

## What Does It Cost to Refurbish Private Jet Seats?



Are the cabin seats on your private aircraft looking worn out, faded, or out of date? Your corporate jet interior makes an important impression, and aircraft seats that are in poor condition or out of style may negatively affect your passengers' flying experience and, ultimately, the value of your aircraft.

In this article, you'll learn about the different aircraft seat upholstery options and associated costs, so you can plan for the best upgrades to meet your budget.

### Cost to Refurbish Jet Seats

The actual cost to refurbish your jet seats can vary widely based on several factors. The size and type of aircraft, size and type of seat, amount of customization, cost of materials, sewing patterns, and reshaping, all factor into the overall cost.

The chart on the next page compiles basic industry costs per aircraft seat or divan with some material allowances. We'll get into more details on seat type and refurbishment or upgrade options below.

Note: in the table, redesign combines the cost of coverings and foam plus the cost of working with a designer.

### Different Kinds of Aircraft Seat Frames

Depending on the type of aircraft, you will have either 9G or 16G seat frames installed. (The G refers to the amount of G-force (gravity) that the seats can withstand.) It may also have a divan. Options for refurbishing aircraft seats will vary depending on the kind of seat.



CORPORATE AIRCRAFT SEAT PRICING GUIDE	REPLACE COVERING	REPLACE FOAM	REDESIGN
<b>9G/16G SEATS</b> cost per seat	\$5,000-\$15,000	\$3,500-\$8,500	\$10,000-\$60,000
<b>DIVAN</b> cost per divan	\$12,000-\$26,000	\$3,000-\$6,000	Price dependent on individual project

### *The 9G Seat Frame*

With 9G seats, you have more flexibility with what changes can be made to the appearance of the seat than you can with 16G. You can choose different aircraft seat upholstery materials and foam densities than what was originally on the seat. Additionally, the seat can be stripped down to the frame and rebuilt with a different design. A few stipulations, such as maintaining aisle clearance, may apply.

### *The 16G Seat Frame*

16G seats can usually only be rebuilt in the style in which they were originally certified. Slight changes to aircraft upholstery to give older seats a more streamlined, updated appearance might be possible. (Foam density is restricted to the Technical Standard Order (TSO) holder of the seats. Sometimes, new foam builds can

be created if the designers can get the original seat drawings.)

Occasionally, some 16G seat frames may have alternate designs, which allows owners to make more than just slight changes to their aircraft seats.

How do you know if your aircraft has 9G or 16G seats? Aircraft manufactured after October 2009 are required to have 16G seats, as mandated by the FAA. See the table on the next page for a list of aircraft with 16G seats.

### *The Divan*

If your aircraft has a divan, it can be reupholstered and have new foam applied, same as the seats. Divans are usually more expensive to refurbish than the standard seats.



## LIST OF AIRCRAFT WITH 16G SEATS

### BOMBARDIER

- Challenger CL-300 (Continental)
- Global Express
- Global 5000

### CESSNA

- Mustang, Model 510
- Citation Excel/XLS, Model 560
- Citation Sovereign, Model 680
- Citation X, Model 750
- Citation Columbus, Model 850

### DASSAULT

- 2000/2000EX
- 7X

### EMBRAER

- 135BJ
- 145BJ

### GALAXY

- Astra/Galaxy

### GULFSTREAM

- G100
- G150
- G200
- G280
- Gulfstream V
- G450
- G550
- GVI
- G650

### HAWKER

- 4000

### LEARJET

- 40
- 45
- 70
- 75
- 85

If your aircraft did not come with a divan, you can replace some of the existing seats with a divan.

## Options and Prices for Refurbishing Aircraft Seats

The price range for refurbishing your private jet's seats is determined by the type of upholstery materials. The following sections outline the different options from minimal to full redesign and luxury add-ons.

*Aircraft Seat Covering Replacement: \$5,000 - \$15,000 per seat, \$12,000 - \$26,000 per divan*

With this option, only the aircraft seat upholstery is replaced. It is very rare, however, that only the upholstery requires replacing. Generally, when the time comes to replace the

existing aircraft seat material, the interior foam has deteriorated and needs replacing. In fact, some aircraft interior shops won't reupholster seats without replacing the old foam. Too often, adding new upholstery to old foam is like throwing a blanket over an old couch — it's still an old couch and it won't look good for long.

Replacing only the seat covering should only be considered if the foam has recently been replaced (5 years or less) and is still in good condition. This may happen when seats have been recently refurbished, but the owner wants new exterior material.

Options for seat coverings commonly include a variety of aircraft seat fabrics and leathers (plus two-tone leather; see the example on the next page). Different materials can be used for the



inset and armrests to create a unique appearance (just keep in mind that different kinds of material on the same seat will drive up the cost).

Logos can be also embroidered or embossed onto the seat, depending on the durability of the upholstery used.

*Aircraft Seat Foam Replacement:  
\$3,500 - \$8,500 per seat, \$3,000 -  
\$6,000 per divan*

In addition to appearance, you want comfort when you travel. One way to ensure this is by having your seat foam inspected and replaced when necessary. Foam deteriorates over time,

leading to stiff, flat seats for your passengers. New foam provides comfort and support while flying and helps ensure that new upholstery lays smoothly over the foam.

Many different foams are used to meet certain requirements, such as flammability. In addition to this, you may be able to choose the density for some of the foam.

Depending on the kind of seat or TSO authorization, you may be able to also change the shape of the foam build to give more support and/or achieve a different appearance (e.g., a more streamlined appearance).



*Single Tone Leather*



*Two-Tone Leather*



## *Aircraft Seat Redesign: \$10,000 - \$60,000 per seat*

With a redesign, the seat is stripped down to the frame and rebuilt with new materials. Some aircraft interior shops will have an on-site designer, or you will work with your own designer. Some interior shops may have specific seat designs they commonly produce, or they might be able to take inspiration from photos of other aircraft seats or car seats.

Keep in mind that this option is only available for 9G seats. If your aircraft is certified for 16G seats, you may not be able to redesign them.

The overall price of the aircraft seat redesign may exceed the price range suggested here, depending on how customized the redesign is, how expensive the materials are, or how involved the designer is in the project.

## **Additional Aircraft Seat Customizations**

### *Stitching*

You can add decorative stitches to your aircraft seats and divan. The French/Double and Top/Single stitches are the most common (see photos). Decorative stitches can be same or similar colors to the upholstery, or they can be complementary colors that stand out.



*French/Double Stitche*

*Top/Single Stitch*

*Blind Stitch*

Note: Be advised that not all stitching is compatible with all materials as some stitches will tear certain kinds of leather.

### *Seat Belts*

Looking for a final, personal touch? You can change the seat belt color to the same or a complementary color as the seat upholstery or decorative stitches.

The seat belt buckles can be plated in a different metal finish. Laser engraving may also be an option for customizing buckles.

## **Aircraft Seat Refurbishment Advice**

Aircraft seat refurbishment, including changes and upgrades to your seats, can be a large investment, and you want to be satisfied with — and comfortable in — your newly redone seats.





Here is some expert advice to help guide you through the aircraft seat refurbishment process.

### *1. Don't Put It Together Piecemeal*

We recommend that seats be refurbished all at once. Not only does this minimize downtime, it helps to guarantee that all seats will have matching fabrics, thread color, etc. because sourcing is only done once.

Also, consider having seats refurbished while other private jet interior upgrades are being completed to minimize downtime.

### *2. Know What's in the Quote*

What is covered in the quote? Most shops will include material allowances that account for

possible material expenses in their quotes. Ask if the quote includes a material allowance. Keep in mind that more expensive materials may exceed the allowance — known as an over and above (O&A) charge — for which you will be responsible.

### *3. Get Quality Work*

Get references and see samples of the shop's work. A quality job should include durable materials, straight stitching, and tight, smooth surfaces.

## **Further Reading**

- How Much Does Aircraft Carpet Cost? (<https://cla.aero/how-much-does-aircraft-carpet-cost/>)
- Why Upgrade Your Private Jet's In-Flight Entertainment System? (<https://cla.aero/upgrade-in-flight-entertainment-system/>)
- What You Need to Know About Aircraft Hydrographics? (<https://cla.aero/what-you-need-to-know-about-aircraft-hydrographics/>)
- Why Should You Upgrade Your Aircraft Cabin Lighting? (<https://cla.aero/upgrade-aircraft-cabin-lighting/>)
- How Much Will It Cost to Refurbish My Private Jet's Cabinets? (<https://cla.aero/costs-of-refurbishing-a-private-jets-cabinets/>)
- When is the Best Time to Refresh Your Aircraft Interior? (<https://cla.aero/best-time-aircraft-interior/>)

