1969

Repairing Innerspring Cushions

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact

Recommended Citation
https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact/1156
Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

For current policies and practices, contact SDSU Extension
Website: extension.sdstate.edu
Phone: 605-688-4792
Email: sdsu.extension@sdstate.edu

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.
repairing innerspring cushions

By Carol Jo Thompson,
Extension Home Furnishings Specialist

An innerspring cushion that appears lumpy or sags probably needs the spring-unit repaired by retying, replacing, or recasing of the springs. You must open the cushion and make an examination in order to know exactly what repairs are necessary.

Carefully open the cushion and remove the padding. Be sure not to break or tear loose the padding if it’s in good condition; generally you can clean and reuse it. Find a free end of the padding and lay it back to expose the springs.

The spring unit will probably be one of the following:

A. All wire helical tied springs with a wire border.
B. Spring in individual cloth pockets sewed or clamped together.
C. Springs enclosed in and sewed to a single burlap cover.

If the wire-type spring (A) is badly damaged you can replace it, have it repaired by a professional worker, or if you desire you may be able to take it completely apart and use the springs for a unit similar to B or C above. If only a few wires that connect the springs are broken, you may be able to replace them with wire or you may be able to tie the springs with mattress twine. Any broken springs must be replaced and any bent springs must be pulled back into shape.

Use this method for type B and C mentioned above. Be sure to check the number of rows and the number of springs in each row prior to discarding anything from the old cushion unit.

To make new pocket casings you will need the following supplies:

- 2 to 3 yards of unbleached muslin, feed sacks or sturdy fabric that is not too heavy
- 2 spools #40 or heavy duty white thread
- a 3 to 5 inch curved needle or sack needle
- mattress twine or strong waxed twine that is not too heavy for the needle
- tape measure, 12-inch ruler, pencil, shears, pins, and sewing machine

You will need one rectangle of fabric for each row of springs. Each row of fabric will have pockets enough for the number of springs in the row. To find the size of the rectangle pieces do the following:

- For the width of each rectangle, add the diameter of spring, the height of the boxing of the outer cover, and one inch for the seam. Multiply this times two.
  Example: Diameter of Spring 3 inches
  Height of Boxing 3½ inches
  Seam 1 inch
  Total 7½ inches
  x 2 = 15 inches

- For the length of each rectangle determine the width for each pocket according to the following method. Multiply the width of one pocket, by the number of pockets necessary, and add one inch for seams.

Determine the size of new pocket by using an old pocket as a size guide, or by the following procedure:

- Measure around the bottom coil of one of the springs beginning at one end of the coil and carrying the tape measure along the spring wire until you have reached a point directly above the starting point. This generally measures 8½ to 9 inches. One-half this measurement is the width for each pocket.

Figure 1.
Measure and tear strips of the fabric lengthwise. You will have several pieces that look similar to this:

Figure 2.

Fold each piece of fabric exactly in half lengthwise, pulling material if necessary to make the fold come on a lengthwise thread and to have the corners match. Press to hold in place. Measure one-half-inch seam allowance at the lefthand end of the strip. Measure and mark the stitching lines for each pocket. Measure and mark one-half-inch seam allowance at righthand end of strip. Be sure all stitching lines are perpendicular to the fold. Measure and mark for later use a one-half-inch seam allowance at the top edge of the folded fabric. Your pocket strip should now resemble this:

Figure 3.

Machine stitch the two end seam allowances and the pocket divider lines. Flatten each spring and push sidewise to the bottom of the pocket. Test fit one spring into a pocket to see that the spring fits correctly. The spring when standing up in the pocket should draw the fabric tight. If it is loose tighten it. Don’t over-stretch it.

Figure 4.

Use pins to hold the top seam together. When all springs in the row have been inserted, stitch by machine on previously marked seam allowance. Turn springs upright after machine stitching.

When all rows are complete, place rows side by side. Using a curved or sack needle and stout twine, sew the rows together on top and bottom of the unit. Cut the twine one and one-half times the length of the row of springs. Start at the left end of the row. Insert the needle through the cloth under the top coil at the outer edge of the first spring in the row and make a slip knot (see Figure 5). Next insert the needle under the top coil of both the first and second springs where they join using the knot shown in Figure 6. Continue in the same way across the row ending with the knot shown in Figure 7. Sew both directions on spring unit, and be sure to do both top and bottom of the unit.

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Figure 7.
Lay the unit back into the packing if it was not apart. If the stuffing was disarranged or cannot be used again, wrap the unit as follows:

- Lay two or three layers of upholsterer's cotton in the bottom of the cushion cover, letting the cotton be long and wide enough to wrap around all four sides of the springs.
- Lay the spring unit in place and bring cotton up around the sides.
- Cover the top of the unit with the same amount of cotton, again allowing it to extend down the four sides. This gives the sides more cotton to fill in the space between unit and outside cover. If this isn’t enough cotton, add more to the sides.
- Fill the corners sufficiently to square them as they originally were.

NOTE: If upholsterer's cotton is not available, quilt bats or one of the polyester fiberfills may be used.

- For ease in slipping a padded spring unit back into the upholstery, use a spring compressor. If one is not available, take two sturdy pieces of cardboard slightly smaller than the casing. Place one on top and one on the bottom of the unit. Using heavy twine tie the unit tightly together being sure the ties are both on the same end. Insert the unit in the casing, remove the ties and cardboard and proceed with finishing.

Pin the raw edges of the cushion together with the edges to the inside (just the cording should show). Pin first at each corner, then in the middle of each side and end, in the middle of these sections, etc. Use carpet thread and sew the cushion with tiny blind or other hidden stitches.