

Luxurious leather

Leather is one of the best natural materials. After treatment, leather can be used for manufacturing many types of items, because it is long-lasting and has exceptional wear resistance.

Due to its special structure, leather is an elastic and breathable material. It is durable, and can even handle some concentrated loads due to its hardness.

Leather feels nice on the skin, because it breathes. It lets moisture and air pass through it, thus adjusting quickly to a

person's body temperature.

Leather is a natural product, and it can never have a uniform quality, because the characteristics of different hides and their various sections can vary greatly. Bovine hides are generally used for furniture upholstery, and often also for shoes, bags, and accessories. As different leather types are vastly different from one another, they require particular care.

Typical leather damage

- Hardening and cracking when dry is caused by the evaporation or drying of the natural oils and moisture in leather.
- Discolouration is caused by liquids, dirt, or clothing that is not colour-fast. Sunlight will fade colours.
- Wear and scratches can be caused by normal use, or by pets, for example.

Positioning and using leather furniture

- Position leather furniture so that it is protected from moisture and accidental splashes (e.g. watering plants), and that it is at least 30 cm away from a radiator or another source of heat. Constant exposure to sunlight will fade the colours of leather furniture.
- Do not let pets lounge on the furniture, because their claws and secretions can damage leather; keep a cover underneath the pets.
- Do not handle cosmetic products on the couch, such as hair spray, nail polish, or nail polish removers.
- Do not sit on a leather couch while wearing clothing that is not colour-fast, e.g. jeans. It is difficult to remove textile colouring. Remove ballpoint pen and ink marks and other stains immediately with the Softcare products designed for removing such stains.
- Do not sit on leather if your skin is sweaty or wet – sweaty or wet skin will leave marks on the leather.
- Care for your leather furniture on a regular basis. Good maintenance will reward you with a beautiful appearance and a long lifespan. Vacuum the furniture regularly using a textile nozzle.

Caring for leather furniture with Softcare products

First, the surface of the leather furniture is cleaned with a cleaner, and allowed to dry thoroughly. Then, a protective treatment will be done, and after that has dried, a

very thin layer of wax is added. Done a few times a year, waxing will keep the leather supple, and prevent drying and cracking.

Phase 1: cleaning

Leather furniture must be cleaned on a regular basis, as it accumulates dust, dirt, tobacco smoke, grease, etc. There is a slow build-up of these in the pores of the leather, showing up as a layer of dirt that must be removed regularly.

Depending on use, it is sufficient to vacuum leather furniture every week or two, with a textile nozzle, and to wipe it with a soft cloth dabbed in Softcare Leather Cleaner or Softcare Liquid Leather Cleaner. The cleaner will be absorbed into the pores of the leather, pushing dirt out and deep-cleaning the leather.

Softcare Leather Cleaner and Softcare Liquid Leather Cleaner are also suitable for cleaning shoes, bags, and accessories. Never use dish-washing detergent to clean leather, as it will also efficiently remove the leather's own grease, and the leather surface will dry and start cracking easily. You can also clean faux leather and plastic with Softcare cleaners.

REMOVE STAINS IMMEDIATELY

Any spills and mishaps must be cleaned up immediately, before they are absorbed into the surface of the leather and dry up, in which case permanent marks can remain on the leather surface. Absorb liquid stains immediately with a paper towel or cloth, without rubbing. If any visible marks remain, clean with Softcare Leather Cleaner or Softcare Liquid Leather Cleaner.

Before any cleaning or care, test the product in an invisible area, as different leather types can behave differently. We recommend hiring a professional for cleaning suede and nubuck leather.

When removing an individual stain, also dampen the area around the edges of the stain to avoid any water marks or splotches. Let the leather dry completely before commencing any new care measures. The leather must also be completely dry before use.

STUBBORN STAINS

If a piece of furniture has a build-up of sebum and other stubborn dirt, it must be cleaned thoroughly. Dampen the sponge and lather it with Softcare Leather Cleaner. Using a sponge, clean the dirty leather with rotating movements, at first by squeezing the sponge and then loosening the grip. This results in a motion that absorbs dirt from the pores.

Using a clean, damp sponge or cloth, rinse off the dirt and excess detergent. Dry the cushions separately, in a well-aired location. Let the sponge dry before putting it back into the container, so that it does not get mouldy.

When using Softcare Liquid Leather Cleaner, spray the cleaner evenly on the surface you want to clean and wash it 2–3 times using a sponge or a cloth. Carefully wipe off any excess detergent and loose dirt with a damp, soft cloth. Do not make the leather too wet. Let the surface dry well before use and the next phase.

BALLPOINT PEN

Ballpoint pen marks come off surfaces protected with Softcare Leather Cleaner if they are removed immediately. You might have to repeat the cleaning process several times and let the cleaner react in between treatments. Be careful not to scrub too much, as this can remove colour from damp leather. If the leather cleaner does not help, you can then try the Softcare stain removers.

FAUX LEATHER, PULL UP, BYCAST AND BONDED LEATHER

Faux leather and plastic-coated leather surfaces are cleaned using Softcare Leather Cleaner. Apply the cleaner on the surface you want to clean, and let react for a few moments. Wipe with a damp sponge or cloth, and repeat the cleaning process if necessary. Test colour-fastness in an invisible area before cleaning. The protection can be done using the water-based Softcare Leather Protector.

Phase 2: protection

Leather items should be protected against dirt and moisture immediately after their purchase using Softcare Leather Protector or the water-based Softcare Leather Protector. The polymers in the leather protector form a network of molecules in the pores of the leather, preventing water- and grease-based dirt from becoming absorbed beyond the surface. The protection does not affect the breathability or appearance of the leather. The leather protector even provides protection against alcohol stains.

Remember that Bicast, Pull Up and Bonded leather, as well as faux leather, have been coated with plastic. These can never be protected with the alcohol-based Softcare Leather Protector. It leaves grey stains on a plastic surface. These materials can be protected using the water-based Softcare Leather Protector. Always test it first, in an invisible area, to check the surface type.

The protection is done on a dry, clean surface before the application of the leather balsam. Work in a well-ventilated room. Spray the leather protector on a dry, clean surface from a distance of about 15 cm so that the surface gets slightly damp. Even out any drip marks with a sponge or a soft cloth, and let air-dry completely

before use. Let the protected leather dry for 48 hours before applying the leather balsam.

Aniline leather and thinly-coated semi-aniline leather, in particular, require



protection. Softcare Leather Protector is also well suited for suede and nubuck surfaces. It is not recommended to use the alcohol-based Softcare Leather Protector on polyurethane-coated or faux leather. If you are unsure about the leather type or colour-fastness, test the product first in an invisible area, e.g. on the underside of the furniture. Follow the manufacturer's care instructions.

It is easy to remove dirt from a protected surface, and the furniture will remain looking as new. It is recommended to repeat the protection process every 2–4 years, depending on the use. The efficiency of the protection can be tested with a drop of water: if the droplet remains on the surface, the protection is still working.



Phase 3: waxing

Leather requires regular waxing. The open, breathable structure of leather lets the natural greases and moisture of the material evaporate, so the moisture and grease balance must be maintained with regular treatment, 2–3 times a year. Excessive drying can lead to the hardening of the surface, the seat bags becoming visible, and later to cracking and other damage. The damage is usually permanent. Therefore, leather must be kept supple with wax.

Softcare Leather Balsam contains natural oils and moisturisers that leather needs. It is applied with a sponge in a very thin layer onto the leather surface, using circular motion. Only apply as much as the leather can absorb at any one time. The excess wax can be wiped off with a dry, soft cloth. Softcare Leather Balsam is very economical.

Aniline and other leathers with a thin top coating may darken when waxed. This is caused by the moisturising effect of the oils, but the original colour will return in a few days when the balsam has been absorbed. If you are unsure about the end result, test the product first in an invisible area.

It is not necessary to wax faux leather or polyurethane-coated Bicast, Pull Up and bonded leather.

Did you know that in addition to caring for and protecting furniture, you can also use



Softcare leather care products for bags, leather accessories, shoes, saddles, and other recreational leather equipment like dog harnesses?



 **SOFTCARE®**

Care instructions for leather furniture



Make your life easier!
www.softcare.eu



Choose the right leather type

ANILINE LEATHER

Aniline is the most expensive, the most natural and the softest type of leather. It has been dyed with soluble dyes and has no other finishing layers. It has the best breathability but gets dirty more easily than other leather types. UV radiation from the sun can fade some colours.

WILD ANILINE LEATHER

Like aniline leather, but it can include small natural irregularities. Less expensive.

SEMI-ANILINE

Semi-aniline is dyed leather, but it has a thin layer of finishing on its surface, making it somewhat more wear resistant and not as prone to soiling as aniline. Not quite as soft as the previous two.

ANTIQUÉ GRAIN

As the name suggests, this leather looks worn or old, after having been coated with different translucent colour top coats to give it patina. The leather is protected by clear lacquer. In use, the multi-colour effect can wear off.

PIGMENTED LEATHER

Pigmented leather is leather coated with several paint and lacquer layers. Its surface can also be embossed to resemble leather patterns. It does not breathe as well, but can handle wear and tear better, and does not absorb dirt as easily. Neglecting care increases the risk of drying and cracking.

NUBUCK

Nubuck is a type of leather which has been slightly abraded on the grain surface. This creates a velvety soft finish. Very prone to soiling, and the nap can also become detached under hard use. It should always be protected.

SPLIT LEATHER

Split leather is leather that has been split, with the grain side used as the surface, and the lower side separated. Can be coated, for example, with polyurethane or waxes when manufacturing Bycast, Pull Up or Bonded leather.

SUEDE

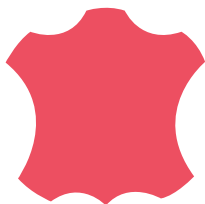
Suede is also the midsection of split leather, and it has been finished uniform to create an even nap surface. Suede is not as durable as grain leather, as far as its tensile strength is concerned. Suede gets dirty easily. Small stains can be removed with a suede eraser, but it is recommended that larger surfaces are cleaned by a professional. It should be protected.

BYCAST OR PULL UP

Split leather coated with polyurethane, essentially a material with an artificial surface. Prone to scratches; light marks can appear on the fold sections. Cared for similarly to plastic surfaces. Does not need waxing or protection.

BONDED LEATHER

Bonded leather is coated leather consisting of leftover leather pieces that have been glued together with a binding fabric. It has been coated with polyurethane or another similar artificial substance, and embossed to look like leather.



Choose the right Softcare product



Aniline leather	✓	✓	✓	✓
Semi-aniline leather	✓	✓	✓	✓
Antique grain	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pigmented leather	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bycast, Pull-up		✓	✓	✓
Bonded leather		✓	✓	✓
Suede and nubuck	✓	✓	✓	
Hairy leather / fur	✓	✓	✓	
Faux leather		✓		✓
	Softcare Leather Protector	Softcare Water Based Protector	Softcare Liquid Leather Cleaner and Leather Cleaner	Softcare Leather Balsam
				Softcare Faux Leather Cleaner

Softcare leather care products



SOFTCARE LEATHER PROTECTOR

Softcare Leather Protector provides efficient protection against moisture and water- and oil-based dirt. Suitable for all types of genuine leather, grain leather, as well as for suede and nubuck which cannot be treated with wax- or grease-based products. The protection does not change the characteristics of the material. Also suitable for bags, leather accessories, and shoes. Not suitable for Bycast, Pull Up or Bonded leather.

SOFTCARE WATER BASED LEATHER PROTECTOR

Softcare Water Based Leather Protector is particularly suitable for white leather, but also for all other leather, suede and nubuck types, including bycast, pull up and faux leather. The protection will make the surfaces dirt- and stain-repellent. The protection does not change the characteristics of the material.

SOFTCARE LIQUID LEATHER CLEANER

Liquid Softcare Leather Cleaner is an easy-to-use and efficient cleaner for all kinds of leather surfaces. The cleaner is efficient, and is suitable also for coated leather types and faux leather. Does not damage or dry leather.

SOFTCARE LEATHER CLEANER

Softcare Leather Cleaner is a conditioning product designed for cleaning leather. It effectively removes all kinds of dirt and stains. Does not dry leather. It is also good for plastic and wooden surfaces at home.

Softcare leather care products



SOFTCARE LEATHER BALSAM

Softcare Leather Balsam keeps leather soft and prevents it from drying and cracking. Use Leather Balsam 1–3 times per year, and always after cleaning the leather surface. Apply only a thin layer of Leather Balsam. If the surface is left greasy, wipe off the excess with a dry cloth. Available in two sizes.

SOFTCARE LEATHER CARE KIT

The kit contains:

- Softcare Leather Protector
- Softcare Leather Cleaner
- Softcare Leather Balsam
- Terry cloth and care instructions

SOFTCARE MINI LEATHER CARE KIT

The kit contains:

- Softcare Leather Cleaner
- Softcare Leather Balsam
- Terry cloth and care instructions

SOFTCARE WATER BASED LEATHER CARE KIT

Particularly suitable for white leather!

The kit contains:

- Softcare Water Based Leather Protector
- Softcare Leather Cleaner
- Softcare Leather Balsam
- Terry cloth and care instructions



Environmentally friendly

The ingredients used in Softcare products are always chosen with great consideration towards the environment. The products are packaged in recyclable plastic packaging. Did you know that spray bottles contain up to twice as much product as aerosol bottles of a similar size?

Safety and quality

Softcare products are of high quality, and easy to use. There are also unscented options available. We choose all of the ingredients based on the latest technology, safety, and the best performance.

Finnish

Established in 1991, Soft Protector Oy is a Finnish company specialised in manufacturing protective and special cleaning products for textiles, furniture and clothes. The products are made in Finland.

SOFTCARE®

OVER 25 YEARS OF FINNISH QUALITY PRODUCTS

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