

# TIPS SHEET FOR PROPER LEATHER GARMENT CARE

- Do not store the garment on a wire hanger. Always use a wide hanger to maintain the garment's shape.
- Do not store leather garments in plastic bags or in a hot, bright or damp room. Excess dryness may cause the leather to crack and moisture can cause mildew. You should consider cold storage during the summer months.
- If your leather garment gets wet, allow it to air naturally since quick drying near a radiator will cause the leather to dry out and crack.
- A new leather garment can be pre-treated with a stain repellent finish which will help prevent stains from occurring.
- Leather cleaners and conditioners are available in retail outlets to restore leather garments to their original state after repeated wearing. However, an excess build up of these products can clog the pores in the leather, inhibiting the ability of the skin to breathe. Light cleaners and conditioners that are effective and easy to use are available. Note: all cleaners should be tested for staining on a small hidden area of the garment, for example near the hem or under the collar.
- Do not apply pins or adhesive tape to the surface of a leather garment.
- Avoid spraying perfume and hairspray directly onto a leather garment. In general, do not allow your garment to become very soiled as this may cause permanent damage.
- Do not attempt to remove difficult stains yourself. Contact a qualified, professional leather cleaner.
- A hem can be fixed by applying a small amount of rubber cement to it.
- You can iron a leather or suede garment by placing heavy brown paper on it and using a low setting on the iron, with no steam.
- Expect some colour and texture changes after professional dry cleaning, even when carried out by qualified professionals.
- Garments may shrink after professional dry cleaning but will stretch again with wear.
- Wipe dust and dirt on a leather garment with a soft dry sponge or cloth. Buy a special suede brush and buffing block to clean the surface of nubuck and suede.
- Only trust a professional leather dry cleaner to clean your leather garment.
- Do not send your leather garment to your local dry cleaner unless he can demonstrate that he cleans large volumes of these garments on a regular basis. Most dry cleaners know a lot more about textiles than leathers.
- Women should consider wearing scarves when wearing very delicate, difficult-to-clean leather garments. Scarves protect garments from cosmetics and body oils.
- If you would like to remove a small, minor stain yourself, try a large pencil rubber. Only do this after you've tested the process on the inner, unexposed facing of the garment to make sure that the rubber doesn't damage the skin.
- If a garment becomes wrinkled, put it on a hanger and gently pull the wrinkles out without significantly stretching the skin. If this fails, try to press the garment with an iron, following the ironing advice above. Never use steam when ironing leather.