



**3 YEAR
QUALITY GUARANTEE**

Curtain Care Guide

CHARLES PARSONS
Interiors Est. 1915



Why choose Charles Parsons Interiors?

Commencing in 1915 supplying fabrics to suit manufacturers, Charles Parsons expanded in the 1970's to supply the home textile market, offering drapery and upholstery fabric for commercial and residential uses.

Since then Charles Parsons Interiors has continued to grow and is now one of the best known brands in home textiles. Always first to market with new trends and industry technology, we have a fantastic product offering and a reputation for outstanding quality and customer service.

When you purchase a Charles Parsons fabric, you are obtaining the highest quality of service and materials. From the design process to production, we will ensure your fabric will stand the test of time.

Make the right choice

Selecting your home furnishings is one of the most significant home investments you will make in your lifetime.

This care guide has been put together to help you select your chosen fabric with confidence and to maintain the feel, comfort and appearance of your fabric throughout its lifetime.

When choosing your drapery fabric you need to be aware that different fabric types have different characteristics. 100% polyester fabrics have a tendency to "flare" out at the bottom. Silk by nature is a very delicate fabric and the texture of 100% silk is achieved by hand spun yarns which means that colour and texture variations can differ between two rolls. It is accepted that 100% silk cannot be guaranteed against fading from sunlight and therefore it is highly recommended lining be used.

Drapery fabrics containing cotton, rayon or viscose may crease more easily than their polyester counterparts but is in no way considered a flaw. Upholstery weight fabrics selected for drapery applications should be specially considered as they may not be suitable for certain types of drapery applications such as roman blinds.

Curtain maintenance

Fading: All fabrics will fade if subjected to high levels of direct or indirect (reflected UV) sunlight. Adequate care must be taken to protect furnishings fabrics. Avoiding direct sunlight and the use of sun filters will lessen the effects of UV.

Cleaning: We recommend regular vacuuming (minimum of fortnightly) to avoid the build-up of dust. This will reduce the build-up of soiling and ingrained dirt. Soiling may result in the breakdown of the yarns in the fabric, resulting in premature wear. We recommend professional cleaning every 12-18 months to remove the dust and dirt that vacuuming cannot. Rotate reversible cushions if possible on a weekly basis. Follow the recommended care code for each fabric for specific cleaning instructions relevant to each fabric.

Color fastness: All fabrics are tested to industry standards. It is important to note that no fabric is 100% colour fast and that it is impossible to prevent colours fading if adequate precautions are not taken in the home. Winter sun, sitting lower in the sky, can cause the most damage, particularly when protective curtains have been pulled back to 'warm the room'.

Natural Fibers: We suggest that fabrics of a predominant cotton or linen construction are not used for roman blinds as faded striping may result. Please ensure the correct product is specified in order to enhance performance and longevity of the roman blind.

Shrinkage: All fabrics are prone to shrinkage and it is important that sufficient allowances be made. An allowance of 3% is considered an acceptable industry standard.

Sun damage: Constant exposure to the direct rays of the sun will break down fabric fibers, causing them to become brittle and resulting in the affected area breaking when cleaned.

Oxidation: Fumes from chimneys, auto exhausts, open fires, gas fires, stoves, or wherever combustion is present, produce a sulphur compound which when combined with humidity and oxygen in the air produce a mild sulphuric acid. This matter is absorbed by or clings to the furnishing fabric and contributes to discoloration and deterioration of the fabric.

Yellowing: Fumes and atmosphere in any room where tobacco is smoked will cause a yellow/brown stain on most fabrics.



Curtain cleaning

To maintain the appearance of your high quality textiles, the correct care procedure is essential. Below we have set out how to best clean your curtains. Please always refer to your care label before attempting any clean as some fabrics may be professional clean only.

- Refer to the 'Care Instruction Label' fixed to the rear of your curtains, before laundering them.
- Keep your drapes dust-free by regular gentle vacuuming with the appropriate attachment.
- Do not handle fabric with dirty hands, as this will soil the fabric.
- Remove hooks, rings and trims before cleaning.
- Cold or warm hand wash with wool approved detergent. Do not soak. Do not bleach. Do not wring or rub.
- Do not tumble dry. Drip dry in shade fabric side down. Do not use pegs or fold over clothes line.
- For best results re-hang to dry.
- Avoid wet coated sides touching.
- Warm iron on fabric side only



Extending the life of your curtains

At Charles Parsons' interiors all our textiles comply with current industry standards and are put through rigorous testing in our own independent laboratory.

To ensure you get the maximum life possible out of your curtains there are some extra measures you can take to extend the quality and appearance of your selected fabrics.

- Use a good quality lining. Not only does this provide insulation but it will help to protect your curtains from sun damage.
- Swap curtains occasionally from one side of the track to the other, to avoid having one edge constantly exposed to sunlight.
- Make sure the curtains are sufficiently full to allow for re-edging if the fabric does fade.
- Invest in sheer curtains that remain closed during the day, not only does this reduce the effects of the sun, but provides privacy as well.

Velvet curtain care

Curtaining velvet needs care in handling and use. Window fittings coming in contact with the curtain should be avoided. Stiff brushing or strong vacuum cleaning on the reverse side of velvet can also pull at the pile. Draw cords or other methods of drawing without handling the curtain itself are recommended, as grasping, particularly with fingernails, can cause crushing and other damage. Velvet curtains should be dry cleaned.

When velvet curtains are hung for the first time it is recommended that they be drawn across and finely sprayed with water. The spray should dampen but not soak the velvet. The curtains should then be left to dry and under no circumstances to be touched during this period. When the curtains are dry most creases and marks will have come out and the pile should have lifted to reveal the richness and luster of the velvet. If initially cared for, the pile should continue to improve as the atmosphere lifts it. This process can continue for several months.

Movement of curtains in situ

When making curtains, always allow for atmospheric movement and fluctuations in length, as the result of changes in temperature and humidity. Fabrics absorb moisture and this can result in stretching or shrinking. It is reasonable to expect as much as a 3% change in any curtain length.

For instance, a 2.5m curtain length may move up to 8cms up or down in different conditions. Heavier fabrics, looser weaves and those with thicker yarns of natural fibres will react to changing humidity. For curtains, we recommend leaving generous hems to allow easy alteration and adjustment after hanging. We strongly recommend, letting them hang for at least 4 weeks before finishing hems. Top quality makers avoid "exact" length curtains (i.e. floor touching or to a window sill).

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Call Australia **1300 306 316**
or New Zealand **0800 651 112**

www.charlesparsonsiinteriors.com

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