

## ULTRASUEDE®

### WHAT IS ULTRASUEDE?

The most well known of the “artificial leathers” or “suede cloths”, Ultrasuede was first introduced in the late 1960’s. The new fabric was immediately successful, appearing in both high-fashion apparel and upholstery.

Ultrasuede is a brand name of Springs Industries. It is also an excellent example of a trademark name that has fallen into generic use, since many different types of suede cloths are often mistakenly referred to as “Ultrasuede.”

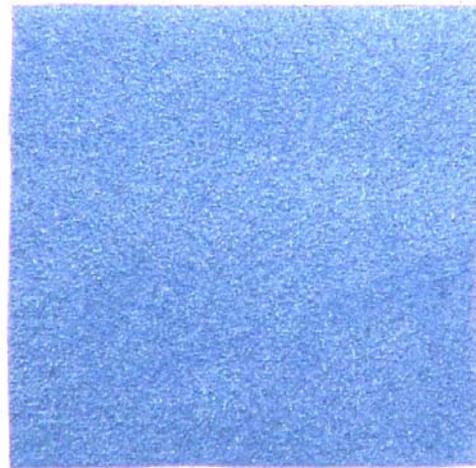
Ultrasuede and the other imitation suede belong to a category of fabrics called “non-woven.” A non-woven fabric is composed of textile fibers that are laid out and then bonded together by one of several different processes such as needle punching, heat or adhesives.

The manufacturing of Ultrasuede is a patented process that begins with a special matrix of very fine polyester and nylon fibers. These fibers are laid out in a “web”, needle-punched to interlock the fibers and the material is then impregnated with polyurethane and cured. Using an acid, the nylon fibers are dissolved and removed from the matrix and then the fabric is rinsed, dried and brushed to give the sueded texture. The final composition is polyester and polyurethane.

### IMITATION OR SUEDE?

It can be difficult to distinguish the difference between suede leather and imitations such as Ultrasuede. Imitations

are generally more consistent in appearance (without any blemishes) and they are often lined or of similar quality on the backside. Suede leather, on the other hand, usually has only one quality side and is never lined. Also, real leather has a distinctive smell, while imitations have no odor. The sample below is an upholstery weight Ultrasuede.



### LIGHT BRUSHING WILL OFTEN TAKE CARE OF SPOTS

Many spills will cause a dark appearance to Ultrasuede once the area has dried. Light brushing with a horsehair suede brush will often remove these types of problems. Always allow these areas to dry thoroughly before using the brush.

### EXCEPTIONALLY DURABLE

Ultrasuede is extremely durable and will retain its elegant appearance if maintained properly. Ultrasuede is also colorfast for long-lasting beauty.

## **CLEANABILITY**

Ultrasuede is easily cleaned with either wet or dry methods, though wet cleaning is usually more effective. There will be some stretching or relaxing of the material while cleaning, but the fabric will return to its original dimensions by the time it has dried completely.

While the fabric is still damp, brushing the nap in one direction will remove any stray marks. After the fabric has dried, it will be necessary to lightly brush the nap again with a suede brush to restore the nap.

## **SPOT CLEANING**

Ultrasuede is fairly easy to spot clean. However, experience tells us that inks can be a particular problem on this fabric. Ink

marks can be difficult to remove without causing lightening of the surrounding area.

Working carefully and avoiding excessive agitation can minimize these problems.

## **ON THE BRIGHT SIDE**

With proper care, Ultrasuede can last for years. Vacuuming, rotating and flipping cushions, and damp dusting are all tools that can effectively add life to these fabrics.

The Fiber-Seal Fabric Care System can benefit these fabrics by reducing absorbency, helping to resist permanent staining and ultimately increasing the useful life of the fabric.

**ALWAYS TEST CHEMICALS AND/OR PROCEDURES FIRST ON AN INCONSPICUOUS AREA OF THE FABRIC.**