

# Leather Maintenance and Cleaning

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## About Leather

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Leather is a beautiful and durable material which will outwear textiles many times over. Since fabrics are woven, any change in appearance from age and use detracts from the beauty. Leather, on the other hand, ages gracefully and is resilient and expected to change. Full grain leather is not demanding and requires very little care. It should not be abused by harsh cleaners or substances such as wax or mink oils, saddle soap, or leather polishes. These become sealants which keep premium full grain leathers from breathing and may eventually dry and crack.

## Maintenance and Cleaning

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The following guidelines maintain the beauty of Spinneybeck leather without destroying any of the natural characteristics. Please note that certain inks or stains cannot be removed from leather just as they cannot be removed from other fabrics. Use caution to avoid these incidents. Spinneybeck offers leather maintenance products specially formulated to care for various types of leather including cleaners, conditioners, and ink removers.

### Finished Leather

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Finished leather, the most popular, is smooth and has a satiny finish. Its breathable, protective finish makes it most suitable for high traffic areas or contract use. Wipe with a cool, damp cloth. For tougher soiling, use a pH-balanced soap and rinse. Repeat, if needed. Occasional use of Finished Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector is recommended.

Spinneybeck finished leathers include AU, AL, AD, AQ, DE, DL, ET, ES, FE, GE, HT, LU, PT, SA, SS, VP, VZ, and VO.

### Finished Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector

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Finished Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector is suitable for general maintenance and cleaning of leathers with protective finishes. Its unique balance of ingredients works together to remove oils and dirt that have accumulated during normal use. The select blend of natural moisturizers maintains the suppleness of the leather and provides a natural barrier to protect the surface without compromising the pH of the hide.

#### Instructions for Use

Begin by removing loose soil with a lightly damp cloth. Apply the Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector to a dry cloth and clean using a circular motion beginning at the periphery and working toward the center. It is recommended to clean the entire panel or section (i.e. arm). Do not apply directly to the surface of the leather and avoid applying too much pressure as it can damage the surface finish. Application may be repeated as necessary. Sheen may be enhanced by buffing with a dry cloth.

### Finished Leather Maintenance Kit

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Each Finished Leather Maintenance Kit includes two 8 oz (236.6 ml) bottles of Finished Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector and one 25 g (0.9 oz) stick of Ink Remover.

### Naked (or Aniline) Leathers

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Naked (or aniline) leathers have the least amount of protective finish. While most are treated at the tannery with a protective coating to help protect against staining, care must be taken to ensure that soiling and stains are removed quickly to prevent discoloration. These leathers will patina but may not be practical for all applications. Wipe the entire surface with a soft cloth and cool water to even out any abrasions or stains. Do not spot rub, for it will darken only that area. Occasional use of Aniline Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector is recommended.

Spinneybeck naked leathers include BL\*, CA, CV, CO, DT, RA, and SL.

\* Cleaned as a naked leather due to very light finish

### Aniline Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector

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Since improper cleaning may remove some of the soil-resistant properties, Aniline Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector imparts additional protection while cleaning. Its unique balance of ingredients works together to remove oils and dirt that have accumulated during normal use. The select blend of natural moisturizers maintains the suppleness of the leather and provides a natural barrier to protect the surface without compromising the pH of the hide.

#### Instructions for Use

Aniline leather should be tested in an inconspicuous area first. The area may discolor but should dry without staining; if this is the case, proceed with cleaning. Begin by removing loose soil with a lightly damp cloth. Apply cleaner to a dry cloth and clean soiled area using a circular motion. If the color is somewhat darker after cleaning and drying, it should return to its original color within a few days. The process may be expedited by stretching the affected area.

### Aniline Leather Maintenance Kit

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Each Aniline Leather Maintenance Kit includes one 8 oz (236.6 ml) bottle of Aniline Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector and one 25 g (0.9 oz) stick of Ink Remover.

## **Ink Remover for All Leather Types**

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Ink Remover for All Leather Types is designed to pull ink or marker stains from leather.

Suitable leathers include all Spinneybeck leathers except DV, LC, MA, and MM.

### **Instructions for Use**

Ink Remover should be tested on an inconspicuous area first. Gently apply Ink Remover to the stained area with stick. Apply sparingly on naked (aniline) leathers as it absorbs immediately. Allow the paste to penetrate for 30 seconds and wipe off with a clean, dry cloth. Repeat, if necessary. After using Ink Remover, clean the area with the appropriate Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector to restore moisture removed during the process. Do not use on sueded leathers. Never use saddle soap or household cleaners that may contain harsh chemicals, alcohol or ink removers.

### **Caution**

Avoid contact with eyes and wash hands immediately after use. Keep out of reach of small children. If ingested, consult a physician immediately.

## **Smooth Sueded Leather**

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Full grain leathers that have been lightly buffed to raise the nap of the surface are referred to as “grain sueded” or “smooth sueded”. For maximum soil resistance and durability these leathers receive an impregnated soil resistant treatment.

Smooth sueded leather can be maintained with reasonable care as liquids will bead allowing spillage to be blotted up immediately. Dry brush occasionally and general soiling may be removed with a suede cleaning block.

Smooth sueded leathers include MA and MM.

## **Textured Sueded Leather**

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Textured sueded leather is an aniline dyed leather with a dense sueded surface. The textured surface is protected by an impregnated, soil resistant treatment which shields the surface without disturbing the suppleness and rich coloration.

Textured sueded leather can be maintained with reasonable care as liquids will bead allowing spillage to be blotted up immediately. The surface of textured suedes should be brushed occasionally with a Nubuck Block or a suede brush followed by vacuuming to remove dirt and loose fibers.

Textured sueded leathers include DV and LC.

## **Haired Hides**

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Haired hides are cowhides with their hair intact. Maintenance for haired hides includes vacuuming with a brush attachment or spot cleaning with lukewarm water and mild soap. The surface of the haired hide should never be soaked.