







## 8 Common DIY Upholstery Errors and Fixes

DIY sofa upholstery can refresh your furniture, but errors like poor fabric choices or uneven stitching can lead to subpar results. Here are eight common mistakes and technical fixes to ensure a durable, professional outcome.

### 1. Incorrect Fabric Selection

Choosing unsuitable fabric compromises sofa upholstery durability.

Errors:

- Lightweight fabrics that tear under stress.
- Delicate materials like silk that stain or fray.
- Thin patterns that distort when stretched.

Fixes:

- Select upholstery-grade fabric with a high rubcount (Martindale or Wyzenbeek).
- Use durable, cleanable materials like microfiber for high-traffic use.
- Verify fabric performance with samples.

### 2. Inconsistent Stitching

Uneven seams detract from the sofa's appearance, especially on exposed edges.

Causes:

- Lack of marked guidelines.
- Incorrect thread or stitch length.
- Improper sewing machine tension.

Fixes:

- Practice on scrap fabric to refine technique.
- Use a walking foot for thick upholstery fabrics.
- Pin or baste fabric before sewing.
- Sew at a consistent, slow pace.

### 3. Measurement Errors

Inaccurate measurements result in ill-fitting fabric or misaligned patterns.

Issues:

- Insufficient fabric length, requiring stretching.
- Patterns that don't align across panels.
- Gaps or overlaps from poor cuts.

Fixes:

- Measure twice before cutting.

