

**Upholstery** is the work of providing furniture, especially seats, with padding, springs, webbing, and fabric or leather covers. The word *upholstery* comes from the Middle English word *upholder*, which referred to a tradesman who held up his goods. The term is equally applicable to domestic, automobile, airplane and boat furniture. A person who works with upholstery is called an upholsterer; an apprentice upholsterer is sometimes called an outsider or trimmer. Traditional upholstery uses materials like coil springs, animal hair, coir, straw and hay, hessians, linen scrim, wadding, etc., and is done by hand, building each layer up. In contrast, modern upholsterers employ synthetic materials like dacron and vinyl, serpentine springs, and so on.

**Upholder** is an archaic term used for upholsterer in the past, although it appears to have a connotation of *repairing* furniture rather than creating new upholstered pieces from scratch. In 18th-century London, upholders frequently served as interior decorators responsible for all aspects of a room's decor. These individuals whose traditional role, prior to the 18th century, was to provide upholstery and textiles.