

Cleaning classroom furniture guide



Keeping all surfaces clean during the pandemic is clearly extremely important. Our furniture team have created the cleaning guidance on this sheet to cover the usual types of furniture you can find in a classroom.

Follow these tips to ensure that all surfaces are well cleaned. Cleaning as often as possible is encouraged to complement handwashing, sanitising and social distancing measures and can be pivotal in helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

Take special care when cleaning soft surfaces and only use the cleaning supplies mentioned on this guide, in order to avoid damaging your furniture.

Classroom desks and tables

When cleaning classroom desks and tables, use a disposable cloth. First clean the laminate top, metal frame and any chair surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as table tops and chair surfaces. Cleaning products to avoid include liquid or powder abrasive products, wax products, bleaching or high-chlorine products and chemical detergents containing strong acids or bases.



Trays

To keep trays clean, use warm water and soap. Our first recommendation is always warm/hand hot water with a standard household soap or detergent (for dishes for example). First rinse the tray clear of debris then clean the tray with a soft sponge or cloth and the soap mixture, rinse and dry with a clean paper towel or air dry. Avoid bleach if possible. Bleach can have a detrimental oxidising effect on the polypropylene trays. On prolonged contact bleach can begin to break down/dissolve the polypropylene or over time, with repeated brief contact, weaken the polypropylene which can decrease strength and cause cracking.



Timber-based storage units

To clean timber-based storage units, use a mild detergent in lukewarm water with a clean, soft cloth to wipe the surface down. Always rinse the detergent off the surface with a new clean cloth. Once the surface has been appropriately cleaned, dry the surface by blotting with a clean, soft cloth. Strong, pure cleaning acids/products won't necessarily affect the furniture but may cause discolouration so we wouldn't recommend this unless absolutely essential.



Polypropylene chairs

One-piece polypropylene chairs are low maintenance and easy to keep clean, wipe down and spray with sanitiser. No moving parts, no high-wear materials, ideal for creating safer learning spaces. A general, non-abrasive all-purpose cleaner is ideal for light cleaning any one-piece or two-piece chair and to restore lustre to smooth surfaces. Its anti-static properties help repel dust and dirt. Remove chewing gum and similar stubborn spots with white spirit, wipe dry immediately. Always follow the directions provided by the manufacturer of any cleaning products.



Upholstered seats

Vacuum the upholstered seat pads regularly and wipe clean by mopping up any excess liquid, before they have time to soak in or dry out. Upholstery shampoo and warm water can also be used. Be careful not to over wet fabrics, especially wool, so always make sure a clean cloth soaked in soapy water is well squeezed out. Following the use of upholstery shampoo, use just warm water for the few washes following this, so as not to cause a build-up of solution. Wipe the chair frame with a damp cloth and warm soapy water.



Vinyl seat coverings

Vinyl coverings such as this are extremely easy to clean and can be cleaned with either a soft cloth or sponge and cold soapy water.

