

How to Measure a Sofa for a Slipcover

One of the easiest ways to update your sofa is to buy a slipcover that fits it well and hides any imperfections. Slipcovers come in a variety of colors and styles. They fit over the front, sides, and back of your sofa, so you can completely cover an outdated pattern or a color that no longer goes with your decor. Sofa slipcovers come in many sizes; you can also purchase a stretch sofa slipcover that contains polyester and spandex for your couch. With a tape measure and a few tips, you can easily measure your sofa to ensure the couch slipcover you buy will fit perfectly.

1 Measure the Length

First, measure your sofa from the outside of one arm to the outside of the other arm. This is the longest length of the sofa slipcover.

Most slipcovers are measured in inches, but to ensure that your measurements are accurate, write down measurements in both inches and centimeters.

Slipcovers are available in stretch and tie formats. If you need extra room, stretch sofa slipcovers provide more give for larger cushions and sofa arms. Sofa covers with ties can be adjusted as well.

2 Measure the Seat Cushions

Measure the cushion width in the front of the sofa. This is the area below the sofa arms. Measure the length from one side of the sofa to the other. Be sure to measure at the widest point to ensure a better fit, especially if you'll be purchasing sofa covers that don't have a lot of stretch.

3 Measure the Width of the Sofa

Measure the outside edge and width. Start at the front, outside edge of one sofa arm. Continue to the back corner and then continue measuring around the back side of the sofa. Complete the measurement at the front, outer edge of the opposite sofa arm. You will need to angle or bend the tape measure for accurate results. Be careful when measuring width, as slipcovers for sofas tend to bunch in the center if they are too wide.

4 Measure the Cushion Height

Measure the height from the floor to the top of the seat cushion to determine the lower end height of the couch slipcover you'll be buying.

5 Measure the Full Height

Measure the height of the sofa from the floor to the top, back edge of the sofa to determine the full height when [shopping for slipcovers for sofas](#).

How to Put a Slipcover on a Sofa

Don't throw away that old couch just yet. Instead, why not give it a facelift? You can freshen up your old sofa with a brand new sofa slipcover instead of buying a brand new piece of furniture. A slipcover can save you hundreds of dollars. Once you have chosen the correct slipcover for the size and style of your sofa, you can follow these easy steps to ensure that your slipcover looks great and stays in place.

One-Piece Slipcover:

1. Remove all throw pillows from your sofa.
2. Spread the slipcover over the sofa from the front to the back. Drape the arms of the slipcover over the arms of the sofa and pull the cover over the back of the sofa.
3. Follow the remaining steps using your wooden spatula to ensure a neat, tight tuck.

4. Use your wooden spatula to tuck any excess fabric from the inside arm of the sofa into the crease between the arm rest and the seat. Repeat with the other side.
 5. Pull any excess fabric from the middle of the sitting area toward the arm. Tuck the excess fabric into the crease near the arm. Repeat with other side.
 6. Pull any excess fabric along the backrest and tuck it tightly into the crease underneath the back support.
 7. One-piece slipcovers typically have ties along the skirt. Tie these to pull the fabric around the base of the sofa tight.
 8. Replace your throw pillows and enjoy.
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Two-Piece Slipcover:

1. Remove all the pillows and seat cushions from your sofa.
 2. Follow steps two through six for the one-piece slipcover.
 3. Place the seat cushion(s) inside the seat-cushion cover and zip the cover closed. Place the seat cushions on your sofa, arrange your throw pillows and enjoy.
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Slipcover Tip:

With regular use, your slipcover will loosen slightly. You will need to smooth and re-tuck your slipcover regularly to keep it looking its best.

Fit:

Slipcovers fit best on round-arm furniture with rectangular seat cushions, although you can now find slipcovers for hard-to-fit furniture, such as T-cushion sofas and wingback chairs. You may also want to consider whether you want a one-piece slipcover or one with several pieces. One-piece slipcovers offer a wider variety of sofa sizes and can easily be removed for washing. A slipcover set with individual pieces for each cushion will fit better and offer a more seamless look.

Measurement:

Before purchasing slipcovers, you'll need to measure your chair, loveseat or sofa so you can find a slipcover in the right size. To find the correct measurement of your furniture, measure from the outside edge of one arm to the outside edge of the other arm. A sofa-sized slipcover will fit furniture measuring 74 to 96 inches, a loveseat-sized slipcover will fit furniture between 58 and 73 inches long, and a chair-sized slipcover will fit furniture measuring 32 to 40 inches.