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**THE
STUDIO**
AT
Accent Interiors



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Sofas, couches, divans or davenports.

No matter what we call them, these pieces inevitably become the center of family activities. They are the locations of innumerable conversations, both serious and casual. They're the perfect spot from which to watch the big game, cozy up with a good book or take a power nap. They're the office where homework is completed and bills are paid. In many ways the couch has taken the place of the hearth as the centerpiece of the modern home.

When we think back to our first home or apartment, the living room most likely featured a used sofa that was donated by well-meaning family or friends. If you're still sitting on that worn out piece, replacing it with a new, comfortable and attractive sofa may be a priority.

However, shopping for a sofa can be a daunting task; there are so many things to consider.

The new couch must fit the space it occupies and those who occupy the space. A tape measure is a must on a sofa hunting excursion. Take a look at your current sofa. Is it really the right size for your room? Remember you want a room with a sofa in it, not the other way around. Measure width (outside arm to outside arm) and depth (front of arm to deepest part of back). These measurements take care of the space fit issue, but equally important is the occupant fit issue.

Measure from the floor to the where the top of the cushion used to be. This is the

seat height and is commonly between 20 and 22 inches.

Seat depth is a very important comfort factor. This is measured from the front of the cushion to the front of the back cushion or pillows. Again, between 20 and 22 inches is standard. Loose throw pillows

help equalize the depth issue in people of varying heights.

Another measurement to consider is the inside seating width (between the arms). If floor space is an issue for you, don't waste it on oversized arms.

For many of us, purchases for the home are based on emotions. We love the style, the fabric, the leather, or the color.

Buying furniture, however, should not be done on impulse. Think about what is underneath that gorgeous fabric and supple leather. Are the frames made of hardwoods? Are the corners blocked and double doweled as they should be? What is the support under the cushion? (Industry wide 8-way hand-tied coil spring construction is considered the best.) What type of cushion do you prefer? Some manufacturers offer half a dozen options. Ask about the warranties!

Selecting upholstered furniture is important because it is a long term commitment. You will assuredly keep this new piece much longer than you might anticipate, so select for versatility and longevity. Some styles are designed with reversible cushions with that very thing in mind.

A well-designed and constructed sofa will age well, stimulate wonderful conversation, and serve lovingly and dutifully as the family gathering place for years to come. Who knows, you may even pass it down to your child for their first home. ■

Victoria Flores, allied member of A.S.I.D., is a designer for The Studio at Accent Interiors.

PEEKING UNDER THE COVERS

Courtesy of Temple, Inc.



1. 8-way Hand-tied Base: Assures superior comfort and lasting durability by hand tying each coil spring eight times with high grade polyester twine.
2. Steel Band Seat Unit: Provides sturdiness by placing each individual coil spring at the cross of each band forming a strong underlying seat unit.
3. Poly-dacron Cushion: Premium wrapped 2 lb. cushion eliminates fabric from slipping and provides extra plushness for seating comfort.
4. Fully Lined Skirt: Insures a quality tailored appearance by adding skirt stiffeners and a liner.
5. All Fiber Filled Back: Assures added comfort for a luxurious seating experience.
6. Select Hardwood: Select kiln-dried prevents warping and gives longer life under humidity changes.
7. Double Wrapped Arms: Quality batting and poly foam give an extra measure of softness and style.
8. Corner Blocking: Gives the frame lasting strength by bracing each corner.
9. Double Doweled Joints: Main Joints are glued and double doweled for maximum stability.
10. Built-in Legs: Adds increased strength for the life of the furniture.