

HOW TO CARE FOR LEATHER FURNITURE



REGULAR MAINTENANCE

When possible, depending on the style you have, rotate cushions and pillows regularly to distribute wear evenly and increase longevity.

Cleaning your leather regularly with a clean damp cloth will help eliminate oils that can build up and easily discolour your leather or break down its protective coating. Frequent dusting is the best way to clean most leathers. Be sure to dust more natural or nubuck leathers carefully using a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment.

Leather is a natural material with each hide being as unique as you are. Premium leather hides used for upholstering furniture will show non-uniform surface qualities. Variations in texture are not flaws and will not affect the leather's durability.

Common surface variations include scratches, wrinkles and healed scars. The appearance of these naturally occurring markings will assure you that you have a quality piece of real leather.

Remember to pay particular attention to the description of the leather family that you have selected (Protected or Natural) and the advice for the care, maintenance and relative warnings for this particular covering.

**Leather is a luxurious cover
and if cared for properly can
be enjoyed by you and your
family for many years.**

In addition a dedicated leather cleaner and conditioner should be used 4 times a year for your protected leather. Think change of seasons. The following can be purchased at RK Furniture Gallery.

We recommend the use of Guardsman Protect and Preserve which creates an invisible barrier to protect leather against premature aging and irreversible damage from penetrating stains, making cleaning easier and more effective.

The Guardsman Clean and Renew product gently yet thoroughly removes soil and surface grime to keep leather looking its best. Unlike many leather cleaning products it leaves no residue which can harm leather's flexibility.

Always pretest The Guardsman products in a small inconspicuous area to be sure that this is the right product for your leather furniture.

JK Furniture Gallery

PROTECTION

Leather furniture should be protected from exposure to sunlight and heat. Both sources can cause the leather to fade and lose its soft, supple feel.

When arranging leather furniture, it is important to protect it from extreme hot and cold temperature fluctuations. These fluctuations can cause a drying effect that can add to the breakdown of protective finishes.

Prevent sharp objects such as rings or buckles from coming into contact with your leather as they may cause scratches or tearing.

SPILLS & SPOT CLEANING

Most liquids will initially be repelled by the leather but if left standing over an extended period of time, will be absorbed. Blot liquid immediately with a clean, absorbent cloth. Butter, oil or grease spills should be gently wiped with a clean, dry cloth. These stains can be hard to remove initially (particularly with wax pull-up finished leathers) but the spot should dissipate into the leather over time.

For stubborn stains and spills, use a cloth lightly dampened with warm water to blot the stain and remove it. If this does not work, mix mild chemical free soap with water, then blot to release the stain and blot again with a dry cloth (avoid scrubbing).

Do not use harsh cleaners or solvents, as they can remove the finish or topcoat off the leather. Never allow liquid to accumulate on the leather and sit for a long period of time. Blot it up immediately.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF LEATHER

All leather will stretch to some degree with use. Leather is elastic and its shape reflects the amount of use an area gets. Just as new shoes need some breaking in, so does your leather furniture. Stretching is not a defect but an inherent natural quality of leather.

Pet damage can occur to leather. Keep in mind that leather with a protected finish is the most appropriate leather for a home with pets and can be repaired more easily by a leather repair professional.

Leather with wax pull-up finishes will gain a patina after a very short period of usage. This is a desired effect of this type of leather.

Wax pull-up finishes are most prone to scratches. Although scratches will be visible, the leather itself has not been damaged. Only the coating of the leather has been affected. Wax pull-up leather is coated with upholstery grade waxes and oils. These oils will move around with friction. For light scratches, rub the scratch vigorously with your fingers. The oils from your fingers, along with the friction and heat that builds up will move the color around in the leather often erasing light scratches entirely.

