

Apprenticeship Standard for Advanced Upholsterer

Occupational Profile

This occupation is found in the Furniture, Furnishings and Interiors industry, it can also relate to the automotive and marine industry where they have upholstered items such as seating.

Advanced Upholsterer's will specialise in either traditional or modern upholstery and will choose one pathway. The broad purpose of the occupation is to produce upholstered furniture by preparing and cutting fabrics, creating/repairing frames and joints, selecting and applying suspensions and upholstering frames. An Advanced Upholsterer is a skilled and methodical individual capable of creating ergonomic and comfortable furniture using both traditional and modern techniques, materials and fabrics to produce aesthetically pleasing and fit for purpose consumer products.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a range of colleagues including production/manufacturing managers, quality technicians, production leaders, designers and product developers. Advanced Upholsterer's will work alone or within small teams with other upholsterers and will be responsible for liaising with colleagues, suppliers and customers. They tend to work in small craft workshops but can also work in larger factories. An employee in this occupation will be responsible for managing their own workload and the relevant resources to carry out their activities.

Advanced Upholsterer's will also have managerial responsibility for team members, the level of responsibility varies depending on the size of the organisation that they are working in. Depending on the size of the organisation they will report to a production manager or a managing director.

A Traditional Upholsterer is a skilled craft person who creates individual pieces of new furniture or renovates or re-upholsters old or antique furniture. Traditional upholsterer's use materials like coil springs (post-1850), animal hair (horse, hog and cow), coir, straw and hay, hessians, linen scrim, wadding, etc., and is done by hand, building each layer up.

An Advanced Modern Upholsterer is a skilled person who creates frames, add padding, springs and coverings to furniture such as chairs and sofas. Advanced Modern Upholsterer's have the understanding of ergonomics and aesthetics required to apply methodically and accurately a wide range of modern upholstery techniques, materials and fabrics, to produce furniture that is fit for the purpose it is specified for.

Typical job titles include Upholsterer, Traditional Upholsterer, Furniture Upholsterer, Upholstery Technician, Automotive Upholsterer, Marine Upholsterer, Development Upholsterer.

Core Duties: Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours

Duty 1

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

prepare, cut and sew fabric components for upholstery products to specification

Knowledge	Skills
Understand fabric characteristics, identification and appropriate usage, either traditional or modern	Prepare and sew fabric components using advanced methods
Understand how to create templates, lay, cut, prepare and sew fabric components	Create templates, lay and cut fabric components

Duty 2

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

Construct or repair upholstery frames and joints using appropriate tools and equipment

Knowledge	Skills
Understand upholstery frame construction and repair techniques	Construct or repair upholstery frames

Duty 3

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

resolve any faults in leather such as scuffs and tears so this can be used in upholstery

Knowledge	Skills
Understand leather faults, how to mark and resolve	Resolve faults in leather

Duty 4

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

work safely at all times following relevant legislation and regulations ensuring self and others safety

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Understands health, safety and environmental management and risk assessment.	Work safely at all times.	Ensures safety of self and others

Duty 5

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

ensure upholstery products meet industry specific regulations, legislation and standards

Knowledge	Skills
Overview knowledge of industry specific regulations, legislation and standards, covering flammability regulations, British Standards, CE Marks, Intellectual Property and renewable practices	Quality assure upholstery products to meet relevant industry specific regulations, legislation and standards

Duty 6

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
realise and maintain customers' expectations when upholstering products

Knowledge	Skills
Understand how to realise and manage customer expectations	Realise and manage customer expectations

Duty 7

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
manage internal upholstery projects from inception to successful completion. This can include projects such as creating bespoke pieces of furniture and introducing new products and materials.

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Understand basic project management	Basic project management skills	Take personal responsibility for meeting objectives of the team and business

Duty 8

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
effectively communicate with colleagues and customers (internal/external)

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Understand effective communication skills and techniques	Effective communication at all levels	Effective communicator at all levels

Duty 9

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
manage upholstery resources effectively to meet budgets

Knowledge	Skills
Understand how to manage upholstery resources effectively to meet budgets	manage upholstery resources effectively to meet budgets

Duty 10

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
lead, manage and coach teams to ensure effective results

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Basic knowledge of equality and diversity	Ability to manage self and others	Integrity, aims for excellence and manages time effectively
understand basic coaching, mentoring and team development	Ability to lead teams	Flexible in changing environment and demands
Basic knowledge of for conflict management	Basic coaching, mentoring and team development skills	Sets an example to others, is fair, consistent and reliable
	Basic conflict management skills	

Duty 11

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
develop furniture product specifications and standard operating procedures for upholstered products to be produced

Knowledge	Skills
Detailed knowledge of industry materials and modern and traditional manufacturing methods	Define materials, construction methods and product specifications for furniture to be produced
An understanding of ergonomics and aesthetics	

Duty 12

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
select and apply suitable upholstery fillings and suspensions using traditional or modern techniques.

Knowledge	Skills
An understanding of selecting and fixing the different types of filling materials, either traditional or modern, and when they should be used	Select and fix different types of filling materials
	Select and apply materials for suspensions including springs, sprung units, suspension systems and webbing.

Traditional Upholsterer

Option Duties: Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours

Duty 1

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
renovate and reupholster old or antique furniture to a good standard

Knowledge	Skills
An understanding of styles, periods and iconic designers from pre-20th Century, 20th Century including 1930s art deco through to current trends	Upholster products using traditional materials and methods
An understanding of history of upholstered furniture	

Duty 2

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
apply traditional upholstery techniques in order to renovate/restore furniture pieces

Knowledge	Skills
An understanding of traditional upholstery methods	apply traditional upholstery techniques, for example hand stuffing, hand stitching and tacking in order to renovate/restore furniture pieces
	apply traditional upholstery materials and fabrics for example hessian and linen to repair antique/old furniture

Duty 3

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
strip back old/antique upholstery in order to start the restoration/repair

Knowledge	Skills
Understand how to strip back old/antique upholstery in order to start the restoration/repair	Strip back upholstery to frames

Duty 4

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
provide estimates for traditionally upholstered furniture to customers to meet their requirements

Knowledge	Skills
Understand how to provide estimates to customers and cost projects	Provide accurate estimates to customers

Duty 5

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:
finish show wood frames using traditional methods, for example French polishing

Knowledge	Skills
Understand how to finish show wood frames	Finish show wood frames

Advanced Modern Upholsterer

Duties: Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours

Duty 1

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

use modern techniques to upholster products using power tools and machinery

Knowledge	Skills
Understand modern upholstery methods	Upholster products using advanced modern methods
Understand how to use modern techniques to upholster products using power tools and machinery	Use power tools and machinery to upholster products
Understand how to produce & assemble bespoke pieces of furniture using modern methods	produce & assemble bespoke pieces of furniture using modern methods

Duty 2

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

Create modern upholstered furniture

Knowledge	Skills
An understanding of history of upholstered furniture	Design, bespoke pieces of furniture using modern methods
An understanding of styles, periods and iconic designers of the 20th & 21st Century	
Understand how to design, bespoke pieces of furniture using modern methods	

Duty 3

In this occupation a fully competent employee can:

define processes, materials, construction methods and specifications for upholstered furniture to be produced

Knowledge	Skills
An understanding of defining materials, construction methods, product specifications	Define processes for furniture to be produced
An understanding of identifying limitations relating to process, end uses	Set timescales and costings for furniture to be produced

Entry Requirements

Set by individual employers, entry requirements will typically include a minimum of 5 GCSE grades A* - C or 9-4 (or equivalent qualifications).

Duration

Typically this apprenticeship will take 24 months to complete.

Qualifications

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment.

Level

This is a level 3 apprenticeship.

Review Date

After 3 years.