

The Ultimate Furniture Buying & Assembly Checklist

This practical guide is designed for homeowners ready to purchase a new armchair. It helps navigate the process from measuring the living room to tightening the final bolt, ensuring the furniture fits perfectly and lasts for years. Use this list before heading to the store or clicking "buy" to avoid common mistakes and return hassles.

Phase 1: Planning and Measuring

- Measure the maximum floor space available for the new chair and mark it with painter's tape.
- Confirm there is at least 30 inches of walking clearance around the taped area.
- Add 12 inches of extra clearance in front and behind the tape if choosing a rocking model.
- Measure the width of the front door, stairwell, and elevator to ensure the box will fit.
- Identify the primary use for the chair to determine the necessary back height.
- Select a fabric type based on the presence of pets or young children in the home.

Phase 2: The Shopping Strategy

- Sit in the display model for at least five full minutes to test long-term comfort.
- Check the "As-Is" section first for potential discounts on pre-assembled units.
- Photograph the warehouse tag (Aisle and Bin number) to locate the flat-pack easily.
- Verify stock availability on the mobile app before driving to the physical store.
- Compare the delivery cost against the price of renting a large vehicle if transporting it personally.

Phase 3: Stress-Free Assembly

- Clear a large, soft area on the floor using a rug or the flattened cardboard box to protect the finish.
- Open the box carefully and inventory every single screw and dowel against the manual.
- Use a ratcheting screwdriver with a hex bit instead of the provided small metal tool.
- Apply a small amount of candle wax or bar soap to screw threads if they feel tight.
- Tighten all screws to only 80% initially to allow the frame to align naturally.

- Lift and drop the chair gently from two inches height to settle joints before final tightening.

Phase 4: Long-Term Maintenance

- Retighten all main structural bolts six months after the initial assembly.
- Vacuum the crevices and seams monthly to prevent fabric abrasion from crumbs.
- Rotate loose cushions weekly to ensure even wear and prevent permanent sagging.
- Tape the physical receipt and warranty information to the underside of the chair frame.