

Leather Care:

1. Use a clean dry or barely damp cloth to get loose dust and/or chunks of dirt off your leather; you can use a dry soft tooth brush or horsehair brush to get dust out of deep tooling.
2. Saddle Soap: Designed to “wash” your leather with. Use a clean damp cloth or sponge to rub into the saddle soap bar, or spray your dry sponge or wash cloth with liquid saddle soap and rub onto the leather in tight circular motions, if you have tooling, use your soft tooth brush to get into the crevices.
 - a. Do not spray liquid saddle soap directly onto the leather; it will cause uneven dark spots, especially on light colored tack and saddles.
 - b. Do not be completely alarmed if your saddle darkens, getting leather a little wet will make it dark, as long as you wash it evenly it will dry evenly.

Wipe off all the soap, be sure to use a soft brush to get all the dirty soap out of the crevices to prevent build up. Leaving saddle soap on your saddle will dry out the leather.

3. Let your leather dry so that it will absorb the conditioner.
4. Use a dry/clean cloth or sponge to rub in leather conditioner or neatsfoot oil. If your tack has a lot of stitching, using a cream conditioner is best; neatsfoot oil will make stitching rot.
 - a. Some leather conditioners and neatsfoot oil will darken your saddle, so try it out in an inconspicuous spot, under a fender and let it set for a while until it soaks in and is mostly dry. If it darkens too much, it will be hard to get an even coating, and you will end up with uneven dark spots.

We have some great leather care products!

Leather Glycerin Soaps: Stubben Glycerine-Lederseife, Lexol PH balanced Cleaner, Leather New liquid and, Fiebings bar and patty in a tin.

Leather Conditioners: Leather New Deep conditioner, Lexol Conditioner, Stubben Haminol and Effax conditioner.

Cleaner/Conditioner combos: One-Step Leather Cleaner and Conditioner. Leather New glycerin saddle soap cleans and conditions, but they also carry a deep conditioner for leather that is very dry. Bickmore Bick 4 leather conditioner boasts it is non-darkening. Blackrock is a carnauba wax, use a lightly damp cloth or sponge to rub into the leather, cleans and conditions in one easy application. If you have tooling, use a dry soft brush to get out the buildup. This is also great for exotic leathers, such as snake skins, lizard, alligator and the seats in King Ranch trucks and it easily gets pen marks off of leather if not left to long. Not to be used on suede, rough-out leather or glazed lambskin.

For washable suede/leather/leather backed fleece: Pepede and Leather Therapy Laundry Rinse and Dressing is great for breeches with leather/suede knee patches or full seat breaches, half chaps and chaps. Washing them in regular laundry detergent will make those areas dry and brittle after many washes. Leather backed fleece products need to be brushed daily after use to keep mats from forming. Brush the mats out with a slicker brush hold the fleece tight to the skin with your finger so as not to pull fleece loose from skin. Pick the matt out best you can. Make sure to store in a well-ventilated area so the skin will not mildew and smell. Wash on gentle in cold water with above products.

For mold issues: Leather Therapy Wash and Restorer and Conditioner helps get rid on mold and prevents mold from coming back. Great if you have damp storage conditions.

Cleaning Synthetic Leathers: Lexol has a Vinylex that is great for wintec saddles, and car seats, etc. Effex has a synthetic cleaner and rubber cleaner, to help maintain its natural color.

If you have deep scratches in your leather clean the area first, then you can use the back of a spoon to rub in Effax Leder Balsam, and it will help make the scratch less noticeable.

Roughout Leather and Suede (like on western saddle seats):

Use a slicker brush IN ONE DIRECTION to help bring the knap back, these kinds of leather can just be dusted off, if they get wet they will stain.

Rawhide Care:

Please keep your rawhide dry! Wet rawhide can easily come soft and unbraided. Do not use leather cleaner or conditioner, rawhide is not like regular leather, it is processed very differently. Please also keep in mind that rawhide will take the shape of its surroundings, bossels should be hung from the narrow part, not from the nose piece. Also try to keep rawhide out of the sun when in storage, if left in a window, the sun can make it dry and brittle. It is recommended to clean rawhide at most twice a year and keep it dry. If it does get wet, dry it with a towel as soon as possible. Vaquero Rawhide Cream is a great cleaner, and some can use Skidmore's Beeswax for waterproofing the rawhide as well. Follow the directions! Also be sure to keep rawhide out of reach of dogs and rodents.

Cleaning Silver:

We carry Never-Dull which is a wadding polish. You can use it on everything, Silver, gold, brass, copper, pewter, glass, steel, aluminum and chrome. You can even use it to get tar off of your truck and trailer, motorcycle chrome, shower heads, etc... if it is metal, this will bring back the illustrious shine! Take a small wad, about the size of a marble for small spots, and rub it onto the metal. Use a soft cloth to bring back the shine. As you can imagine, if it takes off tar, you might want to be careful not to get it on leather. It will leave a "white mark" that is easily taken off with saddle soap.

Did you know that a simple pink pencil eraser can take rust spots off of stainless steel?

Bits: If you borrow or purchase a used bit, it is always a good idea to wash it before putting it in your horse's mouth, warm soapy water, or a dishwasher will work just fine for cleaning a bit. Some bits are designed to rust, so be sure to dry it well to prevent large amounts of rust that can pit the metal and make it uncomfortable to have in their mouth. If you use Never Dull to clean your bit, be sure to also wipe it down with mild soapy water, anything that can take tar off of a car, probably isn't good for your horse, and may irritate the sensitive skin around a horse's muzzle.

Montana Silver Smiths: Do not use any silver cleaner to clean their products. They have a protective coating on them so they do not tarnish. Just wipe clean with damp cloth. They have a great return policy with items missing rhinestones, or some people's body chemistry just does not bode well with the protective layer and it will tarnish, and they are great about taking those items back.

Myths we have heard over the years:

Cleaning moldy leather with in a bucket of Bleach water, Ammonia, or Rubbing Alcohol. No No NO! Water will dry out leather, and these harsh chemicals are really bad for your leather! Just use the Leather Therapy Wash and Restorer and Conditioner for mold.

NEVER dip or soak your leather products in a bucket of neatsfoot oil, and NEVER heated oil. This will break down the fibers of the leather and make it stretch, this will RUIN good leather. Do not neatsfoot oil your girth billets this will make them stretch out, most likely unevenly. Only clean them with saddle soap.

Things to look for when purchasing leather products: (especially used items)

Make sure the leather is already in good condition. A good method is to pinch the leather together and if it tears or flakes, it is dry and needs conditioning. Leather straps, like stirrup leathers, breast collars and bridles are very important pieces of tack that needs to be maintained regularly so they can remain safe for use!