

## Guide to Upholstery Terms

The following are some of the more common upholstery terms used in the industry. They should help you to better understand the furniture you may be looking at in a store and the explanations that professional furniture sales people will be using. Good luck!

<b>Banquette</b>	An upholstered bench or settee.
<b>Camelback</b>	An eighteenth-century style distinguished by a curve (or camel back) along its back.
<b>Channel back</b>	A style distinguished by vertical channels stitched into a seat's back, creating individual compartments.
<b>Cushioned back</b>	A style that uses separate or semi-attached cushions. Often have the same number of back and seat cushions, allowing for fabric matching of stripes and plaids.
<b>Daybed</b>	Couch with low head and footboards, usually placed lengthwise along a wall. Removable cushions allow a daybed to serve as either a seating piece or a bed.
<b>Down</b>	Soft, fluffy feathers from very young birds or from the undersides of older birds or fowl. Used for stuffing pillows and cushions, often combined with polyester fibers.
<b>Down-blend</b>	A mixture of waterfowl feathers and down. Waterfowl (goose, duck) feathers are used because the quills are curved and provide a springy, buoyant feel. Polyester fibers are mixed with the feathers to give extra resiliency.
<b>Drop-in machine-tied springs</b>	A pre-assembled, machine-made coil system designed to simulate the hand-tied version. It drops into the frame and is typically fastened at the corners.
<b>Edge roll:</b>	Thick jute cord wrapped in burlap. Used to soften frame and spring edges.
<b>Eight-way hand-tied springs</b>	A series of coils each tied eight times, which creates even comfort and prevents any horizontal "give" in the frame.
<b>Fiberfill</b>	Soft, synthetic material used as cushioning in upholstered furniture, bedding, and comforters. Polyester fibers are most commonly used.
<b>Gimp</b>	Ornamental braid used to cover upholstery tacks that attach fabric to exposed wood.
<b>Loveseat</b>	An upholstered seating piece, sofa, or settee for two persons. <b>Ottoman</b> Low upholstered seat without arms or back approximately the same height as a companion chair seat, often used as a footstool.

<b>Polyfoam</b>	A synthetic resin that simulates latex foam rubber and is used for upholstered furniture, pillows, mattresses, etc.
<b>Railroaded</b>	Fabric that runs horizontally along the width of a piece of furniture and from front to back along the arms.
<b>Scatter back:</b>	Also known as multi-pillow back. This style has more back pillows than seat pillows. The randomly tossed pillows across the back create a more casual look. These sofas tend to sit softly and are often deeper than other designs.
<b>Sectional Furniture</b>	Referring generally to upholstered furniture composed of complementary sections that can be grouped in a variety of arrangements or used separately.
<b>Sinuuous wire:</b>	Also known as “no-sag.” A spring system that uses S-shaped steel components fastened from front to back on the frame.
<b>Skirt:</b>	Fabric panel that surrounds the base of a piece of furniture and hides the furniture’s legs
<b>Slip Cover</b>	A removable fitted cover made to protect upholstery fabric, or to cover worn upholstery , or to provide a change for a new season.
<b>Sofa Bed</b>	Generic term referring to a variety of sofa with mechanisms that allow them to convert from a sofa to a bed. Also called a sofa sleeper or convertible sofa.
<b>Tufted back</b>	A style distinguished by upholstery that is tied down with a button, producing folds and patterns.
<b>Tight back</b>	Fully upholstered seat or back designed not to have a cushion.
<b>Upholstery:</b>	The fixed, soft coverings for furniture, especially seating and reclining furniture.
<b>Vertically run:</b>	Fabric that runs vertically, bottom to top, over furniture’s front, back and arms.
<b>Waterfall Skirt</b>	A skirt on an upholstered piece of furniture that falls from the top of the base below the cushion line to the floor without interruption.
<b>Welting</b>	<i>(or Piping)</i> A cord wrapped in fabric, which is used to trim upholstery seams and places where the fabric meets with exposed wood.
<b>Wicker Furniture</b>	Furniture containing components woven from materials such as willow, reed, and rattan. Most commonly seen on seating furniture.