



LEATHER UPHOLSTERY

Basic Cleaning of Aniline Leather

INTRODUCTION

An Aniline leather will have a varied hue, will be soft, will scratch readily with a fingernail, will darken when **Strong Cleaner** is applied, and will dry clear after **Protection Cream** has been applied and dried. Stains will often not be totally removed, and the lighter the color, the more they will show. Be sure to look for fading as that happens easily. Evaluate the dryness of the leather, as an extra step is often needed to restore the feel of the leather after cleaning.

PROCEDURE

- **STEP 1**
Clean an inconspicuous panel of leather, usually the side of the cushion. Apply **Strong Cleaner** to a sponge and squeeze repeatedly to create foam. Rub onto the panel of leather in a circular motion. Look at your sponge to see if the color of the leather came off on the sponge. If no color is seen, then proceed with the cleaning (if transfer of color occurs, then more advanced training and procedures may be required). Wipe off dirt with **Terry Cloth Towel** and dry panel with **Hair Dryer**.
- **STEP 2**
Continue cleaning from panel to panel, drying each panel as you go with **Hair Dryer** or **Air King**. After entire sofa is cleaned, inspect for areas that may need further attention, and re-treat.
- **STEP 3**
Apply **Protection Cream** after furniture is cleaned. Dry each panel with a **Hair Dryer** as you protect it.
- **STEP 4**
For dry leather found in your pre-inspection, apply **Leather Vital** and let it dry naturally overnight. **Leather Vital** will revitalize the feel and touch of the leather by returning moisture back into the leather that has been lost over time.

Chemicals Needed



Strong Cleaner
Type: Water-based leather cleaner
Highlights: Removes soil and oil buildup on leather.



Protection Cream
Type: Water-based leather protector
Highlights: Protects against oil-water-alcohol based stains and other soiling.



Leather Vital
Type: Revitalizant
Highlights: Softens and nourishes leather.



Leather Specialist Kit
Contents: All the leather products you will use most
Highlights: Comes in a heavy-duty tool box.



Leather Degreaser
Type: Aerosol leather degreaser
Highlights: Dissolves oily stains.

Chemicals Needed



Sponges
Description: Absorbent material
Purpose: Used with **Strong Cleaner** to create foam for cleaning leather. Aids in agitation and soil absorption.



Soft Cloth
Description: Lint-free cloth
Purpose: Used for applying all creams, finishes, colors, and some spotters.



Terry Cloth Towels
Description: 15"x26" Absorbent terry cloth
Purpose: Removes chemical and soil during leather cleaning.



Hair Dryer
Description: Drying tool
Purpose: Aids in the rapid drying of leather and curing of protector.



Air King
Description: High volume air mover
Purpose: Aids in rapid drying of leather after cleaning.

QuickGuide



PROCEDURE

- 1 Pre-inspect and clean an inconspicuous panel with **Strong Cleaner**.
- 2 Clean and dry each panel as you go.
- 3 Apply **Protection Cream** and dry each panel as you go.
- 4 Apply **Leather Vital** to dry leathers and let dry overnight.

HELPFUL HINTS –



1. Restorative cleaning may be necessary, due to a collection of oil and food stains, partial fading, ink marks, and a deterioration of the original finish on the leather. Aniline leather does not have a polyurethane finish, but may have either a nitro-cellulose, wax, or micro-pigmented surface, which will need to be restored (You can learn these procedures in the Leather Specialist Class).
2. Many pieces may have heavy oils in arm and head rests that do not come out in normal cleaning. An application of **Soft Remover** and **Leather Degreaser** may be necessary to remove these oils.

CAUTION – Aniline leathers with no finish at all will use more product to clean/protect and are often described as naked hides.

