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Faded furniture? Spray paint it with an upholstery-fabric paint

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Want a new sofa but can't afford one? How about a temporary fix that doesn't cost much? There is a new eco-friendly upholstery-fabric spray paint available that claims to "up-cycle" your sofa, chairs, pillows, lampshades and just about anything fabric you might have.

So let's talk specifics. This product comes in an aerosol spray can that is nontoxic and nonflammable. It also claims to emit virtually no fumes, so when spraying indoors, it is safe and very convenient. The spray paints are nitrogen-propelled so they are eco-friendly. More good news: They are water-based, so they will not harm the environment when discarded.

The product is called Simply Spray Upholstery Fabric Paint. It boasts of staying soft to the touch when applied and dried, as opposed to other fabric paints that stiffen or harden on the fabric. Drying time is about 72 hours. After that, the color will not rub off and is fade-resistant. In other words, it claims to be permanent.

One can of Simply Spray should cover approximately 17 square feet and comes in many colors. It costs only \$12.99, so you might consider experimenting with an old piece of furniture you thought you were ready to throw away. For more information, go to www.simplyspray.com. The product can be purchased online or at hobby stores, such as Michaels and Jo-Ann.

This is a great, inexpensive project that can creatively spruce up old furnishings. You might be more talented than you think! Here is a short list of possibilities for this spray paint:

- A faded sofa that looks dingy or has faded in some areas, making it multicolored and unattractive.
- Stained dining-chair fabrics or newly acquired dining chairs that don't match the rest of your decor.
- Old throw pillows.
- A lampshade that has changed colors because of sun fading.

The paint can also be used on carpet or area rugs. Or paint towels, bed linens and clothes. Go into the garage and paint your car upholstery. Boat interiors can be successfully spray painted as well. Look around your house to see what else you might spruce up with a little sprayed-on color. If you have an eye for design and a little talent, you can customize your kids' bed pillows, make your table linen exclusively designed by you or create personalized place mats. But don't stop there! How about creating your own team T-shirts and shorts?