

Basic Furniture Shopping Checklist
by Karawynn Long (for getrichslowly.org)

-- Wood --

good: solid wood or 9+ layer plywood
bad: thin plywood, particleboard, pressboard, fiberboard
bad: knots, cracks
bad: soft, easily-scratched surfaces

-- Joints --

great: dovetail, mortise & tenon
good: reinforcing corner blocks
good: dowels, screws
bad: staples, nails, visible glue

-- Drawers --

great: dust panels, floating bottoms
good: metal glide-rails, stops
bad: wood-on-wood sliding

-- Frame --

good: even, level with floor
bad: twists, creaks, wobbles

-- Springs --

great: hand-tied coil springs
good: close together, even resistance
bad: any springs more than a few inches apart

-- Cushions --

good: firm foam wrapped in padding
good: protective inner cover
good: reversible cushions
bad: bare foam
bad: loose fill without internal sectioning

-- Upholstery --

good: aligned patterns
good: skirts with lining or weights
bad: skimpy padding along arms and back