

# SOFA BUYING GUIDE

Our Interior Designers' ultimate guide to choosing the perfect sofa for your home.



bespoke room



# WELCOME...



Your sofa isn't just a piece of furniture - it's the heart of your living room, and choosing the right one makes all the difference.

In this guide, we'll walk you through everything our designers consider when selecting the perfect sofa - from size and shape, to comfort, fabric, and colour.

We'll share our favourite shades, clever styling tips, and expert tricks to make sure your sofa not only looks incredible but matches for personal style and fits around your life.

Need a little guidance? Book a **FREE 30-minute designer call** with one of our experts and get personalised advice tailored to your space.

Let's find the sofa that makes your whole room come to life.

**[Get a FREE 30-min Designer Call](#)**



# SIZE

*Getting the size sofa for your room is key - too big can overwhelm, too small can get lost. Consider how you'll use your sofa daily to find the perfect balance of comfort and flow.*

## Accessibility

One of the most overlooked aspects of sofa shopping is accessibility. Measure your hallway, door frames, staircases, and any tight corners to ensure the sofa can fit in your space. If your space is very tricky, opt for sofas that are "breakdownable" as they can be easily reassembled.

## Number of seats/cushions

Consider the size of your household and how you use your living space. A three-seater is a standard option, but if you have a big family or like to stretch out, opt for a larger sofa or even an L-shaped design. Just make sure there's enough room for everyone to lounge comfortably without feeling cramped.



## How much space should your sofa take up?

Your sofa should fit comfortably within your living room without dominating it. Our designers say it should take up no more than two-thirds of the wall it's placed against. Make sure you have enough room to walk around it, check open cupboard doors, access shelves, and avoid blocking radiators, windows, or other furniture.

A helpful trick is the 'newspaper method': cut out the shape of your sofa from newspaper and lay it on the floor. This way, you can quickly see how much floor space it will occupy.



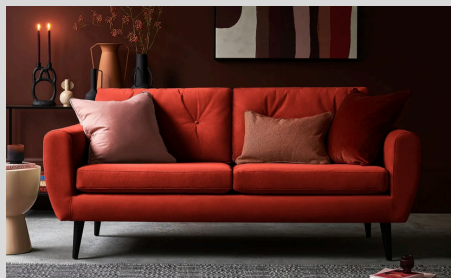
# STYLE & SHAPE

*From chesterfield or traditional to contemporary or scandi, your sofa's style should reflect your personal taste and how you live in your space.*



## Chesterfield

With deep button tufting and rolled arms, this sofa adds timeless elegance to any space.



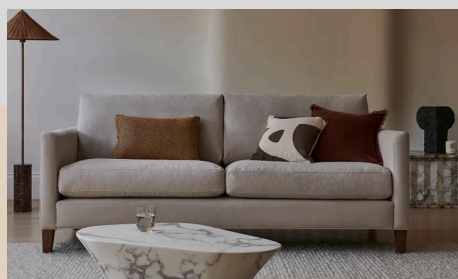
## Mid-Century

With tapered legs and sleek silhouettes, this style has heritage charm and sophistication.



## Contemporary

Clean lines and a minimalist design make this sofa ideal for modern living.



## Scandi

Light woods, soft fabrics, and neutral tones pair for a hygge-inspired and minimalist look.



## Traditional

It's curved arms, skirting, and classic proportions, brings formal comfort and classic character.



## Lawson

With straight lines and overstuffed cushions, this laid-back style offers everyday comfort.



## Tuxedo

A refined structure with arms and back the same height and sharp lines, great for luxe settings.



## Cabriole

With elegant curves and exposed wood frame, it adds a French country vintage charm.



## English Roll Arm

Its soft curves, deep seats and low arms blends classic charm with sink-in comfort.



# STYLE & SHAPE

*Choosing the right sofa shape will completely change the feel of your room - curves add softness, while clean lines create a modern, streamlined look.*

## STANDARD



### Straight/Standard

**Shape Description:** A classic, linear sofa with room for two to three people.

**Best For:** Small to medium-sized living rooms.

**Customer:** First-time buyers or renters, notably young professionals.

## U-SHAPED



### U-Shaped

**Shape Description:** Two extended side sections that project outward on both ends, creating a U-like layout.

**Best For:** Large living spaces.

**Customer:** Families or sociable households wanting to expand seating.

## CHAISE-END



### Chaise-End Sofa

**Shape Description:** A sofa with one extended end for lounging.

**Best For:** Bay windows or compact open-plan flats.

**Customer:** Singles or couples who love to lounge but lack space for a sectional.

## CORNER



### Corner Sofa

**Shape Description:** Three connected sections forming a U shape.

**Best For:** Larger living rooms or spaces for entertaining.

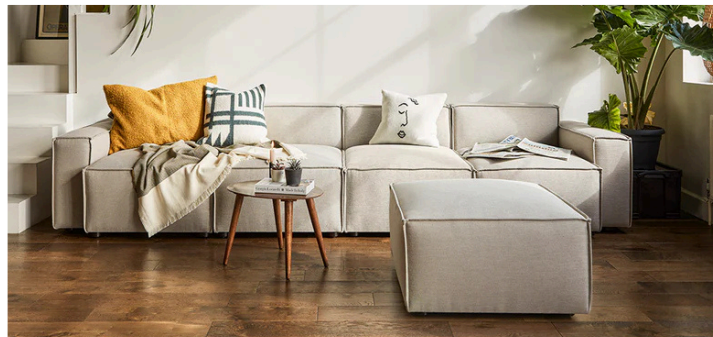
**Customer:** Multi-generational families who need inclusive seating.



# STYLE & SHAPE

*Choosing the right sofa shape will completely change the feel of your room - curves add softness, while clean lines create a modern, streamlined look.*

## MODULAR



### Modular Sofa

**Shape Description:** Customisable units that can be arranged in various shapes.

**Best For:** Growing families or households that often entertain.

**Customer:** Homes with unusual layouts or multifunctional spaces.

## CURVED



### Curved Sofa

**Shape Description:** Smooth, sweeping silhouette without sharp corners.

**Best For:** Period properties or art deco interiors.

**Customer:** Design lovers who want soft, elegant focal points.

## LOVESEAT



### Loveseat/Snuggler

**Shape Description:** A small, cosy two-person sofa.

**Best For:** Bedrooms, reading nooks, or bay windows.

**Customer:** Singles, couples, or space-conscious households.

## RECLINER



### Recliner Sofa

**Shape Description:** Built-in reclining mechanisms for feet and head support.

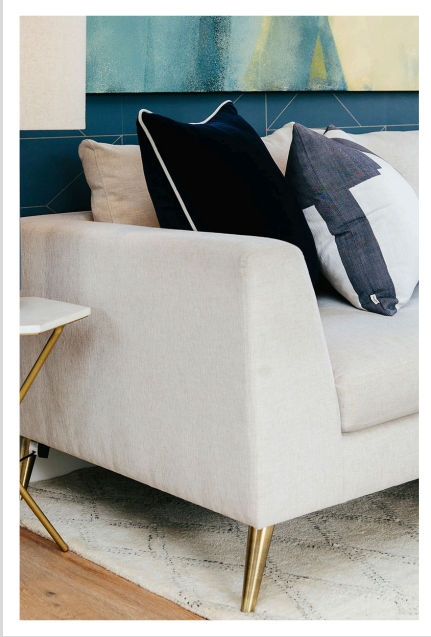
**Best For:** Home cinema lovers, older clients or those with mobility concerns.

**Customer:** Family and entertainment rooms for added comfort.



# COMFORT

*Comfort starts with the right proportions, and choosing the correct dimensions ensures your sofa feels perfectly at home for relaxing and living.*



## Arm & Leg Height

Higher legs make getting in and out of your seat easier, especially if mobility is a concern. Lower legs give a more grounded feel, great for relaxed lounging.

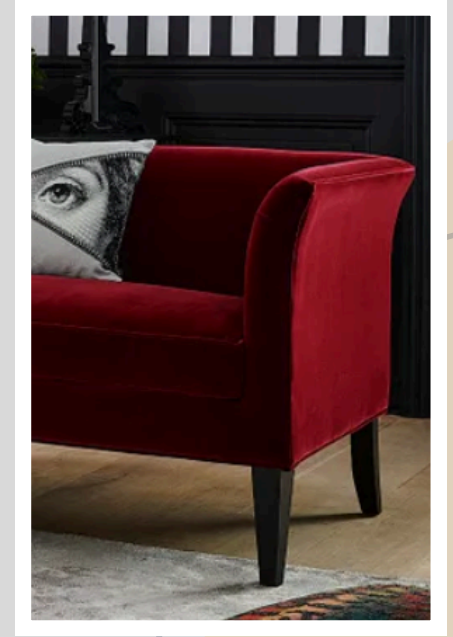
Higher arms offer support for leaning or reading, while lower arms create space to stretch out and unwind.



## Seat Depth

Seat depth comes down to how you like to sit. Shallower seats (50-55 cm) are great for sitting upright, ideal for smaller spaces or formal settings.

Deeper seats (60-70 cm+) are perfect for lounging, curling up, or even a quick nap.



## Angled Back Support

The "rake" is the angle of the sofa's backrest - a tiny detail with a big impact on comfort.

An upright back (90°) is supportive and best for sitting up straight, while a slightly reclined angle (100-110°) offers a more laid-back, relaxed feel.

## Cushion Fillings

Cushions are what make cushions oh-so-comfy, but everyone is different when it comes to what's comfortable for them. Here are a few different filling types.

- Foam fillings are firm and supportive, ideal if you want more back support.
- Feather or down cushions are plush and soft, made for sinking into.
- Fibre cushions are a middle ground between foam and feather, with a soft but supportive feel.



# FABRICS

*Dreaming of a sofa that looks and feels luxurious? Choosing the right fabric can give your sofa a high-end finish without overspending, all while staying durable and practical for everyday life.*

- **Different fabric types**

Extend your sofa's functionality with a stylish chaise or modular section to create extra seating and comfort. Instantly elevate your living room's style and social appeal!

- **Durability**

Refresh your sofa's look by swapping out cushion covers or upholstery for a dramatic change. Many brands offer beautiful, custom options designed to fit standard sofa frames perfectly.

- **Practicality**

- For homes with pets, kids, or a love of movie snacks, choosing a fabric with built-in spill resistance is essential.

Sofa.com, Loaf, Swyft's FibreGuard Fabrics: These fabrics are engineered to resist stains,

allowing spills to be cleaned easily with just water.

Loaf's 'Clever' Range: Includes hard-to-clean fabrics like wool and velvet which are both durable and spill-resistant.





# COLOURS

## Working into existing colour schemes

**Neutral schemes:** Add depth using charcoal, taupe, or natural greens sofas, or keep it neutral with ivory, cream, or beige.



**Bold schemes:** Anchor your space with warm grey, olive, or dusty pink sofas, and use harmonising shades to create an eclectic look.



**Warm palettes:** If your home is full of terracotta and yellows, the vibrancy can be calmly balanced by a cream, moss green, or soft charcoal sofa.



**Cool palettes:** Denim, soft sage, or warm beige sofas complement the cool blue and grey tones while adding subtle warmth and texture.



## DIFFERENT SOFA STYLES



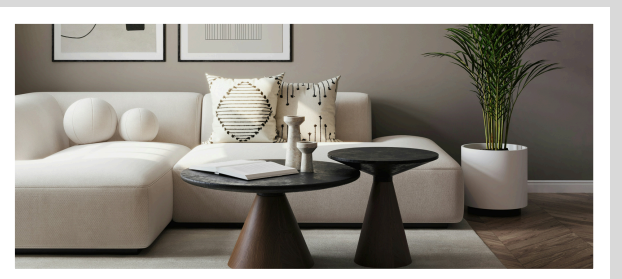
**Mid-century modern:** Choose a sofa that reflects its retro roots - think teal, mustard, olive or tan leather.



**Scandi:** Calming colours like soft greys, creams, sage, or pale pink keeps the living space light and airy.



**Traditional:** Classic sofa colours like deep navy, burgundy, or forest green add a refined, timeless elegance.



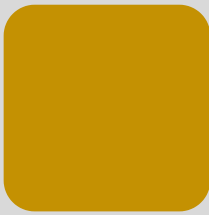
**Contemporary:** For a minimalist, modern feel, go for sleek tones such as charcoal, black, or monochrome.



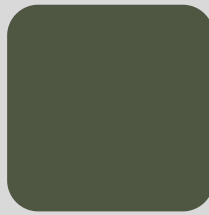
# OUR DESIGNER'S FAV SHADES



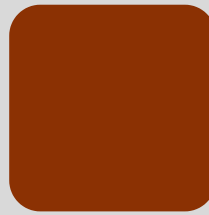
BLUE



DIJON



IVORY



RUST  
BROWN



NAVY  
BLUE



OFF-WHITE  
LINEN



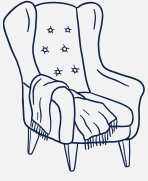
## Olivia, Interior Designer

"The muted earthy palette (greens, rust, neutrals) keeps the space grounded and sophisticated. The deep green velvet sofa on a patterned rug and funky statement lighting, for a modern eclectic vibe.....LOVE!"

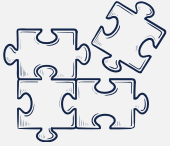


# SOFA STYLING

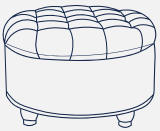
*With considered styling, your sofa becomes more than a seat. Layering textures and accessories can turn it into the centerpiece of your living space.*



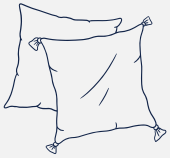
**Arm chairs:** A way to introduce character and personality into a room. Choose designs with distinct leg styles, fabrics, or colours that contrast with your sofa. An accent chair in a bold print or a rich texture to bring depth and energy to the space.



**Matching sets:** Say no to matching sets, instead pick the same sofa models but in different fabrics or colours. This not only adds texture but also helps divide your space without overwhelming it.



**Pouffs & ottomans:** These multifunctional pieces serve as footrests, extra seating, or even coffee tables. Designs that are distinct from your sofa adds interest, and ones with storage provide a easy solution for keeping living areas tidy.



**Cushions:** Your best tool for adding texture, colour, and comfort to your sofa. Start with a base of two or three cushions then layer with a mix of textures, shapes and styles. Remember to stick to an odd number of cushions for a dynamic look.





# OUR SOFA AWARDS



**Comfiest**  
Sugarbum, Loaf



**Best-Looking**  
Bluebell, Sofa.com



**Family-Friendly**  
Ren Modular, Sofa.com



**Best Sofa Bed**  
Smooch, Loaf



**Space-Saving**  
Model 02, Swyft

## DESIGNER FAVOURITES



**Milena**  
Isla, Sofa.com



**Liv**  
Jonesy, Loaf



**Sarah**  
Slowriser, Loaf

# GET YOUR DREAM LIVING ROOM...



You've now got all the guidance you need to choose your perfect sofa, now let's bring the rest of your living room together.

Book your FREE 30-minute designer call with one of our expert designers and get a personalised plan for your space.

On your call, we'll help you make confident decisions on colour palettes, layouts and furniture choices - and if you'd like extra support, we'll also walk you through our Living Room Design Package for just £495 and how it can bring your full design vision to life.

Book now and we'll create the room you've always dreamed of!

**[Get a FREE 30-min Designer Call](#)**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**