

Sofa Buying Checklist

Walk In Prepared, Walk Out Confident

By asking yourself these questions ahead of time, you're already making the shopping experience easier, less stressful, and much more enjoyable. When you know what matters most to your family, it becomes easier to say **"Yes, that's the one."**

Bring your answers—or even your filled-out checklist—with you, and our **Home Solution Specialists** will walk you through the options and help you find the sofa that truly fits your life, your style, and your budget. No guessing, no pressure—just real guidance so you can feel confident in your decision.

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Oh Yeah!

Know Before You Go:

Ask Yourself:	Things to Consider
Where will the sofa go?	<i>Living room, basement, playroom, guest room? (consider if this will be seen from all angles or placed against a wall)</i>
How often will it be used?	<i>Every day? Occasionally? Only for guests?</i>
Who will use it?	<i>Kids? Pets? Teenagers? Guests only?</i>
How long do I need it to last?	<i>2-3 years? 5-7 years? 10+ years?</i>
What is my realistic budget?	<i>Planning to pay cash or Furniture Mall Financing?</i>
How much seating do I need?	<i>Just the family or enough to host big events?</i>
Will it fit?	<i>In the room and the path to get there? Doorways, hallways, stairs, etc. ?</i>
When do I need it by?	<i>Have an event coming up? Moving? Or is this just upgrading what you have now?</i>

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Frame Quality

Ask these questions:	What to consider:
What is the frame made of?	✓ Better, Best & Luxury: Kiln-dried hardwood & Furniture Grade Plywood—strong, durable, and built to last ⚠ Good: Thin Plywood or particle board—lighter and more affordable, but not ideal for heavy daily use
How are the joints held together?	✓ Look for terms like dowel joints, corner blocks, or reinforced construction ⚠ If it's held together with just staples or glue, it might be fine short-term—but likely won't hold up for years of family life
How heavy is it?	Lighter sofas often use cheaper materials. A bit of weight is usually a good sign the frame is made to last.

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Cushions & Support

Ask these questions:	What to consider:
What is the cushion made of?	✓ High-resiliency foam or spring-down cores last longer and bounce back ⚠ Basic foam feels soft at first but can flatten fast
Can you flip, rotate or replace the cushions?	Look for fabric on both sides, zippers on both seat and back cushions, cushions you can easily rotate to even out wear and extend the life of the cushions
What's underneath the cushions?	✓ Self-decking (the same fabric under the cushion as on the rest of the sofa) helps to avoid cushions slipping as you use them (keep in mind, you can't do this with leather) ⚠ Dust cloth (thin black fabric) most commonly used because it is less expensive
What kind of support system does it have?	Webbing = least durable S-springs (zigzag) = decent everyday use Drop-in coils & 8-way hand-tied coils = stronger, better support, evenly distributes comfort for years

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Upholstery & Fabric

Ask these questions:	What to consider:
☐ What type is it?	● Polyester blend - Budget-friendly, but may show wear faster ● Performance fabric - Durable, stain-resistant, family-friendly ● Leather - Long-lasting and easy to clean, but can scratch or stretch over time
☐ Is it made to handle my family's life?	Stain / water resistant, pet-friendly, easy to clean, scratch-resistant
☐ Can I choose my own fabric / leather?	Are there other color or pattern options to choose from and how long will that take to order?
☐ Does the fabric look the way you want it to look?	Do patterns line up, are seams straight and even, does the front tailoring look noticeably different from the back?

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Build Quality

Mass-Produced Sofas (Assembly Line)	Bench-Built Sofas (Crafted One at a Time)
Best for: first apartments, guest rooms, budget buys, or short-term spaces	Best for: everyday use, main living spaces, or long-term investment
✓ More affordable up front	✓ Stronger frame and cushion construction
✓ Often in stock or quick to ship	✓ Built to last 7–10+ years
✓ Lots of trendy, stylish options	✓ Better fabric alignment and finishing
⚠ May wear out faster with heavy use	✓ Custom options available
⚠ Less consistent build quality	⚠ Usually takes longer to arrive
⚠ Fewer customization choices	⚠ Higher cost due to labor and materials

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What If the Sofa Doesn't Check Every Box?

You don't have to find a *perfect* sofa—just the one that fits your home, your life, and your budget.

Ask yourself:

☐ Will this be used every day or just occasionally?

☐ Am I okay replacing it in a few years if the price is right?

☐ Does this meet my time or space requirements?

☐ Is this one detail a dealbreaker—or just a trade-off I'm comfortable with?

It's okay to compromise on:

Fabric variety – If you love the color and feel, fewer choices don't matter.

Support system – For guest rooms or light use, webbing or S-springs can be just fine.

Brand name – Private label sofas can offer the same quality without the markup.

Customization – If it's in stock, feels great, and fits your space, 50 fabric options might not matter.

Take these more seriously (if used daily):

Frame quality – Especially for daily use.

Cushion construction – Comfort + longevity live here.

Warranty – Protects your investment. (Ask our Specialists about our **Protection Plan**)

Overall fit – For your space, your life, and your people.

💡 **Final Thought:** If the sofa you're interested in checks your most important boxes, feels great to sit on, and fits your life—it's probably the one. We'll help you weigh the trade-offs and feel good about your choice. No pressure. Just real guidance.

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