

# CUSHIONS: Fabrication, Foam, Fabric, Fit & Style!

## BASIC CUSHION FABRICATION:

The following are all part of our basic cushion construction:

- **Zipper** - we use high quality YKK zipper on all cushions for easy removal
- **Serging** - all interior seams are overlocked so threads stay in place when washed
- **Teflon Thread** - we use 100% PTFE fiber thread for extra durability
- **Fabric** - Sunbrella fabric, the industry standard, has a 10 year warranty

## FOAM: NEW OR EXISTING?

A major consideration when fabricating cushions is whether to start from scratch or re-cover existing foam. Both can be great options.

**NEW:** If your cushions are more than 10-15 years old, it is often worth the investment to start fresh. If you are not sure, take a cushion out of its cover and let it air out. If the foam smells musty, has mold or is misshapen and degraded, it's time to consider new cushions.

**RECOVER:** If the foam is worn but otherwise intact and has its original shape, we say keep it. We can steam foam to bring back shape and wrap it with new batting to make it look as good as new. We fabricate a new cover to go over the existing foam making your seating as good as new.

## TYPES OF FOAM:

- **OPEN CELL FOAM** - The most common type. It comes in varying densities and can be shaped or cut to any size desired. It comes in any thickness desired and is a great choice for indoor or outdoor applications including patio or boat cushions.
- **CLOSED CELL FOAM** - A very dense and firm foam that floats. It is best for bow or cockpit cushions. It won't absorb water like open-cell foam and can be used for flotation.
- **DRY FOAM** - A porous, sponge-like foam that will not absorb water. Typically one density. Commonly used if your cushions will be exposed to excessive amounts of water.

## FABRIC SELECTION

- We offer a wide selection of fabric choices and can help guide you on design and color choice.
- Sunbrella is widely popular for boat or home projects. It comes in Marine for outdoor applications and upholstery for indoor projects. It comes in many beautiful patterns and colors.
- We can also provide options with vinyl, Phifertex mesh, faux leather or Ultraseude.

## MEASURING & TEMPLATING

In almost all cases, we prefer to template or measure your space. This will ensure that we have the best fit. In some cases, if foam is in good shape we can copy or recover it. It is always preferable to have access to the space so we can evaluate all the details. We can travel and template spaces on site or you can bring your project to our shop.

## REPAIRS

Keep in mind, we can patch holes, replace zippers, wash and retreat or insert new foam to give your cushions extended life. You can always bring your project to our shop to evaluate your needs.

## CUSHION STYLES

- **Box and Plate** - Constructed with a top, bottom and sides with the zipper on the back side.
- **Cascade/Waterfall** - The fabric cascades around front of cushion with two side panels & back zipper. Best if you have stripes or a pattern.
- **Butterfly/Knife Edged Corner** - Has a center side seam with corners pleated to create boxing.
- **Single/Double Welted (or piped)** - Has one or both sides piped. It can be in contrasting color. The piping can provide some stability, but it is mainly for style and decor.
- **Throw Pillow** - A small decorative pillow with poly or down fill. Has a zipper for easy removal.
- **Bolster** - A long, often cylindrical, cushion or pillow. Usually firm for support.
- **Upholstered Cushions** - A cushion stapled to a backer board and often glued or nailed to furniture.

## FIT, FUNCTION & STYLE EXTRAS:

Depending on your project, there are many choices for your cushions beyond the basics.

- **Hardware:** Cushions may need attachments to keep them from shifting or moving. Snap pockets are a great option for boats and allow you to easily attach the cushion for a secure fit. Other options include Velcro, Keter track or ties.
- **Foam Cut-outs or Bevels:** Seating areas are not always straight, symmetrical or square. We always template your space to account for the odd shapes or nooks and crannies. By cutting, shaping or beveling the foam we can create cushions that are custom fit to your space. We can also create wedges, knee rolls or upholster cushions to a backer board.
- **Breathable Underling:** Boats and outdoor patios are inherently moist. To combat moisture and mold, we can use a mesh underlining that helps your cushion breathe and prevent mold. Often boat cushions have the zipper on the bottom.
- **Batting:** Inside cushions and upholstery, batting is often applied over the foam to prevent slippage and provide a smooth appearance. The loft of the batting ranges from very thin to extra thick depending on your needs. We most commonly wrap our cushions in a polyester batting but it is also available in cotton and wool.
- **Hinging:** You can create a hinge concept for any cushion. It can be a mock hinge with Velcro or a static hinge that is sewn into the cushion. This can provide flexibility with your seating arrangement or allow for access to areas behind a cushion.
- **Piping/Welting:** This is a great way to add a contrast or pizzazz to your cushion. It does not serve any major function beyond style and personal choice.
- **Buttons and Tufting:** This is a personal style choice and a way to add sophistication or class.
- **Stripes and Patterns:** Joining or aligning complex patterns or stripes can be accomplished with added labor and if done correctly, looks great.
- **Backrests:** Some seating options come equipped with backrests and others do not. We can recover existing backrests or create new ones as a wedge, soft fill or simple throw pillows.