



# IICRC S300

## Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Upholstery Cleaning



*First Edition*



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This Standard and Reference Guide is intended to provide current and accurate information about upholstery cleaning. The document is designed to assist individuals and entities working in the upholstery cleaning industry to maintain their professional competence. This publication is being distributed with the understanding that the IICRC does not render any professional, medical or legal advice. Users of this document must keep abreast of developments in the field of upholstery cleaning, implement changes in technology and procedures as appropriate, and follow applicable federal, state, provincial and local laws and regulations. Finally, many jobs are unique and extenuating circumstances may require a deviation from this Standard and Reference Guide.

No express or implied representation or warranty is made by the IICRC or its agents concerning the interpretations, use, or application of the practices or procedures set forth in this document.

## ***Important Definitions***

Throughout this document the general terms “must,” “highly recommended” and “recommended” are used to compare and contrast the different levels of importance attached to certain practices. It is impractical to issue blanket rules intended to apply to every cleaning situation. In extenuating circumstances, deviation from portions of this standard may be appropriate. Carelessness is never acceptable and common sense should prevail in all cases.

**must:** When the term *must* is used in this document, it means that the practice or procedure is required or mandatory.

**highly recommended** - When the term *highly recommended* is used in this document, it means that the practice or procedure is the generally accepted method to be followed.

**recommended** - When the term *recommended* is used in this document, it means that the practice or procedure is advised or suggested.

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The publication of this document was made possible through the generous contributions of a dedicated group of experts. The members of the IICRC Board of Directors and the Joint Industry Task Force for Upholstery Cleaning Standards sincerely appreciate the time and effort contributed by these individuals. They exhibit the true volunteer spirit that has been the driving force behind the IICRC since its inception.

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## Foreword

The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) *Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Upholstery Cleaning (IICRC S300)* is a procedural standard. It has been written using reliable principles, research and practical experience, plus consultation with and information obtained from numerous sources. These include: allied tradespersons; cleaning chemical and equipment formulators and manufacturers; upholstery and furniture manufacturers; international, national and regional trade associations; organizations serving the professional cleaning industry, both independent and franchise; cleaning industry training schools; cleaning service companies; and others with specialized experience. It is subject to revision as further experience and investigation may warrant. This standard was created by the Joint Industry Task Force for Upholstery Cleaning.

For many years furniture manufacturers have used colorfastness codes to assist consumers in determining safe cleaning solutions (e.g., dry solvents, water) to use on their upholstered furniture. Over time these "colorfastness codes" evolved into "cleaning codes" for professional cleaners as well. However, upholstery cleaning technicians have always determined the appropriate cleaning method for individual furniture based on fiber content, fabric construction and careful inspection, rather than "colorfastness" or "cleaning" codes. One of the primary purposes of IICRC S300 is to clarify the way in which appropriate cleaning methods are determined.

IICRC S300 provides a specific set of practical standards for upholstery cleaning. It does not attempt to teach comprehensive upholstery cleaning procedures; rather, it provides the foundational principles for proper cleaning practice. There are numerous programs available in the industry to teach the specific details of upholstery cleaning.

IICRC S300 is presented using a two-part format: the Standard itself, and a supplementary "Reference Guide." The procedural Standard is featured in the first section of S300. This Standard is supported by the Reference Guide in the second section. The intent is to use the information outlined in the Reference Guide as a tool to better understand and apply the Standard itself. However, the Reference Guide is not considered a part of the Standard.

## Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification

# Standard for Professional Upholstery Cleaning S300

## 1 Scope, Purpose and Application

### 1.1 Scope

This standard describes the procedures to be followed and techniques to be observed when performing upholstery cleaning.

### 1.2 Purpose

It is the purpose of this standard to define criteria and methods to be used for assessing upholstery type, characteristics and condition and to establish cleaning procedures.

Upholstered fabrics have unique characteristics and each upholstered cleaning project should be carefully evaluated to determine the proper use of this standard and how it applies. In extenuating circumstances, deviation from portions of this standard may be appropriate. Carelessness is never acceptable and common sense should prevail in all cases.

### 1.3 Application

This standard was created for use by professional cleaners, upholstery fabric and furniture manufacturers, industry suppliers and others involved in the field of upholstery cleaning.

This standard provides a set of practical standards for upholstery cleaning. It was not written to teach comprehensive upholstery cleaning procedures. Numerous manuals, videotapes, workshops, and seminars are available to teach specific details of cleaning.

*IICRC S300* does not include exhaustive performance characteristics or standards for the manufacture or upholstering of fabric furnishings.

## 2 References

To develop this standard, the documents listed below served as primary references. Others are listed in the "References Sources" section of this standard's companion Reference Guide. When referring to a reference, make certain the most recent edition is used.

*ASCR Ready Reference Upholstery Cleaning Guide, 1998 edition.*

*Cleaning, Restoration, Inspection and Safety (CRIS) Glossary, L.J. Bishop, 1999 edition.*

*Dictionary of Leather Terminology, Leather Industries of America, 1991.*

*Dictionary of Textile Terms, Dan River, Inc., New York, New York.*

*Fairchild's Dictionary of Textiles, Fairchild Publications, 1996.*

*IICRC Standard and Reference Guide for Professional On-Location Carpet Cleaning, S001 Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification, Inc., 1994.*

*Upholstery and Drapery Cleaning, L.J. Bishop, 1997.*

## 3 Definitions

Certain terms and definitions associated with upholstery cleaning exist. The following are definitions of terms used in this standard. A comprehensive index of industry terminology appears in the Reference Guide to this standard.

**cleaning:** the traditional activity of removing contaminants, pollutants and undesired substances from an environment or surface to reduce damage or harm to human health or valuable materials. Cleaning is the process of locating, identifying, containing, removing and properly disposing of unwanted substances from an environment or material.

**dry solvent:** a non-water liquid (hydrocarbon) that has an ability to dissolve oils, greases, etc.

**grooming:** the process of nap setting following cleaning and after treatment (e.g., fabric protector application).