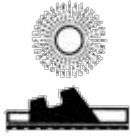


How do I care for my Birkenstock?



Avoid extreme heat: Both the cork and the soles of Birkenstock footwear can be damaged by exposure to concentrated heat. **Do not leave your shoes in a closed car on warm days and keep them away from radiators and fireplaces.** This is also important for the EVA/Essentials styles. Damage due to excess heat is not considered a defect.



Sealing the cork: The Birkenstock cork footbeds come with a light coating of cork sealant which prevents them from drying out. When the cork no longer looks shiny, you should apply a thin coat of cork sealant to the footbed. For most people, a couple times a year is often enough. You may purchase the sealer or, if you are in our area, we will do this for you and there is no charge. (You will need to leave them with us for at least 3 days.)



Cleaning the Footbed: Loose material can be removed from the suede liner by using a small brush. More stubborn deposits may require scraping with a dull knife or the use of a suede cleaner. Birkenstock produces a special footbed cleaner for its cork footbeds which should only be necessary for tough cleaning jobs. If you use water during the cleaning (or if your Birkenstocks get wet for any reason) allow them to dry gently. Do not apply high heat.

Cleaning the Uppers: Before wearing your new shoes, we recommend applying a water and stain protector to all suede, nubuck and leather uppers as well as after each cleaning. Suede uppers can be cleaned with a soft brush. Birkenstock suede cleaner can be used to remove stubborn dirt. Clean and revive nubuck leather with a nubuck block. For cleaning smooth leather, simply use a soft dry cloth. If your oiled leather sandals look dry, you can rub on a conditioner to refresh the finish and help keep the leather soft. Leather cream may be applied to polished leathers to restore color. Wipe Birko-Flor, Birkibuck and other synthetic uppers clean with a damp cloth.



Replace worn soles

Prolong the life of your cork sandals with heel and toe repairs. If your soles tend to wear unevenly, repair them promptly to ensure that your feet will remain correctly balanced. This should be done when the soles have been worn down to about 1/4 inch. When the soles are worn more than this, the entire sole can be replaced.