

# **Do's and Don'ts to Maintaining Leather Furniture**

When it comes to leather furniture, there are a few simple things you can do to keep your investment in the best condition. With proper maintenance, you will find that your furniture looks better and better each year. Though it's known for durability, this type of furniture should still be treated with care. Wrinkles can add a distinguished look to a piece of furniture, but large scuffs and tears in the leather can be an eyesore. When properly attended to, leather furniture will age with style and grace. You can help keep your leather furniture looking rich and supple by following these simple do's and don'ts.

## **Don'ts to Maintaining Leather Furniture**

People who would like their leather furniture to have a long and healthy life should protect the furniture from unnecessary wear and tear. Just because it's durable, doesn't mean it's invincible. Here are a few things you should not do if you want your leather furniture to look outstanding for many years to come.

### **Don't Neglect Leather Furniture**

The worst thing an owner of leather furniture can do is nothing at all. The lifespan of a piece of furniture can be shortened dramatically by not taking the time to maintain it correctly. Many people expect that leather furniture will be fine without any special attention. Those who choose to ignore and neglect their leather furniture will soon be wondering why it looks so dirty and damaged. You should also be diligent about quickly cleaning up any spills on your leather furniture.

### **Don't Let Stains Set**

Though leather furniture is harder to stain than fabric upholstery, spills should still be dealt with as soon as possible to prevent discoloration. First, any excess spillage should be carefully removed before it does further damage. A dry, soft cloth can be used to blot the area. Often, spills can be removed before they stain the leather, without the need for additional cleaning products. A wet cloth can be used on some spills if dry blotting is not enough, but applying water to a grease stain could make matters worse. Greasy or oily stains may need professional attention, so you are cautioned against spilling food on leather furniture. A mild water - based cleaner can be used on especially hard-to-remove stains that are not oil-based, but no products should be applied without first conducting a spot test.

### **Don't Forget to Spot Test Any Potential Maintenance Product**

The leathers used to make furniture can vary, which means that not all cleaning and stain removal products will have the same effect. Even formulas that claim to be made for any kind of leather could potentially cause damage, so you are advised to first test any new cleaners or conditioners before applying them all over. This can be done by dabbing a small amount of the product on the leather, in a spot that is normally hidden from view. A small corner on the back of a piece is a good place for a

spot test, and it will allow you to see the effects of a product without ruining your furniture in the process.

## **Do's to Maintaining Leather Furniture**

Though it may appear that way, older leather furniture does not gain a distinguished patina if simply left in a corner to collect dust. The distinctive look of well-aged leather comes from properly caring for the piece when it's not in use, and from knowing the right way to clean it. By taking some advice from the following list of maintenance suggestions, owners can have their leather furniture looking better than ever.

### **Do Dust and Vacuum Leather Furniture**

Regularly dusting leather furniture is one of the easiest things people can do to keep it looking good. Dusting will help the leather look vibrant rather than dingy, and it will prevent dirt from being worked into the creases. A vacuum cleaner is another useful tool for maintaining leather furniture because it can reach crumbs and other debris hidden in tiny crevices. You should consider vacuuming your furniture just as often as you vacuum the floors. Another option is to keep leather furniture covered so that it won't need to be dusted or vacuumed as often.

### **Do Nourish and Condition Leather Furniture**

People who are committed to maintaining their leather furniture should also consider cleaning and conditioning it every so often. There are many suitable cleaning products that can be used to wipe down leather furniture and cushions. Saddle soap effectively removes built-up dirt and dust while also improving the appearance of the leather. Microfiber and other lint-free rags work well for cleaning and maintaining this type of furniture. Special conditioning products, sometimes called hide food, can be used to refresh and rejuvenate the appearance of leather upholstery, but in a pinch, olive oil will also work in a similar fashion. Though the benefits of well-planned maintenance may not be instantly apparent, over time, these small measures will leave leather furniture looking aged to perfection.

Leather Master Protection Cream is a water-based protector for all leather types except Nubuck. It provides excellent protection against oil, water and alcohol-based stains and also helps to resist the effects of everyday soiling. It creates an invisible, breathable barrier between you and your leather and prevents stains from absorbing deep into the leather. It can also be used to remove small surface scratches.

Leather Master Soft Cleaner is a water-based cleaner that can be used on all leather types. This mild, solvent-free cleaner will not harm the leather and will not affect the leather's original properties or finish. It will clean most soiling as well as water-based stains. For heavy soiling or dye transfer like denim from jeans, you will need to use a stronger product. Leather Master Soft Cleaner is great to use in combination with weekly dusting.

Leather Master Eco-Protector is a water based product for Nubuck or highly sensitive leathers. This product will provide oil-water-alcohol protection on Nubuck leathers. Leather Master Eco-Protector creates an invisible, breathable barrier between you and your leather and prevents stains from absorbing deep into the leather.