



Leather Care

Leather furniture requires specific methods of care. There are several commercial and homemade products that can be used to clean your leather sofa. With regular maintenance and the right products, you can keep a leather sofa clean and in good condition for many years.

USE ONLY WATER BASED LEATHER CLEANER AND CONDITIONER.

Wipe leather furniture down regularly with a clean, dry cloth. Use a microfiber cloth. Incorporate wiping the furniture into your weekly household cleaning routine. Keeping dust from building up is the best preventative cleaning measure.

For more stubborn dust, dampen the cloth with distilled water. Make sure that the cloth is not soaking wet. Never let water soak into leather.

Always be sure to use a soft cloth and never use an abrasive brush or scrubber as this can scratch and damage the leather.

Vacuum the furniture's crevices. All furniture builds up some dirt and debris, so leather is no exception. Use your vacuum's hose attachment with a soft bristled brush. Gently run the brush across the entire surface. Vacuum in between and under all of the cushions.

If you can remove the cushions, do so to make vacuuming more effective. If you can't remove them, get in the crevices as best you can. You might also use a narrow angled attachment to get deeper into the furniture.

Clean spills immediately with a dry cloth. When anything is spilled onto the leather upholstery, blot it away as soon as possible. Use a dry cloth or sponge to absorb as much of the spilled liquid as possible, only resorting to a moistened cloth if necessary. Use as little water as possible to clean the spill, and wipe the area dry afterwards.

Wiping at a spill will only spread it further, so be sure to blot it. Take the dry cloth and set it on top of the stain and leave it there for five seconds or so while it absorbs the spill.

For non-water spills, you may need to use a tiny dab of gentle soap with warm water. If the stain is bad enough, it's best to consult a professional so you don't make it worse.

The most important thing is to clean the spill up quickly so that it does not have time to soak into the leather.

Use cleaners designed for leather. Detergents, solvents, all-purpose cleaning sprays, ammonia, bleach, and furniture polish can all be harmful to leather furniture. Do not apply these products in an attempt to clean the furniture or remove stains. Keep a leather-specific cleaner on hand for occasional cleaning and emergencies.

You may feel that buying a cleaner ahead of time is not a good use of your money, but if you do need it, you'll appreciate having it on hand rather than needing to go out and buy it. Cleaning up a mess quickly can save your leather.

Place leather furniture in the right room locations. Since leather is made of animal skin, think of caring for it in ways similar to how you care for your own skin. Do not position your leather furniture under an air condition vent, close to a fireplace or heater, or in consistent direct sunlight. All of these can dry out the leather and cause it to crack or fade.

It is okay if sunlight hits the furniture for part of the day, but long-term exposure will damage the leather.

It is okay for leather to be in air conditioned or heated rooms, but try to keep it from being directly under or next to the source.

Apply a leather conditioner regularly. Conditioning the leather regularly keeps it from drying out and developing cracks. Apply a conditioner once or twice a year with a microfiber cloth. Use just enough to lightly cover the leather. Contact the manufacturer to ask what type of conditioner they recommend.

Choose a quality brand as opposed to something cheaper because you don't want something that will end up harming the leather. Conditioner is a maintenance cost of keeping leather furniture in good shape, so don't consider it optional.

Store leather furniture carefully. If you need to put leather furniture into a storage unit for a time, get it professionally cleaned beforehand and ensure it is thoroughly dried. Place a plastic sheet under it to combat moisture seeping in. Leather needs to breathe, so never wrap leather furniture in plastic as this will cause moisture to build up and ruin the leather. Never place other heavy items on top of leather furniture as this can cause irreparable indentations in the leather.

Place leather furniture on top of wooden pallets to keep it off of the ground.

Remember: USE ONLY WATER BASED LEATHER CLEANER AND CONDITIONER.

Source

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