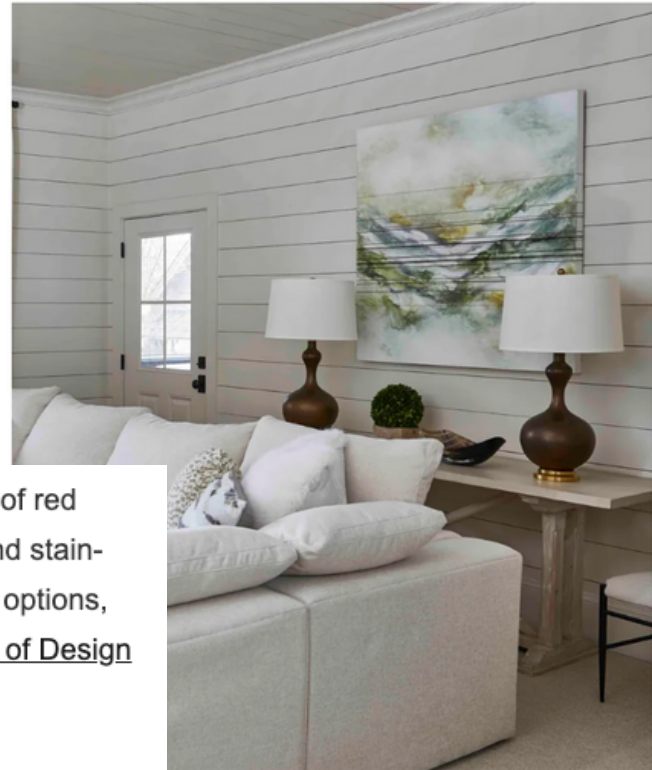


1. OPT FOR DURABLE FABRIC

Advice

Is a white couch a good idea? 5 designers weigh in on whether the classic look stands the test of time

White sofas are aesthetically pleasing, but can come with complications. Are they worth the hassle?



rackett Studio of Design)

When you picture a white couch, the image of a precarious glass of red wine might scare you away. But these days, loads of washable and stain-resistant upholstery fabrics are readily available. Thanks to these options, Caroline Brackett – principal designer of [Caroline Brackett Studio of Design](#) – says she's absolutely not afraid to design with white sofas.

'We recently designed a den for a family with young children that is anchored by a large sectional sofa all in a white performance fabric, and there are no worries if the popcorn or a drink spills. Performance fabrics have changed the way people think about white upholstery, but you do have to wash and clean them more often than darker colors,' she says.

As long as you're on board with a bit of extra upkeep when it comes to [cleaning your couch](#), don't let impending spills put you off. Caroline also suggests opting for a couch with an exposed leg or other non-fabric base rather than a skirt – this will reduce wear and tear in the area where people's legs rest, and where pets can often be found.

'Designing a room around a white sofa gives you a blank canvas from which to work with colorful fabrics for accent chairs, throw pillows, window treatments and rugs. Not a fan of color? A white sofa is also lovely with other neutrals in a room accented with gold metals from lighting or furniture,' she says.