

Beval Recommended Leather Care

Consistent care of saddles and strap goods will extend the life of all leather items. It is advisable to buy the best quality leather care products available. The phrase “kill with kindness” also applies to leather care. Although leather needs frequent cleaning and conditioning, it is also possible to over condition leather, which can be harmful. Leather needs to be cleaned well and sufficiently conditioned without overdoing it. ****Oil and heavy conditioners should be used sparingly.****

LEATHER CARE PRODUCTS:

- **Initial Oiling:** Neatsfoot oil compound. Also use if equipment becomes rain soaked to replace oil. *Note:* Use Neatsfoot Oil Compound if you want leather to darken or pure neatsfoot oil if you do not want it to darken as much.

REGULAR LEATHER MAINTENANCE:

- **Glycerine Soap:** Belvoir, Leather New, Tattersal, Akene
- **Conditioners:** Leather Therapy, Lexol, Akene, Flexilan
- **Restoring Older Equipment:** Leather Therapy Restorer and Conditioner

INITIAL OILING

- Most leather equipment will benefit from an initial oiling, especially to the flesh side – this gives a first “conditioning” to the leather. We do not recommend oiling oakbark stirrup leathers since they are made from leather with ample lubrication. **Suede should not be oiled.**
- When applying oil, it should be at room temperature or warmed slightly so that it is comfortable to the touch. Apply oil sparingly with a piece of sheepskin or paint brush. With saddles, apply oil to all surfaces, especially flesh side where it will permeate leather well. After lubricating, if the flaps of the saddle feel stiff, the flaps can be rolled a few times so that the oil can do its job and loosen leather fibers to create suppleness. Do not overdo this, as it can make flaps too loose and prone to bunch under your leg. Allow saddle to sit overnight to give the oil a chance to soak in and the color a chance to even out. We recommend wearing jeans when first riding in a newly oiled saddle, as there will always be some residue of oil, no matter how well it wipes off.
- Good quality British bridles initially need only a light oiling on the flesh side. **Never soak strapgoods in oil for any length of time.**

MAINTENANCE CARE OF LEATHER

- You can equate the care of leather goods to the care of your own skin – must be kept clean, soft and moisturized. We suggest the following care for your leather equipment:
- After each use, leather equipment should be wiped off with a damp sponge, especially the underside, to remove sweat and dirt build-up.
- Depending on how often you ride, you should, on a regular basis, clean and lubricate your saddle and bridle.

CLEANING IS A FOUR-STEP PROCESS:

- **Soap:** Use a tack sponge and glycerine saddle soap (or for those who do not like the residue left by glycerine, then Castile or Ivory soap may be used). Work up a foam lather that will surround the dirt on your equipment and loosen it from the surface.
- **Rinse:** Clean the dirt and soap away using the same sponge (cleaned thoroughly in fresh water). Make sure all soap is removed.
- **Dry:** Let saddle air dry for a few minutes, or towel it to get the excess water off.
- **Finish:** Choose a fresh, clean sponge for the finishing work as it is difficult to fully clean the dirt off of a used sponge. Pick up a bit of the glycerine saddle soap on the sponge (if it foams you have left too much water in the sponge) and apply it to the leather in small circular motions. You could also use a small amount of conditioner along with the glycerine soap on your sponge.

Daily care and cleaning is the best way to ensure the long life of all your leather equipment.