

Leatherique

TOTAL RESTORATION CLEANING RESTORING & RE-DYEING

Leatherique uses all natural products and is excellent for rejuvenating, re-moisturising and cleaning of good quality leather and will work in 99.9% of cases (Please see the exceptions below). Rejuvenating / Cleaning your leather is an easy process, but please carefully read these directions before beginning application. We recommend doing a test sample first. Use protective gloves for sensitive skin.

STEP 1: BASIC LEATHER CONDITIONING / CLEANING

Do not miss this step as reconditioning, cleaning and proper leather care will make your upholstery feel clean and supple.

You will need: Leatherique Rejuvenator, Prestine Clean, Clean terry towels.

Apply Leatherique Rejuvenator liberally to all leather surfaces with a brush, spray bottle or soft sponge. Massage the leather with your hands to work the nutrients in. (Wear gloves, if you have sensitive skin). If working on a vehicle, leave it for at least 24 hours in a warm area. Alternatively, cover the seats with plastic garbage bags in the garage and 'warm' with a hair dryer. You want the leather to sweat. Do not leave office or home furniture in the sun. This process may need to be repeated a few times until the leather is supple, depending on how dry the leather is. The surface may become tacky, have a salty look or have a slight haze. This is the dirt and grit coming out of the pores.

Apply Prestine Clean (a trigger spray bottle is ideal), then wipe off with a damp soft lint free cloth, sponge or terry towels. Rinse the cloth in warm water, wring dry and wipe again. For tough dirt or vinyl or vinyl tops, brush the cleaner into the grain of the leather with a soft bath brush or tooth- brush. Let stand for a few minutes.

Repeat the whole process to get the best results.

After all dirt has been removed buff with a clean dry towel.

Wait 48 hours before proceeding to next step to allow the Leatherique Rejuvenator to fully penetrate.

N.B. If your leather is cardboard hard or if your leather is sun damaged and is going to need re-dyeing, skip to the sanding step after one application of Rejuvenator and remove as much of the hardened dye as possible with wet sanding and prepping. Then apply more Leatherique Rejuvenator on to the leather. Repeat until the leather stops soaking it in. Do not forget to clean it off with a damp cloth and Prestine Clean.

NOTE: We have found that in most cases it needs at least two applications for the best results. The first to remove accumulated cleaners and oils already ingrained in the leather and the second allows the Rejuvenator to really start to work, softening and restoring the hide.

STEP 2: PREPPING YOUR LEATHER SURFACE (Prior to dyeing)

If doing a colour change, remove as much of the old dye as possible without damaging the leather. General purpose thinners could be used here.

You will need: Prepping Agent, Fine grit (600) wet and dry sand paper (you may also need some 1500 grit for finishing - pot scourers also work), a clean glass or plastic container, (a trigger sprayer works well). Paper towels / soft cloths.

Pour some Prepping Agent into the container. Using 600 grit, lightly wet sand the leather (with Prepping Agent) to smooth out any cracks and hang nails in the surface. Remove as much of the old leather dye as you can without creating suede. (Leather is harder than you think). Wipe the surface with soft rags or paper towels to remove as much of the faded or oxidized old leather dye as possible.

N.B. Do not attempt to re-dye over damaged dye. Be sure all the old dye is broken down, and all previous treatments such as silicone, wax or oil products are removed. You need to get the leather looking as even as possible across the entire surface before applying new dye.

TO REPAIR CRACKS

If you are filling cracks with LEATHERIQUE CRACK FILLER, this is the time to do that step. Mix a little dye (drops) to the Crack Filler to offset the white and stir well (adding some dye saves multiple coats of dye to hide it). Apply Leatherique Crack Filler into the cracks, not near the grain. Allow drying time of 20 minutes, refilling as necessary. You may need to do this a few times to bring the gap level with the leather surface. Sometimes on large cracked areas a wet cloth with crack filler works well. Flat sand any excess crack filler off, leaving a flat surface.

TO REPAIR TEARS IN THE LEATHER

For tears in the leather a mechanical repair will be necessary. Insert a patch (a piece of canvas or leather, larger than the hole, fuzzy sides together), carefully into the hole, underneath the tear. With a toothpick, spread a small amount of craft or leather glue into the hole and press to adhere. A temporary stitch or pins help. Allow to dry. Fill remaining scars with layers of the crack filler. Re-sand the leather flat as necessary with 600 grit for a smooth flawless finish. Allow the project to sit overnight or for about 6 hours to allow the Prepping Agent and crack filler to dry.

STEP 3: RE -DYEING YOUR LEATHER

Shake the bottle well to dislodge sediment that has settled to loosen the marble., once loose continue to shake until an even colour is achieved.

You will need: Leatherique Dye (standard or custom matched), top quality synthetic / acrylic type brushes (very small for cracks and piping and wider brushes for larger areas), soft cloth or sponge. A dirt free environment, preferably indoors.

Pour all the dye into a suitable container (Tupperware type with lid). Stir well, as pigments settle quickly. To get an even dye colour, it must be mixed well and frequently re-mixed during the dyeing process. **DO NOT USE OUT OF THE BOTTLE.**

If the dye is too thick, or dries too quickly, to avoid a heavy build up of colour, stir in small quantity of water (no more than 10%) to reach workable consistency. Temperatures ideally should be 20c to 25c degrees, low humidity. It is normal that the colour may appear more vibrant (wet colour is brighter than dry) than the faded hue you have become accustomed to.

If the dye is applied too thickly you will get a plastic look finish. You are not painting but applying a dye, so multiple thin coats are better than one thick one. See "Wet Wipe Coats" below.

A plastic, sticky finish is dye applied too thickly. Remove with general purpose thinners and re dye.

Begin with the seams, piping and edges and allow them to dry. (Usually by the time you are done, they are dry). Then proceed with broader areas. Apply several very thin coats, brushing in all directions rather than back and forth Do not stop in the middle of a panel, applying dye to the end of each panel will reward with a professional job.

Allow each piece to dry thoroughly (approximately 1 hour) and apply second or third coats as necessary.

If doing a COLOUR CHANGE, multiple thin coats may be necessary. Don't expect full coverage in the first coats.

If you have dry brush marks lightly sand with 1200 paper or as a good final coat try a "Wet Wipe Coat" (see below).

Clean brushes and all equipment immediately with soap and water.

Wet Wipe (recommended)

Use a good quality paper towel or soft cloth or sponge, Dip it in water and wring dry. Make it into a powder puff with no edges. Stir the dye and then dip the cloth and wipe it on with a quick motion like putting on a wax (in some cases you need to stir before each dip, as some pigments sit on top). Try wiping in small circles. Keep applying coats as each one dries until you have the desired finish. If you have a light coloured dye and are getting streaking, try dabbing very lightly with a dry cloth while the dye is wet. We've used a combination of a dip in water and wipe and then dry wipe.

Light stokes are best and don't apply too thickly. Also, try pouring some dye into a separate container and water it down for final coats.

LEATHER RE-DYE WITH A SPRAY GUN / AIR BRUSH

Thin the Leatherique Leather Dye between 10-20 % with water, or to your equipment specifications. Set your equipment for a fine, almost dry mist coat. Spray 2—3 fine, dry mist coats continue to shake the gun to maintain the pigment mix (allow to dry 1/2-1 hr.) between coats. **DO NOT APPLY TOO HEAVILY, ITS DYE NOT PAINT.** Clean your equipment with soap and hot water.

STEP 4: FINAL STEP

Allow the project to remain untouched for 48 hours, as the dye will be fragile.

Then with a very soft lint free cloth, you may buff the leather surface to a natural lustre and remove excess pigment.

If you have any brush strokes or imperfections, they can be buffed out with fine 1500 grit dry sandpaper.

If the leather feels sticky, applied too thickly, you can apply a thin film of Carnauba wax. (Mother's Liquid carnauba wax works well)

Warning notes.

Always do a trial test patch with both products Rejuvenator and Prestine Clean to ensure your leather dye is good! Some used car seats have been painted by Spot Repairers, using acrylic paint. Prestine Clean will remove this paint. Many of the pre-war cars used vegetable dyes which were not colour fast.

Some Japanese cars have a barrier coat which stops Leatherique products working. If you are not sure about anything, please phone.

Restorite UK are official distributors of Leatherique products for the UK.

Restorite UK
Trademark House
Ramshill
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU31 4AT

Tel: 07854 959217
Email: sales@restorite.co.uk
Web: www.restorite.co.uk

