) for the continental United States.

Dermatologists' warnings about the risks of the sun's damaging rays seem to be getting through to most of us as we pay more attention to sun exposure and sunscreen. However, there is no one looking out for our precious furniture. If our sofas and chairs could talk, you might hear them complain about being dry, cracked and wrinkly from sitting in direct sunlight for too long. Unfortunately, Coppertone doesn't make sunscreen for the chaise lounge.

As we transition into fall, now is a good time to take an inventory of your furniture – indoors and outdoors – to see which items need a little TLC or which pieces should be moved around to minimize sun exposure. Paying attention to your furniture extends its life, saves money, and prevents pieces from ending up in landfills.

We can help you build a story about caring for your precious furniture with a local restoration specialist from [Fibrenew](#) who can restore and repair almost any piece of furniture – whether it is torn, worn, faded, chewed by the dog, or covered in cat scratches. Fibrenew craftsmen (and women) have the equipment and expertise to make cracks, stains, scratches, holes, rips and fades in leather, plastic, vinyl, fabric and upholstery look new again. They can even re-dye a leather couch to make it a different color.

Fibrenew has seen people make every mistake in the book with their leather, fabric, vinyl and plastic furniture, and our franchise owners could definitely provide some helpful, little-known facts about vinyl, plastic and leather, tips on preventative care, and tips on dealing with furniture problems. As we move away from summer and into the colder months, here are a few examples of helpful tips you can share with your audience:

DOs and DON'Ts of extending furniture's life

Discoloration and fading

DON'T use markers to treat spots or areas of discoloration. Many old wives tales state that you can use markers to repair discolored leather. That is NOT true. Markers cannot match the exact appearance of the leather as it is not made for this purpose, so never use a marker to quickly remove the discoloration. You will only end up creating an irregular look.

DO regularly apply leather cleaner and try to keep furniture out of direct sunlight as much as possible.

Drying up

DON'T ever treat your leather with olive oil, petroleum or any other type of oil. A lot of people do to try to prevent drying, but the oil you use will get soaked up just like any other oil, resulting in spots and discoloration. Olive oil and all other oils actually speed up the deterioration process for leather. As leather is porous it will absorb the oil and over time the absorbed oil will lead to discoloration.

DO apply protection cream regularly.

Sweating and sunscreen

DON'T use household cleaners or baby wipes. They are the worst thing you can use as they will destroy the finish on your leather. Using household products may appear to work but, in the long run, will deteriorate the leather finish quicker and it may then be impossible to restore.

DO clean furniture regularly, especially after trips to the beach or other outdoor excursions.