

HOW TO CARE FOR LEATHER

LEATHER

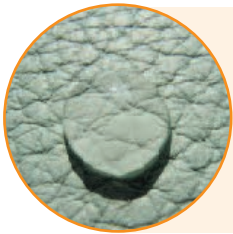


NATURALLY

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LEATHER

It Leather is a natural, hardwearing material that is incredibly versatile, being used for a wide range of applications, including footwear, apparel, furniture, plus automotive and aviation interiors. Proper care and maintenance will enhance the beauty and extend the life of any products made from leather.

TYPES OF LEATHER

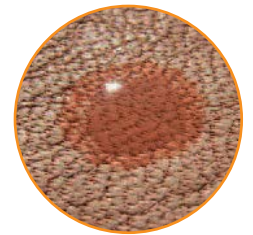


Pigmented:

Pigmented leather has a finish applied that protects the leather and adds colour or surface effects such as gloss and shine. Suitable for all uses, it is hardwearing with good liquid repellency and is therefore especially suited to motorcycle leathers or car interiors.

Aniline:

Aniline leather is very natural in appearance with no pigment finish. It will absorb water or liquids more readily than pigmented leather. Over time aniline leather wears to develop a patina unique to the item and due to its high quality it is often used for luxury goods.



Nubuck:

Nubuck has a soft velvety 'nap' that is created by sanding the grain side of the leather. Sumptuous to the touch, it is breathable but will absorb water or liquids.

Suede:

Suede comes from the reverse side of leather or is created by splitting away the top layer to leave the 'hairy' suede underneath. Similar to nubuck, but a little coarser to the touch it is mostly used to make apparel, bags and footwear.



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WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING CARE TIPS FOR: **SHOES, BAGS AND CLOTHING**

Pigmented leather

Pigmented leather is easy to care for. You can use soft brushes to remove dirt followed by all kinds of leather cleaner. Coloured shoe care products, for example, even out scratches and abrasions. Many leather care manufacturers offer a wide range of tried and tested cleaning and care products.



Aniline leather

Aniline leather is mostly pre-treated with a water-repellent care product. When cleaning, always work carefully with a dry brush or slightly damp cloth, making sure you clean the whole surface. The remaining patina is typical of aniline leather. Protect open-pore leather with a waterproof product and non-absorbent leather with cream- or grease-based shoe care products. A well-greased leather produces that typical porous patina that means the leather grows only more beautiful over time. Coloured shoe care products are also available to help even out scratches and abrasions. Take care to do a patch test in a hidden area before using any product on aniline leather as it may darken the colour.

Nubuck and suede

You can protect nubuck and suede items with waterproofing sprays but, even so, it is best to avoid using or wearing them in the wet. You can remove dust and dirt with a medium-hard brush and even wash very dirty shoes and clothing with specific leather-cleaning products, as long as you dry them at room temperature away from direct heat or light and stuff them with something absorbent to help them keep their shape. If the colour changes, there are sprays available in the more common shades of black and brown.



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CAR INTERIORS

Car interiors are usually pigmented leather, so are easy to care for. There is a wide range of leather care products on the market that can help keep your car interior in top condition. Contact areas should be cleaned regularly - remove ingrained dirt with a medium stiff brush and then use liquid or foam surface cleaners, remembering not to use too much water on perforated leather!

Heavily used areas, such as the driver's seat or steering wheel, can develop colour damage or abrasion. We recommend using specialist abrasion resistant leather repair colours available online, NOT shoe care product, which will rub off.



LEATHER FURNITURE



Pigmented leather

Furniture with a pigment-based finish is as easy to clean and care for as car interiors. You can also apply colour repair products for car leather to repair scratches and other colour damage on furniture.

Aniline leather

This is the highest quality leather type for furniture and, with the same sort of care as we might give silk, aniline leather must be handled carefully. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning and care, making sure you carry out a test patch on a less visible area first. The remaining patina is typical of aniline leather.



Nubuck and suede

Use a medium hard brush to remove dust from nubuck and suede. These leathers are absorbent and it is best to avoid staining wherever possible and protective sprays are available. If stains do occur it may be possible to minimise or remove them by gentle cleaning with a damp cloth. It is important to test protective spray or any cleaning application in an area that cannot be seen as it may mark or change the colour.

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BASIC RULES FOR BEST LEATHER CARE

- Regular cleaning and maintenance prevent staining and signs of wear and extend leather's life span.
- Always check whether the leather is absorbent as this will be more likely to mark in heavy rain or stain and should be cared for accordingly. Use appropriate cleaning products as recommended and always patch test before use as.
- Open-pored leather should be regularly waterproofed to protect against staining and damage but should nevertheless not be fully exposed to wet weather.
- Let wet leather dry naturally. Do not use a hairdryer, put it on a radiator, or dry in direct sunlight.
- For best results, use leather cleaners and leather care products on leather only.
- Always test products and treatments on a small patch that will remain unseen before using all over your leather items.
- For best results, clean dirty leather with a brush and a damp cloth, for example, before using leather care products.
- Do not rub too hard on stubborn stains. You may damage the surface.
- If your leather has suffered an unusual stain or damage, or should you have any detailed questions, there are plenty of professional leather repair businesses all over the world who will be happy to offer expert advice, and their products, online or in person.

CAN LEATHER BE REPAIRED?

Yes, leather is repairable in many instances. Old leather can be restored and accidental damage such as abrasions or small rips can be mended. Specialised leather repair companies worldwide have expert products and their experience to fall back on, but you can also repair small areas of damage yourself.

Please note: This care guidance relates to leather. Nearly all imitations of leather are made of synthetic or plastic materials and they require different care and are not as durable or repairable as leather.

Created

in collaboration with Lederzentrum, check out the website for more specialist information on leather care and repair www.lederzentrum.de

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