

YOU PAID TOO MUCH TO NOT CARE!

CARE OF LEATHER AND SUEDE COATS AND ACCESSORIES

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If you are longing for a leather garment or accessory, don't let your eagerness run away with you until you consider whether you can afford such a luxury. Very often leather items live either an expensive life or a short one, even though leather is one of the most durable and long-lasting of to-day's fashion materials.

Water and dirt ruin more leather than ordinary use and wear, so when you have made your investment in leather clothing, shoes, boots, or a handbag, take good care of your purchase in order to maintain its smart appearance.

Always wear a scarf at the neck of a leather coat or jacket to protect it from body oils, hair preparations, and makeup. Use dress or coat shields to protect underarm areas. To prevent buttons from pulling away, it is a good idea to open a jacket or coat when you are sitting for a long time.

Because leather scratches and suede rubs, avoid sharp objects (check your car seat belts, long fingernails, and underarm parcels.) Also avoid putting heavy items in pockets; this causes the garment to twist out of shape and line. Sharp objects in pockets could rip the material.

Use commercial leather or suede protector to help prevent stains from permeating the material. On leather boots a silicone spray or compound will help keep moisture out but it will not make them waterproof.

Treat leather garments as you would high quality cloth ones. Hang them on thick, padded or shaped, non-metal hangers. Let the clothes hang freely between wearings so air can circulate around them.

Revitalize your leathers with a monthly steaming over the bathtub. This acts much like a facial to open the pores of the skin and lift out the soil. Wipe off any surface soil after the steaming with a soft, clean, cotton cloth. An added benefit of the steaming is that it helps to retain the shape of the garment and remove wrinkles.

Spots and light stains on leather can often be removed with an art-gum eraser or chalk cleaner. Suedes can be brushed with a dry rubber sponge or bristle (not wire) brush.



MARBURG WI, NORFOLK SOUTH DISTRICT, celebrated their 60th Anniversary when special honors were bestowed. L-r, Eileen Wright, President presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Charter Member, Ada Ryerse, and Life Memberships to Helen Castles and Marjorie Porter.

Try to resist dabbing with cleaning fluids, spot removers, shoe creams, soap and water as many garments have surface finishes that lift with cleaning and rubbing.

If you get caught in the rain or snow, blot up as much moisture as you can with a soft terry towel, then let coats or boots dry slowly at room temperature, away from hot air registers that tend to dry out the leather. Stuff boots and shoes with soft tissue to speed drying and help retain their shape. Wipe salt stains on boots with a cloth dipped in a half vinegar/half water solution. Brush suedes only after they are dry with a bristle brush or terry towel to bring up the nap.

Most wrinkles in a leather garment will hang out if left in a moist area overnight, however, it is possible to press leather successfully if you are careful. With an iron on the "rayon" setting (don't use steam!) and heavy wrapping paper as a pressing cloth, press from the right side using light, quick strokes to avoid overheating and shine.

Don't let garments become over-soiled before cleaning them. Professional cleaners are able to remove most stains but it helps if you can identify them.

Choose your dry cleaner carefully. Professional leather cleaning and refinishing are quite different from regular dry cleaning and require special equipment which most dry cleaners do not have. Because leather can be ruined if handled improperly, it is a good idea to use leather processors or only dry cleaners you know are experienced in handling leather.

Color loss can be a problem (even in quality garments). Both suede and leather fade and dye may rub off with wear. Check for depth of color loss by looking under the collar or pocket flap. Cleaners can reoil and redye after cleaning, but sometimes there is difficulty in matching dye colors exactly to the original (especially with imports). When arranging for cleaning, send all matching pieces together to make color matching easier.

Leather articles should be stored where it is neither too hot, too damp, nor too dry. (This rules out most basement and attic storage areas). Garments, shoes, and handbags need to "breathe" so do not store them in plastic covers. Instead, use old pillow cases or cotton garment bags. And be sure garments are clean before storing.

Leather is the oldest of clothing materials. With proper care and maintenance you can get many seasons of enjoyable wear from it.

HALTON REGIONAL MUSEUM

The members of the **NASSAGAWEYA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, HALTON DISTRICT**, combined a visit to the Halton Regional Museum with an enjoyable tour and tea. The manicured grounds, well displayed exhibits and beautifully maintained buildings proved a treat to explore. It was especially exciting to learn of Nassagaweya in yesteryear.

Homefest will be included in a later program for Nassagaweya WI. The purpose of the Homefest will be to share with the community the varied goals of the Women's Institute and the many exciting projects the Institute has been involved in over the past years. Craft, plant and white elephant tables will be included, as well as displays by local artisans.