

A black and white photograph of shoe care supplies. In the upper left, a dark leather lace-up shoe is partially visible. Surrounding it are several brushes of different sizes and bristle types. One brush in the upper right has the text "100% Horsehair" printed on its handle. In the lower center, there is a small, round tin of shoe polish. The items are arranged on a light-colored, textured stone surface with some cracks.

Shoe Care Booklet

**Valuable information on the subject
of shoes and their care**

Valuable information about leather

(Leather = animal hide made durable by tanning)

The production of leather may be described as one of the most ancient trades carried out by man. Even primitive peoples knew that fat could be used to make the animal hides, which provided them with clothing, durable and soft.

The earliest tanning formula handed down to us is on a Babylonian stone tablet dating from about 720 B.C.!

Tartars, Indians, Egyptians – there are reports of leather products in many ancient cultures. The Greeks and Romans later learned about tanning leather from the Arabs in the Orient, and finally brought it to Europe.

Everyone knows that leather is used for shoes, bags and clothing. But did you know that there are also sealing components made from leather? Or that in days gone by the Indians made their dwellings (tepees) entirely from leather?

Leather products are incomparable in terms of their appearance and functionality. Tanned, supple leather is relatively waterproof, it's breathable, and at the same time it provides heat insulation. This singularity of leather means that leather products are very much in demand today, as they were then.

(from: Hegenauer, H., Fachkunde für Lederverarbeitende Berufe, 2001)

Care of smooth leather shoes



Preliminary cleaning

Remove the shoelaces. Brush heavy dirt off with a stiff brush (you can also use it to clean the sole and the welt). Remove the dust with a damp cotton cloth.

Applying the shoe care product

Apply a thin layer of shoe care product with the applicator brush and rub it in with circular movements. Similarly, it is advisable to rub the care product into the edges of the sole as well as the outside of the heel using a special brush for applying cream to the sole.

WATCH OUT! Now the care product must soak into the leather. Ideally you should leave the shoes overnight.

Polishing the leather

Polish the leather with a horsehair brush using quick movements and without applying a lot of pressure. The heat produced by this gives the shoe cream an optimal consistency and a light protective film is formed. Finally, to get the best possible shine, you can give the shoe a fine polish with a goats hair brush.



Care of suede leather shoes

Preliminary cleaning

Remove the shoelaces. Brush the shoe with a nylon or brass wire brush (for velour leather) or with a crepe-surfaced brush (for nubuck leather).

Cleaning

Use an appropriate cleaning agent for cleaning the suede leather shoe. Rub this in with a suede leather brush. If the shoes are very dirty, you can also clean them with a suitable cleaning agent and a brush under running water. Then, let the shoes dry off.

WATCH OUT! Never place leather shoes to dry on a radiator or heater.

Care

After cleaning, apply a care product for suede leather in order on the one hand to look after the leather, and on the other hand to freshen up the colour of the leather.

Waterproofing

Waterproof your shoes after you have cleaned them. This protects the shoe from water and dirt.

Finally, roughen up the leather again with the rubber head of the suede leather brush or with a crepe brush.

A TIP! Brush the shoes each time you have worn them in order to prevent greying.

Care of textile shoes

Waterproofing

Waterproof the shoes before you first wear them with a special textile protective spray so that the shoes will look well-kept for a long time.

Cleaning

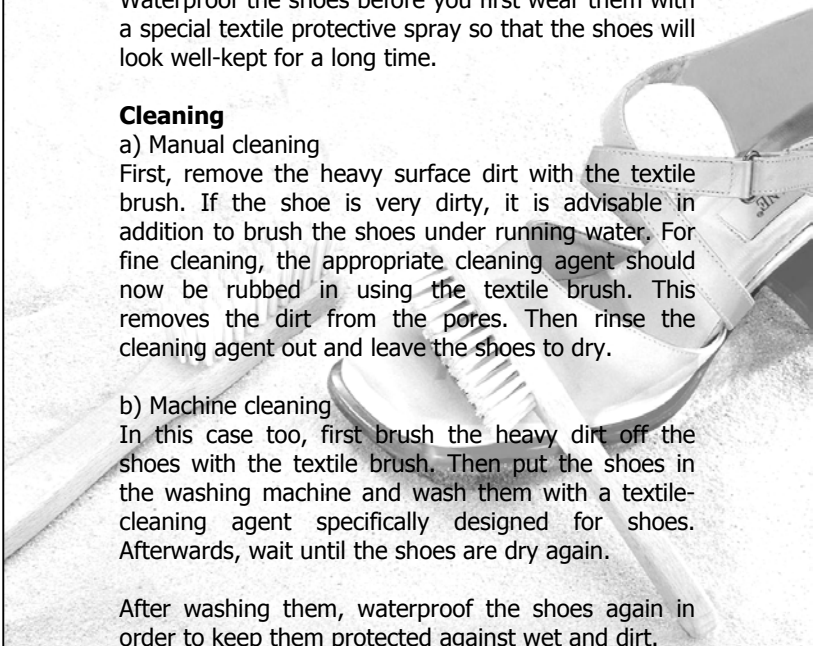
a) Manual cleaning

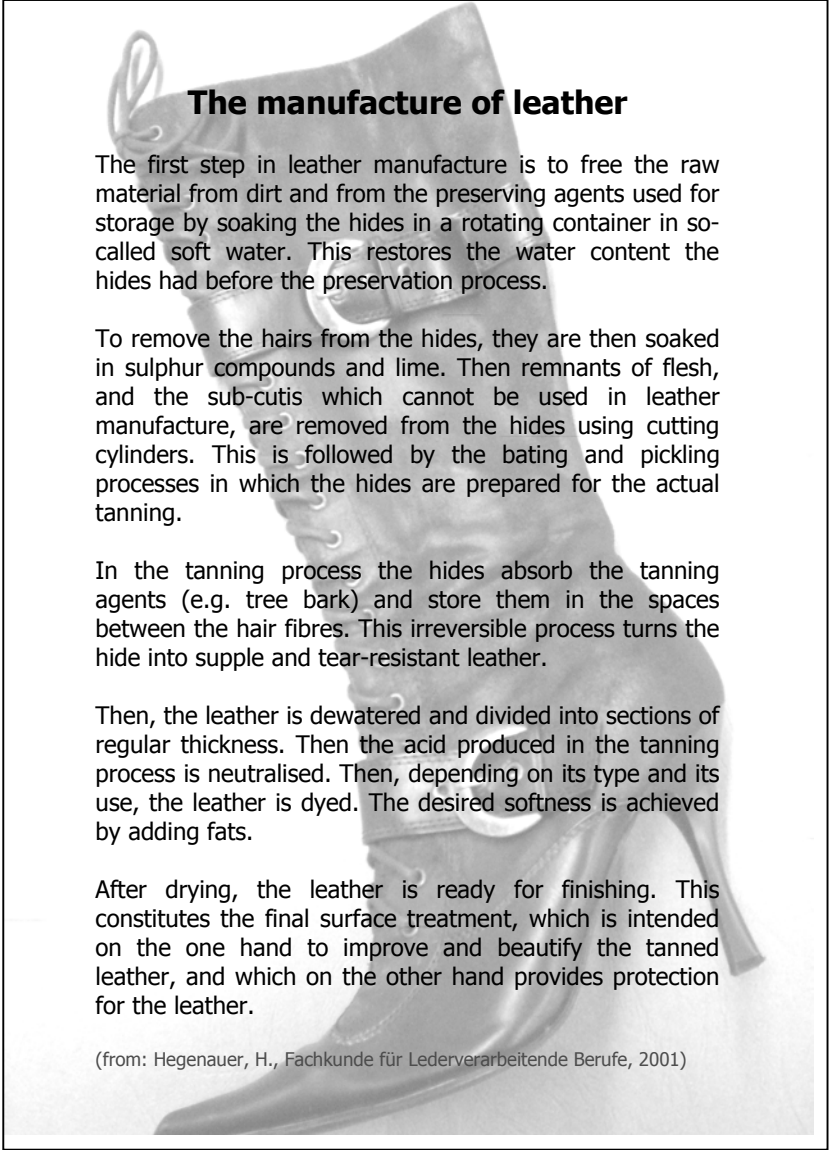
First, remove the heavy surface dirt with the textile brush. If the shoe is very dirty, it is advisable in addition to brush the shoes under running water. For fine cleaning, the appropriate cleaning agent should now be rubbed in using the textile brush. This removes the dirt from the pores. Then rinse the cleaning agent out and leave the shoes to dry.

b) Machine cleaning

In this case too, first brush the heavy dirt off the shoes with the textile brush. Then put the shoes in the washing machine and wash them with a textile-cleaning agent specifically designed for shoes. Afterwards, wait until the shoes are dry again.

After washing them, waterproof the shoes again in order to keep them protected against wet and dirt.





The manufacture of leather

The first step in leather manufacture is to free the raw material from dirt and from the preserving agents used for storage by soaking the hides in a rotating container in so-called soft water. This restores the water content the hides had before the preservation process.

To remove the hairs from the hides, they are then soaked in sulphur compounds and lime. Then remnants of flesh, and the sub-cutis which cannot be used in leather manufacture, are removed from the hides using cutting cylinders. This is followed by the bating and pickling processes in which the hides are prepared for the actual tanning.

In the tanning process the hides absorb the tanning agents (e.g. tree bark) and store them in the spaces between the hair fibres. This irreversible process turns the hide into supple and tear-resistant leather.

Then, the leather is dewatered and divided into sections of regular thickness. Then the acid produced in the tanning process is neutralised. Then, depending on its type and its use, the leather is dyed. The desired softness is achieved by adding fats.

After drying, the leather is ready for finishing. This constitutes the final surface treatment, which is intended on the one hand to improve and beautify the tanned leather, and which on the other hand provides protection for the leather.

(from: Hegenauer, H., Fachkunde für Lederverarbeitende Berufe, 2001)

Shoe tips

Tip for	Tip
Polishing	For final polishing of your smooth leather shoes, use a polishing brush for optimal shine.
Rest days for leather shoes	Leather shoes should only be worn every other day so that they have time to dry. On the rest days, insert wooden shoe trees.
Shoe horns	Use shoe horns! This saves the heels of the shoes and prevents premature ageing.
Shoe trees	These ensure the shoes maintain their shape during storage, and in addition, they reduce the load on the base of the shoe and prevent creases caused by wear from forming. Wooden shoe trees also absorb the moisture from the shoe.
Storage	Store your shoes in a dry environment, e.g. in a shoebox, but never in a plastic bag. Also, don't put your leather shoes by or near a radiator or heater. This can pull the leather out of shape and make it cracked and/or brittle.

Professional tips for removing stains

Type of stain	Stain treatment
Biro on suede leather	Stick adhesive tape onto the stain, scratch it well with a finger nail and yank the strip off, afterwards freshen the leather up with a suede leather brush.
Blood	Wash out with cold water and soap.
Chewing gum/ glue	Freeze, and then rub off with a nylon brush (for smooth leather) or a brass brush (for suede leather).
Fat stains	Treat with a standard household washing up liquid.
Red wine stains	Soak a micro-fibre cloth in lemon juice and rub the juice in.
Salt marks	Rub in lukewarm soapy water with a shoe cream brush, then rinse off with water.
Sweat marks	Treat from the outside with a leather soap, then use lemon juice to protect it from getting dirty again.
Sugary stains	Wash off with lukewarm water.
Then always treat the shoe with the appropriate shoe care product!	