

# LEATHER CARE GUIDE

## HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR LEATHER GOODS

### REGULAR MAINTENANCE

#### HANDLING

- Clean Hands: Oils and dirt can stain natural leather. The cleaner the better.
- Be Gentle: Leather is extremely durable, but not indestructible.

#### CLEANING

- Routine: Wipe with a soft, dry (or slightly damp) cloth.
- Deep Clean (occasionally if necessary): Use saddle soap or leather cleaner in gentle circular motions. Wipe away residue with a clean cloth.

#### CONDITIONING

Leather is skin—it dries out over time and needs moisture to stay supple.

How to Condition:

- Use a soft cloth to apply a small amount of conditioner or leather balm.
- Massage in gently with circular motions.
- Allow the conditioner to absorb.
- Buff the surface lightly with a clean cloth to restore the sheen.

Tips: Always spot-test any product first. Conditioning may darken natural or light-coloured leather. Condition every 3–6 months under normal use, or more often in dry or hot climates or with frequent handling.

Looking for a leather conditioner? I highly recommend my own homemade leather balm. It's made from natural and organic ingredients, including beeswax, cocoa butter and almond oil. Nothing else!

Available at [www.wildesleatherwork.co.uk/product-page/homemade-leather-balm](http://www.wildesleatherwork.co.uk/product-page/homemade-leather-balm)

#### WHAT TO AVOID

- Harsh chemicals, baby wipes, or alcohol-based cleaners.
- Over-conditioning: leather can become sticky when oversaturated.
- Scraping or scratching against rough surfaces. Some light scratches may be buffed out.
- Direct heat: Can dry leather out and can cause cracking or warping.
- Baby wipes, vinegar, alcohol, or household cleaners: they can dry out or stain leather.

## **STORAGE ADVICE**

- No Plastic: Store in a cotton bag or wrap in a breathable material.
- Maintain Shape: Stuff wallets or bags when not in use.
- Roll up leather belts when not in use.
- Dry: Avoid excessively humid environments. Store in a well-ventilated, dry place.
- Cool: Avoid overly hot spaces like radiators or fires, and prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.
- Keep separate: Don't store leather touching dyed fabrics—they may transfer colour.
- Avoid storing small items in back pockets or beneath excessive weight. Sitting on your items may misshape them and isn't good for your posture.
- Long term storage: Use Silica Gel Packs to prevent mould.

## **PATINA**

With time and use, your leather will develop a unique patina — a rich finish that tells its own story. This is a feature of natural leather, not a flaw. Natural or light colour leather will patina more visibly than darker leather.

## **STAIN CARE**

- Water: Keep dry if possible. Vegetable-tanned leather is not waterproof. If leather gets wet, blot gently with a clean cloth and air dry naturally. Never use heat. Condition when fully dry.
- Oil/Grease: Blot with talcum powder or cornstarch. Leave overnight, then brush off gently. Leather LOVES oils.
- Ink: Hard to remove — consult a professional.

## **AT HOME HACKS**

- Broken thread: If a thread breaks, you can carefully melt the loose end with a lighter or match—this will help seal it and prevent further unravelling. Be extremely cautious not to scorch the leather.
- Frayed edges: Use a light grit sandpaper to sand down the leather fibres. Burnish by hand using a lint free cloth and a dab of water or balm.

## **WHEN IN DOUBT**

- For major stains, deep damage, or restoration, seek help from a leather specialist.

Thank you for choosing Wilde's Leatherwork.

Each item is handmade with care — when treated well it will last a lifetime and age beautifully in the process.

Wilde's Leatherwork  
Handmade Leather Goods from Blackburn, Lancashire.

[www.wildesleatherwork.co.uk](http://www.wildesleatherwork.co.uk)