



Leather Care and Cleaning Guide

Product Information
& Best Practice
Guidelines for
Cleaning Leather.

The Leather Institute

Rev. 2.0

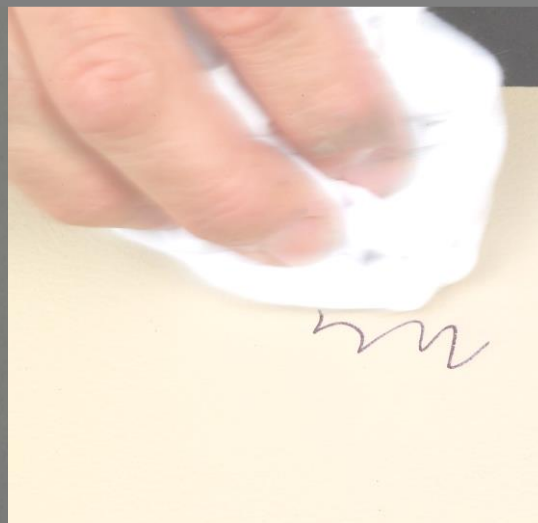




Table of Contents:

- 1) [General Leather Care and Cleaning Instructions](#)
- 2) [Basic Leather Cleaning Techniques](#)
- 3) [Advanced Leather Cleaning Techniques](#)
- 4) [Stain Removal Techniques](#)
- 5) [Aniline Leather/Aniline-Dyed Leather \[Natural\]](#)
- 6) [Waxed Pull-up \[Includes Mesa\]](#)
- 7) [Oiled Pull-up](#)
- 8) [Nubuck](#)
- 9) [Embossed Nubuck](#)
- 10) [Nubuck Sparkle](#)
- 11) [Suede](#)
- 12) [Semi-aniline or full grain leather](#)
- 13) [Pigmented or Finished Leathers](#)
- 14) [Specialty leathers](#)
- 15) [Product Data Sheets for:](#)
- 16) [Ink Removers](#)
- 17) [Cleaner/Conditioner & Protector](#)
- 18) [Conditioner & Protector](#)
- 19) [Leather Cleaner](#)
- 20) [Scotchgard Protector](#)
- 21) [Contact Information](#)

General Leather Care and Cleaning Instructions

A word about leather care products...

There are many products available for cleaning leather and removing stains. The products best suited for cleaning leather are those recommended by the Leather Supplier. The Leather Institute products are especially formulated to work perfectly with Townsend Leather.

When cleaning leather...

Never use:

- Any High pH cleaner
- Cleaners that contain abrasives
- Cleaners that contain alcohol
- Cleaners that contain Butyl Cellosolve
- Any strong solvent
- Saddle soap
- Mink oil
- Wax
- Furniture polish
- Glass cleaner
- Or any strong solvents, abrasives or caustic household cleaners such as soap or dish detergent.

These vary widely in strength and in compatibility with today's water-based leather finishes and may cause cracking or other damage to the leather surface.

Direct sources of heat and extended exposure to heat sources and to direct sunlight may also be harmful to the leather and should be avoided.

Always use:

Leather care products recommended by The Leather Institute and only use those products in the prescribed method. The only acceptable products for use on Townsend Leather products are The Leather Institute Finished Leather Care Products or leather care products approved by Townsend Leather:

- Finished Leather Cleaner
- Finished Leather Cleaning Wipes
- Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector
- Ink & Stain Remover Stick
- 100% Cotton Terry Cloth Rags (White Only); commercially available
- A solution of distilled water a mild non-detergent soap



Basic Leather Cleaning Techniques

The most basic task at any level of cleaning is a thorough vacuuming. Start by using a suction style vacuum to remove debris, loose soil and other particles. Never attempt to use a rotating brush style vacuum on the leather. This will cause damage to the leather. As you vacuum, pay special attention to the seams and crevices. They commonly collect crumbs, seeds and other particles and can be quite an eyesore. When the vacuuming is complete, it is time to clean the surface. Like all other materials, leather should be cleaned by employing the least intrusive methods before attempting other means. In most cases, leather surfaces can be cleaned by using a soft clean rag dampened with The Leather Institute's Finished Leather Cleaner.

The solution should never be applied directly to the leather surface. Always apply the solution to a clean cotton rag and wipe it onto the surface. This technique is meant for basic cleaning only. It will not remove stains or repair damaged leather. It is ideal for removing newspaper smudges, stuck-on food particles, and other common problems.

Never scrub the leather or use excessive force in an attempt to clean the leather. This will only cause damage to the leather and/or make a stain more difficult to remove. A good rule of thumb is, do not to use more force than that of a firm handshake.

The Leather Institute Finished Leather Cleaner should never be sprayed directly onto the leather. Always apply the cleaner to the leather with a cotton

rag. Then, using moderate pressure, apply the cleaner to the surface in a circular motion. Allow the leather to air dry. Do not apply heat. Repeat this procedure for heavily soiled areas. Fold the rag over as often as necessary to maintain a clean working surface. Change rags as often as necessary. This cleaning product is also available in convenient re-sealable pouches of pre-moisten wipes, called The Leather Institute Finished Leather Cleaning Wipes

Do not over apply the cleaning agent. Too much leather cleaner can cause the surface to remain tacky to the touch and can transfer to a persons clothing. Excess amounts of leather cleaner can be removed by using a dry cotton rag.

The Basic Leather Cleaning Techniques outlined in this section are for common soil and will not work on many spills and stains.

Advanced Leather Cleaning

Over time, cleaning and normal usage will rob the leather of its natural moistures and can clog its pores. An occasional deep cleaning and conditioning will help restore the leather's moisture and clean out the pores, ensuring maximum life. Generally, this type of cleaning and conditioning is only necessary every 4-6 months.

Begin a deep cleaning by dampening a white cotton rag with approved leather cleaner or use a Leather Institute Finished Leather Cleaning Wipe. Again, never apply the cleaner directly to the leather. Always apply the cleaner to the leather using a cotton rag. Using moderate pressure, rub the leather in a circular motion to remove all cleaning agents, oils, soil and other foreign substances from the leather. Allow no less than five minutes to air dry before continuing.

Even after the steps in the basic and advanced cleaning technique have been complied with, some stubborn spots, soil, or stains may remain. In these cases, it may be necessary to use additional means. As always, treat the stain as early as possible for best results. The following instructions will address some of the most common stains:

(See next Page)

Ink Marks

Use Ink & Stain Remover followed by Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector.

Grease

Gently lift excess grease with dry, soft cotton cloth. Clean with The Leather Institute Finished Leather Cleaner, and then treat with Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector.

Water

Gently blot excess spill with damp, soft cloth. Let dry slowly; do not use heat guns or air dryers.

Food/Beverages

Gently blot excess spill with damp, soft cloth. Clean with The Leather Institute Finished Leather Cleaner, and then treat with Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector.

Blood/Urine

Flush from leather with clear water and soft cloth. Clean with The Leather Institute Finished Leather Cleaner, and then treat with Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector.

Wax

Place ice cubes in plastic bag over wax until it becomes firm enough to gently lift from surface. Treat any residual marks as grease.

Gum

Gently heat with hair dryer on a low setting and keep the hair dryer in constant sweeping motion to avoid burning the leather. Use clean white cloth to rub gum from surface onto cloth. Treat any residual marks as grease.

Stain Removal Techniques

What does it mean to Transfer a stain?

When you are removing a stain, your goal is to “transfer” the stain to another material (A cotton rag in this case). When you approach a stain, your goal should be to create the right environment for the transfer to take place. When you have followed the prescribed method to create that environment, you need only blot the stain with a white cotton rag.

How do I know if it is working?

You can tell it is working if the white cotton begins to absorb the color of the stain. If the stain is transferring, continue the process. If the stain is not transferring, stop immediately. Although most stains can be removed, some cannot. Attempting to remove these stains may only damage the material beyond repair.

Leather Conditioning

The Leather Institute Cleaner and the stain transfer instructions will safely clean virtually any type of soiling, it is important to note that the job is not complete. By cleaning so intensely we have stripped the leather of its moisture and protective stain barrier. It is vital that the moisture and stain barrier be replaced. Use Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector to accomplish this task. Much like the Finished Leather Cleaner, apply the conditioner to the leather via a white cotton rag; never directly to the surface. Apply using light pressure in small circular motions. Be sure that the entire area is treated. In cases where only spot removal was performed, treat only the necessary surfaces. Allow five minutes for the

conditioner to penetrate and then wipe off any residual conditioner using a clean white cotton rag. The leather surfaces should not feel tacky or wet when complete.

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Natural Leathers

Aniline Leather/Aniline-Dyed Leather [Natural]
Impressions
Expressions
Essentials
Ancient
Aniline
Vintage
Milano

Description:

These leathers are dyed only with transparent colors [similar to staining wood] as distinguished from finished leathers that have opaque pigments [similar to paint] on the surface. Aniline leathers are characterized by the lack of film formers on the surface and are subsequently porous and will absorb items spilled. These leathers will sometimes be treated with a Scotchgard treatment that will act as a barrier against surface contamination.

Cleaning Procedures:

Cleaning aniline can be a difficult endeavor, as the cleaning agents will immediately darken nude leather. It is very important to use deionized water as hard water containing minerals may cause rings. If the soil is water based, dampen a cloth with Finished Leather Cleaner or deionized water, *do not soak*, and gently rub the affected area feathering the edges.

If the soil is oil or grease based, the first step is to use cornstarch as an absorbent. Place cornstarch directly over affected area and gently rub with finger until it coagulates with the oil.

Repeat as necessary. If the stain is still evident, dampen a cloth with Odorless Mineral Spirits and feather as above. It has to be noted that cleaning does not necessarily equate to cosmetic improvement.

Products:

Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector - cleans and conditions

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Aniline and Tipped would fall under the same protocol as aniline, therefore follow the above directions.

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Waxed Pull-Up

Waxed Pull-up [Includes Mesa]

Description:

A waxed pull up leather is aniline leather that has a liquefied wax applied to the surface. This procedure is referred to as 'stuffing.' A waxed pull-up has a pleasant hand and develops surface patina quickly. Any light abrasion or scratch will be immediately visible. The wax does not become a film that protects the surface so the leather should be treated similarly to aniline. The wax, usually solid at room temperature will develop line cracks that enhance its aesthetic appeal.

Cleaning:

Soiling or staining should be treated as aniline [see above]. Surface abrasions or color inconsistencies may be rectified by applying heat [hair drier] on a low setting. The wax melts and becomes even in color- once cool the surface will again develop a patina, as did the original. Application of Cleaner, Conditioner Protector can help provide color constancy.

Products:

Cleaner Conditioner Protector - cleans and conditions

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Oil Pull-Up

Oiled Pull-up

Description:

Similar to a waxed pull-up the oiled pull up develops a patina quickly. It is easily identified as 'pulling the leather' results in a lightening of the original color. The oil does not develop lines like the solid wax variation but will get lighter at stress points as the oil migrates from the surface.

Cleaning:

Soiling or staining should be treated as aniline [see above]. Surface abrasions or color inconsistencies may be rectified by applying heat [hair drier] on a low setting. The oil spreads and becomes even in color- once cool the surface will again develop a patina, as did the original. Application of Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector will help provide color constancy.

Products:

Cleaner Conditioner Protector - cleans and conditions

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Nubuck

Nubuck

Description:

Nubuck is aniline leather that has been sanded to develop a short nap. This leather is porous and will absorb liquids spilled on the surface. As is good policy with all porous leathers, it should be treated with a Scotchgard to give it protection.

Cleaning:

Replication of the method of manufacture is the best way to clean this leather. Nubuck cleaning pad is used to 'buff the surface' or lightly sand the surface, which will result in removal of the soiled fibers. If a Scotchgard is to be applied to this leather, apply the protector first, let dry and then brush the surface.

Products:

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Embossed nubuck

Embossed Nubuck

Description:

After sanding like the nubuck described the leather is then embossed with one of a multitude of impressions that are available.

Cleaning:

Replication of the method of manufacture is the best way to clean this leather. An ultrafine abrasive pad is used to 'buff the surface' or lightly sand the surface, which will result in removal of the soiled fibers. If a Scotchgard is to be applied to this leather, apply the protector first, let dry and then brush the surface.

Products:

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Nubuck Sparkle

Nubuck Sparkle

Description:

is similar to the nubuck in its manufacturing but receives a very light coating of a finish that contains a pearlized pigment that gives it sparkle.

Cleaning:

Cleaning is as used in nubuck but can result in removal of the sparkle that may have to be reapplied.

Products:

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Sparkly Spray

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Suede

Suede

Description:

Suede is the lower split of the hide and is distinguished by the nap on both sides [longer and more distinct than nubuck]. It is usually dyed similar to aniline and is porous.

Cleaning:

Because of its long nap, it is the most difficult to clean of the leather group. Application of conditioning oil may help even out color discrepancies that may develop over time. The leather should be considered as aniline and cleaned in the same manner: Cleaning of anilines is a difficult endeavor, as the cleaning agents will immediately darken nude leather. It is very important to use deionized water as hard water containing minerals may cause rings. If the soil is water based-Dampen a cloth with water, *do not soak*, and gently rub the affected area feathering the edges. If the soil is oil or grease the first step is to use cornstarch as an absorbent. Place directly over affected area and gently rub with finger until coagulates with the oil. Repeat as necessary. If still evident, dampen a cloth with Odorless Mineral Spirits and feather as above.

Embossed suede is suede that has been embossed with a plate or a roll that compresses the fibers to result in a distinct textural impression. It is still aniline leather and has to be cleaned gently as aniline.

Products:

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Semi-Aniline

Semi-aniline or full grain leather includes:

Manchester

Brushed Metallic

Antique Glaze

Couture

Belleza

Veg Tiles

Description:

This leather is produced from the hair side of the hide with no correction. The hide is dyed similar to aniline and a custom matched color coat is sprayed on the surface. The color coat is composed of a binder and pigment and is as thin as a human hair. The hide is subsequently sprayed with a clear top coat to give it protection and to give it the desired sheen. The finish will develop micro cracks with use that are not visible to the human eye. These hairline fractures will allow access of the cleaner into the fibers of the leather.

Cleaning:

Use leather cleaner that has a pH of 4-6. Dampen cloth with cleaner or pre-moistened cloths -do not apply cleaner to the surface of the leather. The cloth is then wiped over the unit removing air born contaminants and light soiling. Stains or ink marks can be removed using an ink remover stick or pen. Work gently with these items as they could dissolve the protective top coat and remove color!

Products:

Cleaner Conditioner Protector - cleans and conditions

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Ink Stick – ink removal stick

Finished Leather Cleaner

Care and Cleaning Instructions

Pigmented or Finished

Pigmented or Finished Leathers include:

Classic

Classic Antique

Canyon Creek

Excel

Glamour

Heritage

Lexus

Taj

Vitello

Lexus

Description:

Finished leather comprise the majority of leathers sold to the home furnishing markets and the automotive industry. These leathers have been dyed and may be lightly sanded [corrected] to even out any imperfections in the hide. The hide is then sprayed with a pigmented color coat and a protective top coat. It may also be embossed with a grain to provide consistent texture to the surface. It is the industry workhorse being easy to maintain and having substantial film formers on the surface to protect.

Cleaning:

Same as semi aniline:

Use leather cleaner that has a pH of 4-6. Dampen cloth with cleaner or pre-moistened cloths -do not apply cleaner to the surface of the leather. The cloth is then wiped over the unit removing air born contaminants and light soiling. Stains or ink marks can be removed using an ink remover stick or pen.

Work gently with these items as they could dissolve the protective top coat and remove color!

Products:

Cleaner Conditioner Protector - cleans and conditions

Scotchgard – provides a barrier coat that helps prevent staining and should be applied to prevent immediate absorption of spilled items.

Color Restore (Conditioning Oil) - can be used to enhance color and condition fibers it helps revive color [used before CP or Scotchgard]

Ink Stick – ink removal stick

Finished Leather Cleaner

Care and Cleaning Instructions Specialty Leathers

Specialty leather such as hair on and woven should be treated as anilines to prevent any damage.

Product Data Sheets

The Products produced by The Leather Institute are designed to be compatible with each other and have been designed to work as a complete system. If substitutions are made compatibility may be jeopardized.

Ink Removers



Ink/Stain Remover Stick - FL-ISR-1

This product is designed to dissolve the ink for easy removal. If the ink is fresh it can be removed easily from finished leathers. The ink stick will remove the ink with minimal disruption of the surface. Older ink marks are a different problem as they have penetrated the protective topcoat and will migrate into the color coat. Removal will normally also remove some of the topcoat and color. We have to be prepared to restore the worn color. Apply ink stick over affected area-briskly with little pressure. Wipe from surface, clean with cleaner for finished leather.

Also available as Ink Remover Liquid in 6oz. quarts. and gallons

Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector



Cleaner, Condition, Protector (CCP) - FL-CCP

Cleaner, Conditioner, Protector (CCP) is a proprietary blend of surfactants, humectants and protectors to restore lost moisture while leaving a natural hand. This product may be used on pull-up leathers and finished leathers. This product should be tested in an inconspicuous area to ensure satisfaction or acceptability of color change.

The conditioner is applied to a clean white cloth; it is then applied to the surface of the leather in circular motions while maintaining minimal pressure. An entire area, i.e. arm, seat panel etc. should be complete at one time. Product should be let dry under ambient conditions.

This product should not be used on suedes or nubucks.

Finished Leather Cleaning Spray



Leather Cleaner - FL-LCB

This product is primarily designed for finished leathers. This select blend of surfactants will effectively remove topical soil and non-set stains. It dissolves dirt holding it in suspension to facilitate easy removal. It is pH balanced for leather to prevent fluctuations in pH that would cause breakdown of the protein bonds that hold the fibers together.

The cleaner should be used as is and not diluted. The cleaner is applied with a clean cloth to the leather surface. If let dwell it will begin to dissolve the soil facilitating removal. Higher temperatures will increase the cleaning effectiveness. Clean any residue with water dampened white cloth.

Scotchgard Protector



This is a wonderful way to protect porous leathers! Once fully cured it helps hold out soils and stains so that they can be blotted from the surface. It is applied by spray gun or an air brush.

Call to inquire about this product. 1.800.852.0144

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in The Leather Institute's services, products and trainings.

For more information on any of the information included in this document or for more information about leather, trainings, cleaning services, or anything else please, see below for contact information.

We appreciate your interest and business.
Thank you, *The Leather Institute*



The Leather Institute
142 State Highway 35
South Red Bank, NJ 07701
Phone: 1.732.530.3220 or
call toll free: 1.800.242.9578
Fax: 1.732.530.3440
E-Mail: info@leatherinstitute.com
Website: www.leatherinstitute.com



Townsend Leather Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 669 • 45-49 Townsend Avenue
Johnstown, NY 12095
Phone: 518.762.2764 or
call toll-free: 1.800.852.0144
Fax: 518.762.5566
E-Mail: info@townsendleather.com
Website: www.townsendleather.com