

LEATHER INFORMATION FOR PROPER CARE & MAINTENANCE

In 2007, Europe told the tanning industry that they would not accept any leather into their country if they did not change the type of chemicals they were using to process leather. They wanted the hardener that was used before 2007 to be changed because they felt it would cause cancer. They gave the industry until 2011 to get this completed. Before 2011, you didn't have to do much to leather to maintain it. The harder used to seal the color was almost impossible to break down.

After 2011, the tannery changed the chemical composition of the hardener. This change means that the hardener is not as strong as before 2011. With this, today we are finding that body oils and medications are so strong that the hardener/sealer on the leather doesn't hold up against it. It breaks down the sealer/finish and exposes the color. The color then starts to rub off leaving a discolored spot usually in the head and/or hand areas. This usually happens within 1-2 years of purchase. If it happens before 1 year it is usually due to medications.

The solution is that it's important to clean the leather today. I recommend every 3-4 months to stay ahead of the medications and body oils that we all leave behind when sitting on leather. If a customer is aware of the need to clean, it can prevent future problems. Once the problem has occurred, the customer will need to clean and restore the color. Then start the 3-4-month maintenance program.