

# HOMEFACTORS

## FURNISHING CONSULTANTS

Homefactors Ltd, P O Box 292, London NW4 1RF  
Email: [info@homefactors.co.uk](mailto:info@homefactors.co.uk)

Tel 020 8203 3166 Fax 020 8203 1061  
Website: [www.homefactors.co.uk](http://www.homefactors.co.uk)

## June 2016 Newsletter

### Safety Information re Flame Retardancy - *things you should know*

As everyone knows, all furniture sold in the UK must be flame retardant (aka fire retardant). But did you know that there's more than one degree of flame retardancy and that the FR qualities of the furniture offered will depend on where it's sold and on its intended use?

Ask a furniture retailer 'are the things you sell flame retardant?' and they will tell you that they have to be: if they weren't then they'd be breaking the law. This is absolutely true, but it's not the whole truth - **you need to know more.**

We don't supply furniture at the legal minimum FR level of Ignition Source 0 & 1 (cigarette and match testing) as it's suitable only for items intended for use in a low-risk, domestic situation such as a private dwelling. Source 0 & 1 furniture is readily available from high street, online and mail order retailers, many of whom may not even be aware that **there are higher FR standards** than this.

**If you are a provider of social housing, the question you must ask your furniture supplier is 'are the items you sell flame retardant to contract standards and to at least medium-risk levels?'**

**The minimum level of FR protection that we offer our clients is the more stringent Ignition Source 5.** It applies to furnishings intended for use in **contract and/or medium-risk situations**, for example **in social housing (especially where there may be vulnerable users)**, in university accommodation, hotels and similar public places.

Even better, we can also supply **Ignition Source 7** for some items such as mattresses and bedding. This applies to items for use in a high risk context, such as oil rigs, **'wet' social housing or where there is the likelihood of wilfully destructive behaviour.** (Source 7 items are priced on request.)

**Items conforming to Source 5 and above are available only from specialist furnishers such as Homefactors.**

### Two true stories:

- An old client decided to economise by buying domestic quality furniture (Source 0 & 1) for a refurbishment project. The local authority fire safety officer delayed the opening of their renovated scheme until they'd replaced their brand new but unsuitable furnishings with items conforming to at least Ignition Source 5. Not so economical after all.
- A long-standing client told us that a resident's faulty TV started a fire in their bedroom. Because they'd bought the correct level of FR bedding, mattress and curtains the damage was confined to charring and water damage (courtesy of the fire brigade) rather than destruction of the entire room and possibly part or all of the rest of the building. The Source 5 protection prevented a full-scale blaze and gave residents and staff extra time to raise the alarm and evacuate the premises.
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When you shop for your next project:

- See beyond the false economy of items intended only for domestic use.
- Ask the right question.
- Check the FR rating of your upholstery, soft furnishings, curtains and bedding items.
- If you're quoted **BS (British Standard) 7177** be aware that all FR furniture comes under this wide qualification - **you need to check exactly which section** applies to your items to ensure you are buying the correct standard for your use.

Our price guide shows prices for one-offs and small quantities. *Please ask us for a specific quotation as there are usually savings for 6+ of most items.*

FR Source 5 beds and mattresses are normally delivered within 7 working days.

FR Source 5 items of bedding are dispatched within 48 hours of receipt of your order.

Cabinet items, eg wardrobes, chests of drawers etc are manufactured to order and take 2-3 weeks.

Upholstery is made to order in your choice of fabric.

[Ask for a copy of our price guide](#)

Contact us:    Tel 020 8203 3166                      Fax 020 8203 1061  
                         info@homefactors.co.uk                      www.homefactors.co.uk

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