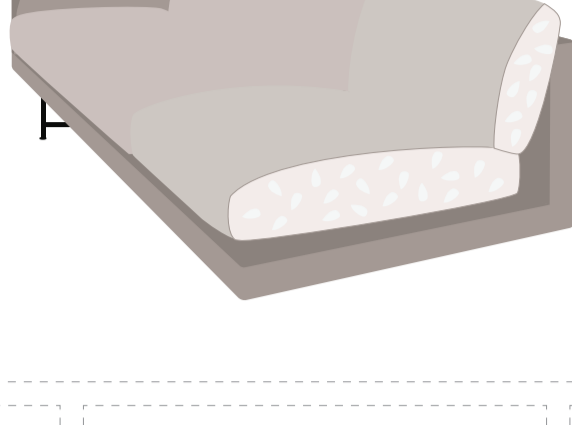


# MATERIALS USED WHEN MAKING A HIGH END/QUALITY SOFA

OLSON + BAKER



## 1 STUFFING MATERIALS



### ★ DOWN FILLING

Composition: Undercoat of swans, ducks and geese  
Source: Northern Ireland  
Benefits and Uses: Incredibly soft and regulates heat well

Environmental Impact: According to the International Down and Feather Testing Laboratory (IDFL) "Down and feathers have the lowest carbon footprint of any other fill material"

### ★ FEATHER FILLING

Composition: Duck and geese feathers.  
Source: Northern Ireland  
Benefits and Uses: Incredibly soft and regulates heat well.

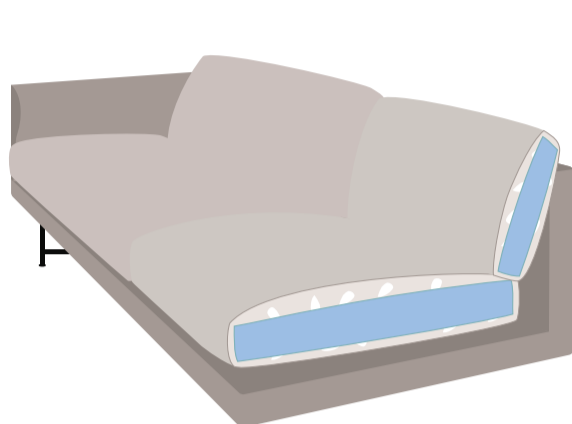
Environmental Impact: According to the International Down and Feather Testing Laboratory (IDFL) "Down and feathers have the lowest carbon footprint of any other fill material"

### ★ WADDING & PADDING

Composition: Typically, Dacron (a hypoallergenic polyester that isn't absorbent, making it resistant to mildew, mould and stains since it cannot retain water or other liquids)

Source: United Kingdom.  
Benefits and Uses: Durable, long lasting, lightweight and hypoallergenic  
Environmental Impact: Usually a non-biodegradable synthetic, however, an extremely durable material which lasts decades and therefore creates longer lasting, more sustainable upholstered furniture

## 2 FOAM



### ★ HIGH-RESILIENCY FOAM (VARIOUS)

Composition: A fast response polyurethane foam  
Source: Germany

Benefits and Uses: A much higher responsiveness than even memory foam, making it very soft, comfortable and supportive

Environmental Impact: Usually a non-biodegradable synthetic, however, an extremely durable material which lasts decades and therefore creates longer lasting, more sustainable upholstered furniture

### ★ RECYCLED FOAM (BLENDED)

Composition: Reconstituted foam made from recycled materials  
Source: Germany

Benefits and Uses: Extremely durable and long-lasting. Good for the environment and contract/high impact seating

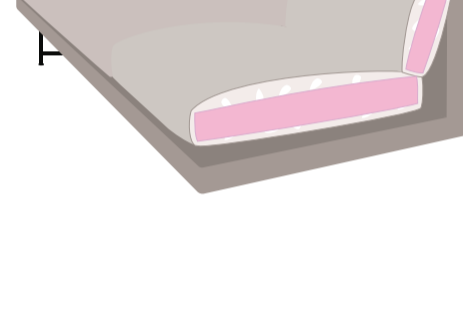
Environmental Impact: Very long lasting (decades) and also made from discarded foams

### ★ HIGH-DENSITY FOAM (BLUE)

Composition: A dense/weighty and luxurious polyurethane foam  
Source: Germany

Benefits and Uses: Very high quality, used in higher-end upholstered furniture for initial shaping. It is layered with other foams to allow easy shaping and for a well-rounded finish

Environmental Impact: Usually a non-biodegradable synthetic, however, an extremely durable material which lasts decades and therefore creates longer lasting, more sustainable upholstered furniture



### ★ MEDIUM-DENSITY FOAM (RED)

Composition: A medium weight/density polyurethane foam  
Source: Germany

Benefits and Uses: Often combined with High-Density Foam (Blue) for a sofa/armchair's seat and back cushion to give more natural support. It is also used for fixed seats and sharper curved backs on seating

Environmental Impact: Usually a non-biodegradable synthetic, however, an extremely durable material which lasts decades and therefore creates longer lasting, more sustainable upholstered furniture

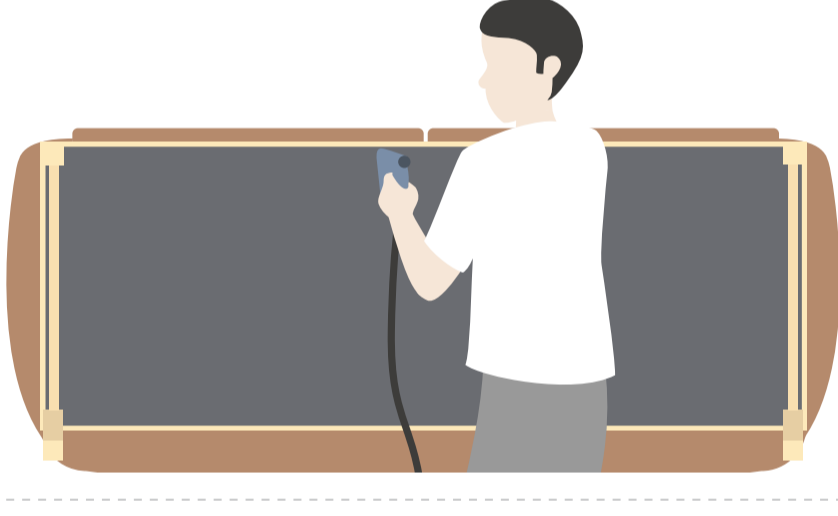
### ★ LOW-DENSITY FOAM (WHITE)

Composition: A low density/lightweight polyurethane foam  
Source: Germany

Benefits and Uses: Supportive sundry padding foam, used in combination with other foams for small and detailed support. Good for arms and other areas which take less wear and where support is less important

Environmental Impact: Usually a non-biodegradable synthetic, however, an extremely durable material which lasts decades and therefore creates longer lasting, more sustainable upholstered furniture.

## 3 BASE CLOTHS



### ★ RECYCLED BASE CLOTH

Composition: Recycled fabric made from reconstituted fabric  
Source: United Kingdom

Benefits and Uses: Extremely durable and remains tight for a very long time. Great for the environment

Environmental Impact: Very long lasting (decades) and made from discarded fabrics

### ★ BURLAP

Composition: Hessian (skin of the jute plant)  
Source: United Kingdom

Benefits and Uses: Burlap/Hessian is used to support padding in upholstered furniture. The cloth also provides a foundation for the exterior coverings of padding when layering of various elements come together in certain types of furniture, like elaborate sofas

Environmental Impact: Being made entirely from natural vegetable fibres Hessian is completely biodegradable

## 4 FRAMES



### ★ SOLID BIRCH AND BEECH

Composition: 100% FSC certified timber  
Source: Eastern Europe

Benefits and Uses: Used for the main frame/structure of armchairs, lounge chairs and sofas. Extremely long-lasting; we provide a 15 year guarantee

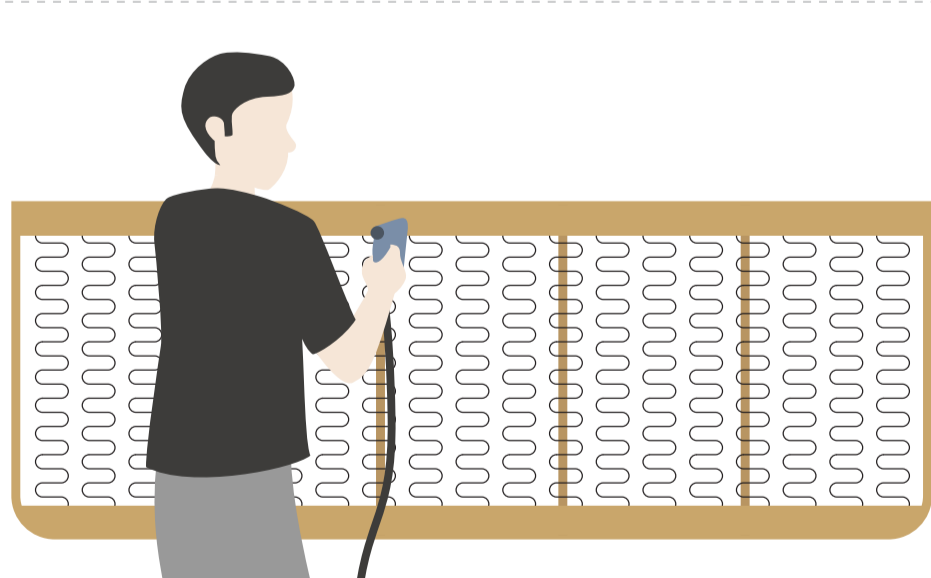
Environmental Impact: The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) helps look after forests and the people and wildlife who call them home. Our timber is very environmentally friendly

### ★ BIRCH PLYWOOD

Composition: 100% FSC certified timber  
Source: Eastern Europe

Benefits and Uses: Used for the facing elements of armchairs, lounge chairs and sofas. It is also used as the core material on our headboards. Extremely long-lasting, we provide a 15 year guarantee

Environmental Impact: The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) helps look after forests and the people and wildlife who call them home. Our timber is very environmentally friendly



### ★ METAL SERPENTINE SPRINGS

Composition: Steel serpentine shaped springs  
Source: United Kingdom

Benefits and Uses: Eight and nine gauge serpentine, zig-zag or even "S" springs are used in seating. Eleven gauge are used in back supports of sofas and armchairs; these are softer and provide more comfort

Environmental Impact: Recyclable steel meaning even once discarded these can be reused. They are also very durable and long-lasting (as much as the frames)

## 5 FEET



### ★ SOLID WOOD FEET

Composition: 100% FSC certified timber  
Source: Eastern Europe

Benefits and Uses: Used as legs on almost all our upholstered pieces, detachable to allow for easier access

Environmental Impact: The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) helps look after forests and the people and wildlife who call them home. Our timber is very environmentally friendly

### ★ METAL FEET, CASTORS AND SLIPPER CUPS

Composition: Steel  
Source: Eastern Europe

Benefits and Uses: Used as legs on almost all our upholstered pieces, detachable to allow for easier access

Environmental Impact: Recyclable steel meaning even once discarded these can be reused

### 💡 USEFUL NOTE

**Spring Supports** - Watch out for green webbing on large areas of linear sofa, this is an inferior version of steel serpentine spring supports. Webbing lasts just five years with normal use.

### 💡 USEFUL NOTE

**Structural Integrity** - Our sofas are boarded out giving them superior structural integrity. To check this, tap the outside back and/or sides of the sofa or armchair. Competitors sometimes use webbing or even cardboard instead - this is inferior.