

Southern Living®



OCTOBER 2010

How to Wow!

**OUR BEST
IDEAS
FOR A
MAGICAL
FALL**

17

**POSTCARD
PERFECT
GETAWAYS**

**HEARTY SOUPS,
SLOW-COOKER
SUPPERS *and*
IRRESISTIBLE
DESSERTS**

**Top 10
Tailgating Essentials**

Fabrics for Fido

These **pet-friendly coverings** and stain-resistant treatments protect your upholstery with style.

BY AMY STILLWAGON

Pets are members of the family. Even if you don't allow them on your sofas and chairs, chances are, they sneak up there from time to time when you're not looking. Having animals around means extra wear and tear on fabrics. Don't sacrifice style for your furry friends. Here are three ways to help ensure your upholstery is as pet-proof as it is beautiful.

CHOOSE LEATHER OR A SLIPCOVER

The simplest way to prevent ragged and stained furniture is to select a durable leather or a washable slipcover.

- **LEATHER:** This is one of the few materials that actually look better with age. Best of all, it can be wiped clean easily. The only drawback is that it's susceptible to scratches, so be sure to have your groomer keep nails and claws trimmed.

- **SLIPCOVERS:** A basic tailored slipcover in canvas or denim is an easy and inexpensive way to refresh older, worn-out upholstered furnishings. Plus, covers can be removed and washed when needed.

EDITOR'S TIP: Preshrink your fabric by washing it prior to having a slipcover made.

APPLY A FABRIC TREATMENT

Treating your upholstery can effectively extend its life. Consider these methods.

- **COITGARD:** This nontoxic and environmentally friendly protective coating repels spills. It also works great on carpets and area rugs. coit.com

- **CUSTOMGARD:** With this treatment, fabric fibers are sealed in a transparent, antimicrobial solution. customlaminations.com

- **SCOTCHGARD:** Try 3M's Scotchgard line of stain removers and repellents if you want to do it yourself. scotchgard.com

PICK A HIGH-PERFORMANCE FABRIC

Indoor and outdoor fabrics that use synthetic materials and specially created technologies can resist stains and fading. Our favorites (pictured at right) are so stylish that you'd never know they're synthetic. *



Solid fabrics aren't a no-no; follow our tips.



Pet-Friendly Fabrics We Love

Can you believe these stylish fabrics shed spills? They're listed from top to bottom.

KALAHARI IN CHOCOLATE (KL17, microfiber, available in multiple colors) by Peter Fasano (peterfasano.com); available through DCOTA Design Services; 954/921-7575.

BIANCA IN SEA MIST (performance fabric, available in 13 colors) by Crypton; cryptonfabric.com.

BIG BEADS IN LIDO (indoor/outdoor, available in four colors) from Hable Construction (hableconstruction.com); available through DCOTA Design Services; 954/921-7575.

SENSUEDE IN GOLDENROD; (faux suede, available in more than 100 colors) available through Calico Corners; calicocorners.com.

DIAMOND RAFFIA IN ASH (indoor/outdoor, available in four colors) by Kravet Couture (kravet.com); available through DCOTA Design Services; 954/921-7575.