

When to Hire a Pro: Antiques, Leather & Complex Curves
 Reupholstering a sofa sounds simple enough. New fabric, some tools, maybe a weekend project—right?

Not always. Some jobs are just better left to the pros. Especially when you're dealing with antiques, leather, or anything that's got more curves than corners. Let's break down when it's worth calling in expert sofa upholstery services—and when DIY might actually cost you more.

1. Antique Furniture: It's Not Just Old—It's Fragile

Antique sofas aren't just "old furniture." They've lived through decades—sometimes centuries—and that history is part of their value. But it also means they're delicate. The wood may be brittle. Joints might be loose. A misstep with a staple gun or screwdriver can damage something that's irreplaceable.

Pros who specialize in antique upholstery know how to work around this. They reinforce the frame without altering the original structure. They use padding and fabric that match the period. They even know which types of tacks or stitching techniques to use so it all looks (and feels) right.

When to hire a pro:

- If your sofa is 50+ years old
- If it has sentimental or monetary value
- If it's hand-carved, hand-tied, or made with traditional materials

DIY with something from a flea market? Go ahead. Grandma's Victorian fainting couch? Don't risk it.

2. Leather: Tricky to Work With, Easy to Ruin

Leather is one of those materials that looks amazing—until you try to sew it, stretch it, or staple it.

It doesn't behave like fabric. It doesn't forgive mistakes. You can't just hide a tear or tuck away a wrinkle. Once you punch a hole, it's there for good.

Leather also needs special tools. Heavy-duty machines. Specific adhesives. You can't just repurpose a fabric stapler and hope for the best.

Professional upholsterers have the right equipment, the right know-how, and access to quality hides that match the tone and texture of your original piece. They also know how to prep the surface and condition the leather so it doesn't crack or sag overtime.

When to hire a pro:

- If the sofa is 100% leather (not just leather-look or faux)
- If it's worn, stretched, or dried out
- If you want it to look brand-new—not just "better than before"

Trying to save money with cheap sofa upholstery doesn't help if the leather ends up ruined. Sometimes spending a bit more upfront keeps you from paying double later.

3. Curved and Sculpted Designs: Form Fights Function

Flat seats and straight backs? DIYers can usually handle those with some fabric and patience.

But once curves enter the picture—arms that roll, backs that swoop, seats that sink—it gets complicated fast.

Curved furniture needs fabric that stretches and holds its shape. That often means more expensive material and more precise cutting. If the fit isn't exact, the whole thing can

