

FEBRUARY 2017

# GardensLiving

An exclusive magazine serving Evergrene, Sanctuary, Crystal Pointe, Frenchman's Creek, Frenchman's Reserve, Frenchman's Landing, The Isles, Steeplechase, Paloma, San Michele



The Silvesters

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Best Version Media

Cover photo by Lynn Studios

# Shopping for Sofas 101



By JoAnn Munro, ASID

A good-looking, comfortable sofa is one of the most important pieces of furniture in your home. Not only is it typically the largest upholstered item in your living area, but it's also a place where

you'll spend many hours relaxing, reading – perhaps even sleeping.

Finding the perfect sofa with a solid frame, top-quality cushions and durable, attractive fabric can involve intensive research. Purchasing in a store with a professional to assist you in the process is probably the best approach because feeling the fabric and sitting or lying on a sofa can be helpful in decision-making. Clients who can't find a satisfactory ready-made sofa may wish to consider custom options with dimensions to optimize comfortable seating/lying down for their particular height/stature.

Most sofas in furniture stores today are made of s-shaped (sinuous) coils that run along the width inside the wood



frame. They can fall apart disturbingly quickly with everyday use. If you're nevertheless considering this type of sofa, be sure

to sit on it for at least 15 minutes to see if it feels too soft or causes you to sink into it. Remember that those cushions will only get softer over time; eventually you may not be able to get up from it easily! I personally made the mistake of buying a sofa with sinuous coils. While the fabric was beautiful and durable, within eight years the seat was bottoming out.

I learned my lesson, however, and recently placed an order for an eight-way hand tied sofa with wooden legs integral to the frame, rather than simply screwed in. This sofa has a high-quality seat cushion filler and a proper frame. (A frame made of hardwood such as maple or birch at least 1 1/4" thick is always recommended. Joints should be put together with screws, dowels and glue.) Yes, this kind of sofa is more expensive, but the lasting comfort and durability will make it well-worth the investment.

*If you're trying to find the "best seat in town" before purchasing your new sofa, I am here to assist. Call me at 561.745.6919. ■*

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