

2. Pipe Your Sofa

When reupholstering, consider piping for a more graphic, updated effect. "It gives a couch a sleek, defined line," says interior stylist Erin Gates, who designed the room below. She finds that the high-contrast treatment works best on sofas with boxy cushions, and color choice is key. "A dark sofa with light piping looks dramatic," she says, "while light upholstery with dark piping has a fresh feel." Not up for a big reupholstering job? Just have your cushions restuffed: The fuller, shapelier silhouette will make a big difference.



Clean Sweep

These stain- and dust-busters should be in everyone's at-home arsenal, says Julie Edelman of the home-keeping blog Juliestips.com

Fels Naptha Soap Wet the stain, and gently rub the spot in a circular motion with this detergent bar. Use an old toothbrush to work the suds in. Blot with a wet cloth to remove. \$1/bar; amazon.com.

Samsung Multichamber Vacuum This souped-up new model boasts an auto dust sensor that adjusts suction to remove dirt and allergens from sofa fabric and crevices. The telescope wand is ideal for reaching under the couch. \$449; bestbuy.com.

Sticky Buddy This powerful lint roller grabs pet hair and dust from nooks and crannies. \$10; bedbathandbeyond.com.

... And, Yes, Shaving Cream To remove stains, dab some cream onto the spot, and use a soft nailbrush to work it in. Let it sit for a few minutes, then blot with a clean, wet cloth.

SUPER-DURABLE, SUPERCHIC FABRICS

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FOR SPILL-PRONE FAMILIES

Liquids bead right up on Crypton brand fabric, which has "anti-microbial" properties, so you don't have to worry about residue from spilled drinks," says Dwell Studio founder Christiane Lemieux. Polyester herringbone fabric in King Fisher, Crypton Super Fabric, 46¢/yard; cryptonathome.com.

FOR ANY DÉCOR SCHEME

"These are completely neutral without being a bore," says Alex Papachristidis, New York designer and author of *The Age of Elegance: Interiors* (\$65; barnesandnoble.com). "The texture in these weaves adds depth and refinement, yet the tones work easily with a variety of pillows and throws."

Cotton tann fabric in beige, Colefax and Fowler, and cotton Devon fabric in litch, Cowtan & Tout, prices available upon request; Design Professionals, 212-759-6894.

FOR SUNNY SPACES

Try a stain- and fade-resistant Sunbrella fabric for an in-door couch in a high-traffic, light-drenched room, says Lemieux. Acrylic canvas fabric in the eye-catching Sunbrella, \$279/yard; sunbrella.com for retailers.