

Painting Maintenance

Thank you for your purchase from York Fine Arts. To ensure that your painting remains in a good condition we have put together this easy to follow guide for new canvas and panel paintings. As a general rule, paintings should be cleaned by a trained art conservator but with care you will certainly be able to give general cleaning and maintenance when necessary.

General Cleaning

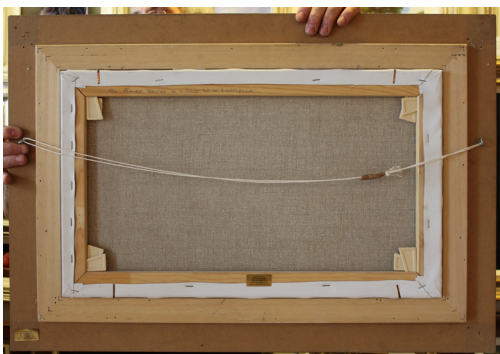
We do not recommend that you use any cleaning products on either your painting's frame or on the painting itself. The frame can be wiped with a slightly damp cloth or carefully vacuumed with a brush accessory. With both canvas and panel paintings the front and back must be treated with upmost care. Due to the natural oils found on skin we recommend that you never touch the front of a painting with your bare fingers.

There are two ways to remove surface dirt from your painting. If the dust is light, a soft clean paintbrush can be used. A new paintbrush should always be used as any residual solvents on the brush could damage the paint. If the dust is heavier a clean, lightly damp cloth can be used. The cloth must be soft and not shedding which may catch on the paint. Again, as with using a paintbrush, the cloth should be new and entirely free from any potentially damaging solvents. It is recommended that the cloth is dampened using distilled water and not tap water which may contain small quantities of chlorine or minerals.

When cleaning a painting, care should be taken not to overly flex the canvas or to dislodge paint chips. Paintings that have loose flaking paint should be left untouched as fragments of paint could be dislodged and swept away. With both canvas and panel paintings the back of the painting should be kept clean by brushing or carefully vacuuming with a brush accessory.

Tightening the Canvas

For paintings on canvas, depending on the humidity and temperature of the room where the painting is hung will decide on how often the canvas will need tightening. This can be within two to ten years or even longer. When you notice that the canvas is starting to sag try these simple steps to tighten the canvas or visit the gallery and we will be able to help.



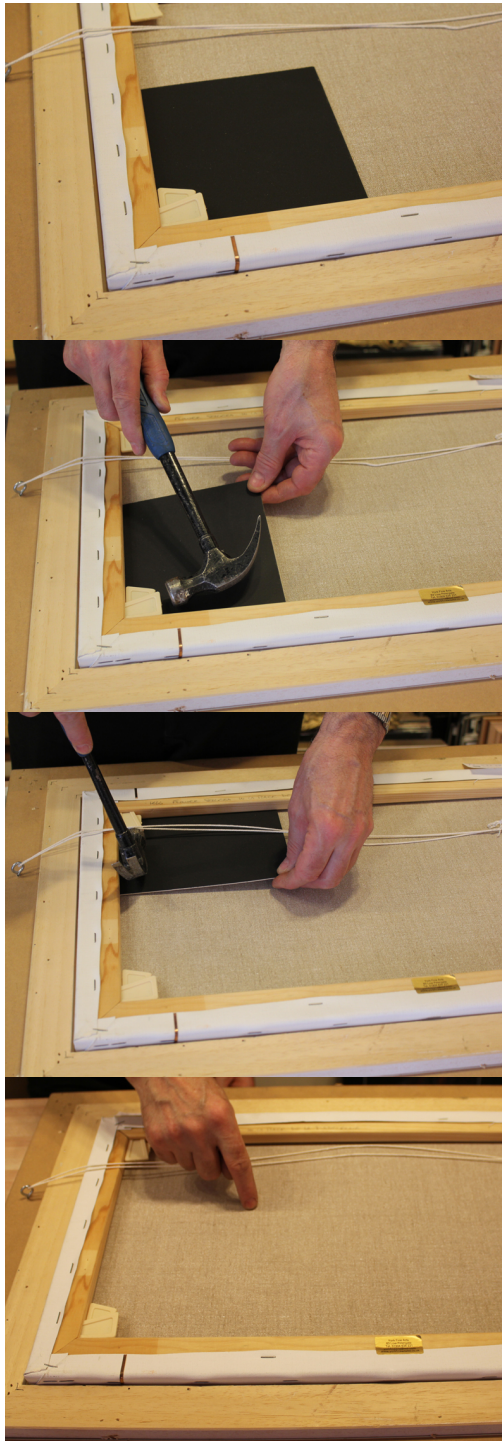
1. The back of your canvas painting should look like this, with two wedges on each corner of the stretcher bars.

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2. Start by placing the painting face down onto a firm but soft surface where the frame cannot be scratched.

Place a piece of card onto the canvas and slide it slightly under the stretcher bar into the corner. This will protect the canvas during the next step.

3. Take a small hammer and lightly tap each wedge two times. This will tighten this section of the canvas.

4. Next, remove the card and place it under the next set of wedges. As before tap each of the wedges two times. Follow this same procedure until each corner's set of wedges has been tap twice.

As a general rule move around the canvas in a clockwise direction which will ensure that the canvas is tightened evenly.

5. Once you have tapped all of the wedges now lightly tap the back of the canvas with your finger. The canvas should be taught but less than a drum. If it is still not taught, simply start the procedure again but this time with one tap on each wedge.

If you are having difficulty in tightening your canvas please contact the gallery.

For a comprehensive clean of older paintings, restoration services are available, please contact the gallery for full details. Please note that this guide has been put together in good faith and York Fine Arts cannot be held responsible for any damage to artworks or persons.