

Wood

Hardwood

This is highest quality and most expensive wood. They come in a vast range of natural colours and can be stained for colour variation. The five most popular hardwood used for furniture production are cherry, mahogany, rosewood, teak and walnut.

Softwood

Though softwood requires more care than hardwood, they are less expensive. Softwood tends to be less durable and may be easily scratched or dented. Most softwood used for the construction are usually custom-milled to reflect a particular pattern. The most common softwood used in furniture construction is pine.

Composite wood

Composite wood is the least expensive wood available. These are the four main types of composite wood used in furniture.

- Plywood: Thin layers of wood are coated with a layer of glue before being pressed together.
- Particle board: This is made by combining small wood chips and sawdust with glue or resin. The combination is then shaped and pressure treated.
- Hardboard: This is constructed similarly as particle board. The difference is that much more pressure is applied thus producing a stronger material.
- Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF): Wood particles and resin are combined and compressed.

3. Product Warranty and Guarantee

A warranty usually covers only the repair of the product while a guarantee is usually given by the manufacturer who may repair or replace the defective product. Always ask for a copy of the warranty or guarantee to find out what is covered for the product purchased.

4. Exchange and Refund Policies

Different shops have different exchange and refund policies. In general, exchange or refund is usually allowed only if the product is defective. Check the store's policy so that you are aware of your rights and responsibilities.

5. Dispute Resolution

Consumers are encouraged to approach the following associations:



www.sfa.org.sg
Hotline : 6298 1600



www.case.org.sg
Hotline : 6463 1811

(SFA - for customers of FIRAC members only)
(CASE - for customers of all furniture vendors)

6. Useful Information Links

www.bestbedguide.com

www.renovation-headquarters.com

7. Acknowledgements



Best Bed Guide



Renovation-Headquarters.com

Note:



SINGAPORE FURNITURE ASSOCIATION



CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

**Guide
For
Furniture
Buyers**



1. General Tips

Before Purchasing the Furniture

- Have a floor plan of the available space.
- Decide on a budget and product features like colour and material.
- Consider the users of the furniture.
- Check the sturdiness (eg. doors and drawers should open and shut smoothly).
- Ensure that the finishing has no imperfections or blemishes.
- For upholstery, the choice of fibre should match your lifestyle. Bear in mind the required maintenance and care.
- Before placing the deposit, check the store's return, exchange and refund policy.

At the Point of Delivery

- Check that the delivered furniture is the furniture you have ordered.
- Do not accept any furniture with obvious defects. Withhold the payment on the furniture if you are rejecting it.

Maintenance of Furniture

- Shield the furniture from direct sunlight and avoid exposure to heat.
- Avoid extreme temperatures.
- Avoid using strong cleaning chemicals.
- Keep furniture clean and dry.

2. Product Information

How to Choose a Mattress

There are three general criteria that differentiate the type of mattresses - comfort, support and durability. Mattress buyers should factor in their personal needs, preferences and budget.

Most common types of mattresses available:

Innerspring Mattresses

Innerspring mattresses use coil springs for support. Various types of upholstery lend the mattress its comfortable feel.

Memory Foam Mattresses

Memory foam mattresses are identified by their delayed and form-fitting responsiveness. The foam will slowly form itself to the shape of your body and will leave a delayed impression of your contours even after you get up.

Latex Mattresses

Like memory foam mattresses, latex mattresses offer similar support and durability. However, latex mattresses are less conforming to the body and will quickly regain its form; they are also less warm.

Buying a Sofa

Ensure that the sofa you are getting matches your needs. You should consider how the sofa fits your body frame and those of your guests.

Frame

A quality frame construction should be glued, doweled or have screwed joints. Reinforcing blocks should be attached inside the corners of the frame for extra support.

Fabrics

A variety of upholstery fabrics of various shades and textures are available. Think about your lifestyle before you choose the upholstery fabric.

- Natural fibres such as cotton, linen, wool, silk and rayon are comfortable but often require more maintenance than synthetic fibres. Note that natural fibres can be damaged by exposure to sunlight or mildew.
- Synthetic fibres such as polyester, olefin and nylon are strong and stain resistant. However, olefin and nylon are susceptible to sun damage.
- Microfibre fabrics are made of polyester or nylon; they are soft and tightly woven, thus they are durable and stain resistant. Microfibre fabrics are available in a wide variety of colours.
- Pile fabrics such as chenille, velvet and boucle are popular for their ability to mask dirt and resist wear in high traffic areas. However, cotton velvet does have problems with crushing and can show track marks.

- The stitching of the fabric should be double stitched
- Foam used must be of high density foam and not hardened foam.

Leather

When it comes to leather furniture, there are several different types of leather available. Apart from looking at the colour or texture of the leather used in furniture construction, do also consider looking at the specific type.

- Full leather - Whole frame, sitting area and back rest are made fully of leather.
- Half leather - Front sitting area, back rest and arm rest are made of leather. The back area, side area and front bottom are made of synthetic leather.
- Bonded leather - This is made of genuine leather combined with other materials to give the appearance of leather. Bonded leather is generally cheaper and is commonly found in furniture.
- Sliced and processed leather (split leather) - During the final stage of the tanning process, the leather hide is split into two and given a top print on the second layer.

Rattan

There are four types of rattan used in furniture - indoor rattan, natural rattan, woven loom rattan and the all-weather rattan. Apart from indoor rattan, the rest can be used outdoor.

Good rattan furniture should be finished neatly and have a tight tidy weave. Any bare metal should be powder coated aluminium; this makes it more scratch resistant.

There is also synthetic rattan. This is made from high density polyethylene and can be used both indoors and outdoors.