



The Complete Leather Care Guide



BEST LEATHER
CLEANING & CARE
PRODUCTS

HOW TO'S

LEATHER CARE
TIPS & INFO

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Leather Cleaning & Care

If treated correctly, leather can last an incredibly long time. Most experts give leather an average lifespan of at least 4 times longer than that of textiles.

Why is Leather Care Important?

Today's leather manufacturers and tanneries apply many different coatings to leather hides in the tanning process.

These coatings are designed to protect the leathers from stain and wear resistance.

The idea of looking after the leather on your furniture is to keep these coatings in good condition for as long as possible.

By allowing a build-up of dirt, grime, dust, body oils and food stains, and not doing anything to prevent that, can cause these coatings to breakdown and speed up the deterioration of the leather.



Leather Care Tips for Top Coated, Aniline and NuBuck Leather Furniture

10 Simple Tips To Keep Your Top Coated Leather Furniture Looking Luxurious and Always Feeling Soft and Supple.

1. The first step you should take with leather furniture care is to read and follow "Manufacturer's Care Label Instructions"
2. Wipe furniture at least once a week with a soft damp cloth to prevent dust build up and soiling.
3. Always use a good quality and specific [Leather Care Product](#), never use saddle soaps, abrasive cleaners, furniture wax, furniture oils, ammonias or excess water for cleaning leather.
4. When spot cleaning leather always use a [Neutral PH Leather Cleaner](#) to avoid harmful reactions with the top coat, pores and stitches. This same tip applies when you're doing a complete leather clean.
5. Always apply a good quality Leather Conditioner every 3 to 4 months to keep leather soft and supple and to prevent cracking or drying.

6. Apply a [Leather Conditioner](#) or [Protection cream](#) to help repel grime, stains, liquid spills and body oils.
7. Never place leather furniture near a direct heat source such as a radiator, heat vent or open fire place.
8. Keep furniture out of direct sunlight to prevent fading.
9. The salts and body oils, which occur naturally in human skin, can damage the surface of the leather if left uncleaned for lengthy periods of time.

In warm or humid weather it's important that leather is wiped over as often as weekly, particularly if the leather has become damp from perspiration or deposits of body oils are visible on areas such as head rests.

Always clean along any creases that have developed in the leather and pay particular attention to areas that have come in contact with the skin such as arm covers, head rests and seat cushions.

10. Vacuum regularly with the soft brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner to remove dust and grime. Then wipe with a soft colour fast cloth dampened with straight water. This should be done as often as possible, at least every 1-2 weeks.

Every 3 months to 4 months clean the leather with a good quality leather cleaner and follow up with a leather conditioner to keep moisture in the leather.

Things to avoid with Leather Furniture

- ! **Detergents:** Never use detergents, solvents, abrasives or poor quality leather or suede cleaners.
- ! **Cleaning:** Never try to dry clean or machine wash leather.
- ! **Pets:** Animals transfer hair and body oils to leather and break down the protective coatings.

Animal claws can also scratch your furniture damaging these coatings and compromising the leather surface.

Always ensure that your pets have no direct body contact with your leather surface.

- ! **Belts & Buckles:** These can cut and scar the leather when children play on leather furniture.
- ! **Jeans:** Denim and Indigo staining is possible on light colour leathers. Metal studs can also damage the leather surface.

- ! **Heat & Direct Sunlight:** These will dry out and crack the leather. Avoid long periods of exposure and check for the need to condition more often.
- ! **Hair Creams & Gels:** These should be removed promptly to avoid surface coat break down.
- ! **Sunscreen:** Is extremely hard to remove and will require being cleaned by a leather care professional.
- ! **Ballpoint Pens:** Repeated trials show that very few ballpoint pens will penetrate the conditioner and protector. The ink penetration and light fastness will vary depending on whether the ink is solvent or water based.

Rather than using chemicals (that will remove the top-coat which could accelerate re-soiling in that area for the life of the suite), the ink which is not removed with the cleaner should just be left alone.

Any remaining ink, not marker pen however, may fade away almost completely within 2-3 months. Professional cleaning advice is recommended.

- ! **Body Oils:** Accumulated dirt, perspiration and body oils will dull the colours and cause accelerated wear in all types of covers. As mentioned previously, when allowed to build up, they act to breakdown the tannery coatings and will accelerate the deterioration of the leather.
- ! **Wet Clothing:** Clothing and food dyes from wet clothing can transfer onto leather and need to be removed as soon as possible. Salt and chlorine from pools may break down top surfaces causing accelerated deterioration and wear of your leather furniture.
- ! **Mould:** In areas of high rainfall and humidity it is possible that mould can grow on the surface of leathers. Most leather care products contain a proven mould inhibitor. Using these products at suggested intervals should prevent mould growing on your leather furniture.

What is dye transfer on leather?

Dye transfer is what happens when a coloured dye, usually from clothing, leaches into the finish of a piece of leather furniture. Once this occurs it's extremely hard to remove and more often than not causes permanent damage to the leather finish.

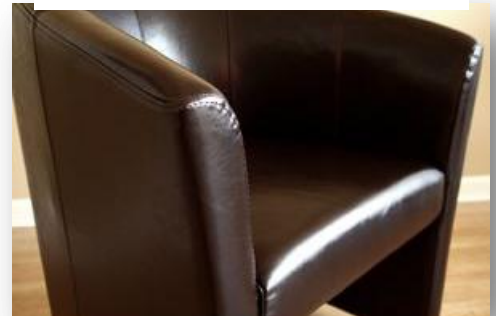
Light coloured leather like white, creams and beige are the most prone to dye transfer.

[Leather protector](#) is the best solution for preventing dye transfer.

How to identify Top Coated Leather

Top Coated leather is also known as pigmented, protected or painted it has a uniform appearance and intense colour as well as a distinct and definite grain. You will not find any visible natural leather markings through the top coat because a special pigmented paint is applied to the surface of the leather and then sealed with an extremely durable finish.

Top Coated Leather



Top Coated Leather is the most common leather used on furniture around the world today and accounts for approximately 90% of the market.

Leather Furniture Care and cleaning is easy on this type of leather as long as you use the correct [Leather Care Products](#) or [Leather Care Kit](#) and follow the instructions carefully.

How to identify Premium Aniline and Nubuck Leathers

Premium Aniline Leather is a full grain leather that has been dyed or tanned.

This type of leather tends to be more pliable, softer and thicker than top coated or pigmented leathers.

Aniline will have little or no protective coating and the natural markings and grains will be visible through the finish.

This type of leather is prone to fading when exposed to the sun and due to it's porous nature requires different cleaning procedures and products to top coated or protected leathers.

Aniline Leather



Nubuck Leather continued...

Nubuck Leather is also known as buffed or brushed leather and is even softer to touch than aniline.

It has a similar texture to velvet and when you scratch it with your fingernail you can just rub it away.

Water drops on the surface of Nubuck will darken the leather but it will return to its original or natural colour when it dries, just like aniline leathers.

Leather Furniture Care and Cleaning is a little more difficult on these types of unfinished leathers.

Nubuck Leather



Important Leather Cleaning and Care Tips for Aniline and Nubuck Leathers

1. Gently remove all spills immediately with clean dry cloth
2. Do not scrub hard
3. Do not use a damp cloth
4. Do not use Leather Conditioners or Creams on Nubuck or Aniline Leathers
5. Do not use shoe polish or saddle soaps.
6. For Aniline and Nubuck, Leather Furniture Care and Cleaning, the following is one of the most important rules. Only use leather cleaners that are clearly labeled as Nubuck or Aniline cleaners, normal leather cleaners are not suitable under any circumstances.
7. If you're unsure about leather cleaning on this type of leather it's always best to contact the manufacturer of your furniture or call in a professional upholstery cleaning expert to ensure it is done correctly and to get the right advice.
8. If vacuuming always use a soft attachment.

Pull Up Aniline Leather/ Waxed Leather

A very natural type of leather that is designed to distress as it ages because the colour lightens when stretched or scratched.

Pull-up leather is heavily treated with oil or wax which separates when the leather is stretched in usage. This produces a lighter colour and distressed look from day-to-day use.



Has a very natural and lived in look.

All natural markings are visible and it has a soft and delicate touch.

This aniline dyeing process allows the scars, scratches and wrinkles that occur naturally on the leather hides to show through the finish. Pull-up leathers require little maintenance.

Surface scratches are more pronounced but can be removed by rubbing them with your fingertips as the warmth of your hand releases the natural oils, blending away the marks. Colour variation throughout the hide can be expected.

Never use detergents, soaps or chemical to clean the surface, as they will tend to remove the natural oils in the leather.

A characteristic of Pull-up leather is, one bearing an oil / wax finish that lightens in colour when stretched.

Wipe down your leather once a week with a damp cloth to remove dust. Vacuum the leather with a soft brush attachment.

How to clean mould off leather in 4 easy steps

This is a question we get asked quite regularly and the answer is quite simple follow these steps for a solution to this problem.

Before you start you will need some soft dry cloths, a damp cloth, a [neutral PH leather cleaner](#), some white vinegar, a soft bristle tooth or finger nail cleaning brush and some [leather conditioner](#).



Important Warning

It's also recommended to wear a mask when cleaning mould from leather so you don't inhale the spores as they can be bad for your health.

Step 1: Get a soft dry cloth and remove any surface mould.

Step 2: Use some [neutral Ph leather cleaner](#) and apply to the mould on the leather with a soft bristle brush and scrub lightly until mould is removed. For consistency I would clean the whole piece and then wipe of with a damp cloth.

Step 3: Where the areas of mould were cleaned apply a light solution of white vinegar to neutralise any inground spores.

Step 4: Finish off by applying some [leather conditioner](#) to piece that has been cleaned to keep the leather moisturised.

Handy Tips: Always keep leather in a well ventilated dry area if possible as well as cleaning and conditioning the leather every 4 to 6 months.

Always test any cleaning products in an inconspicuous area to ensure there are no adverse reactions with the leather finish.

Final Tips for Leather Care

Always make sure you use good quality [leather care products](#) to look after leather.

Never use beeswax on leather.

Recommended Products

[**AFC Leather Cleaner**](#)

[**AFC Leather Conditioner**](#)

[**Ecoshield Leather Cleaner**](#)

[**Ecoshield Leather Conditioner**](#)

[**Ecoshield Leather Protector**](#)

[**Aegis Leather Protector**](#)

[**Leather Care Kit**](#)

About the Author

Chris Green the owner of Furniture Care Products has been involved in the furniture industry since 1980 in a number of areas including 20 years Furniture Transport & Logistics, 20 years in selling furniture care and floor care products as well as upholstery cleaning, fabric protection application and leather cleaning.

During his time in the furniture transport business he discovered that customers were having a hard time getting the right advice the right care products to look after their new furniture.

In 1998 Chris started Superior Furniture Care and built the business by sourcing a range of premium quality timber furniture care and repair products. Over time the range expanded to leather care, fabric care, floor protection and floor care products.

In 2013 the business was split into two separate businesses. Aussie Furniture Care for the product range and Superior Furniture Care for the fabric protection, upholstery cleaning & leather cleaning services.

With his knowledge and experience Chris has been able to build up a range of top quality products that he has personally used and tested. No products are added to the range unless they adhere to a strict criteria.

All products must do what they say they will do, they must be safe, environmentally friendly and must produce excellent results for customers.

Every product in all ranges come with a 100% Money Back Guarantee

The [Furniture Care Products](http://furniturecareproducts.com.au) website was created in 2005 and since then Chris has also written 6 ebooks available for Free download on the site as well as numerous how to videos which are also available to view on this site.