



LEATHER PROTECTOR AND SOILS

LEATHER PROTECTION is an essential element in leather care. Although it acts in some ways as a 'conditioner or feed' (by helping to balance the moisture level in the hide) it does not add oils, waxes or silicones. Its primary purpose is to form a barrier between the leather finish surface and any soils that may settle on it.

Dirt can be in several forms: -

Dry soils consist of dust and microscopic particles. These act in a similar way to fine sandpaper on the leather finish, when subject to friction (being sat on!).

Sticky residues may be airborne. Fats and oils or similar things transferred from clothing or spills not properly cleaned up. If they are not damaging in themselves they act as a glue to dry soils that may come into contact with the surface and hold them there making the 'sandpaper' effect more destructive, and dusting or wiping less effective as a cleaning process.

Body oils – heads and hands (or any bare skin) are the main culprits but body oils will also migrate through clothing and because of the porous nature, even of finished leathers, will tend to sink into the surface quickly. Of all the 'dirt', they can be the most damaging because the acids in the body oils will have a destructive action on leather and leather finishes, causing pigments to break down over time and causing stains on aniline style (absorbent) leathers.

Dye transfer (and ink) although technically not dirt, both of these cause very difficult problems to resolve and need treating as soon as they become apparent. Delay can make them very difficult/impossible to remove.

LEATHER PROTECTOR can reduce or eliminate the destructive effect of all the above 'dirts'. LTT Leather Protectors are a fluoro-chemical formulation in a water base. On application the water base will either soak into the leather ('conditioning' it) or evaporate and leave a porous residue on the surface. This layer does not alter the leather finish in any way but acts as a very effective barrier against

dirt. But on its own it is not enough. The dirt will remain on the surface and still has to be cleaned off. Because Leather Protect is porous (this property is necessary to allow the leather to breathe) dirt will still be absorbed into it but over a longer period of time so regular maintenance cleaning will help to keep your leather in the best condition. These two easy steps eliminate the need for 'conditioning' products which (if they contain oils, waxes or silicones) may be detrimental to the finish on the leather.

Although the product and procedures to clean and protect all finished leathers (this excludes nubuck and suede) are the same, not all leather requires the same amount of treatment. Sensitive leathers, those that absorb moisture easily and surface mark, will need less cleaning but more protecting. Pigment coated leathers need more thorough cleaning but less protecting. Pale pigment leathers will require more protecting and cleaning than dark leather but dark leathers should be cleaned regularly and protected even though they don't look dirty. Prevention is better than repair.

Recommended products:

For Car Interiors

Auto Ultra Protect

[http://www.leatherclinic.co.uk/product.asp?product=Auto%20Ultra%20Protect%20%20\(T\)](http://www.leatherclinic.co.uk/product.asp?product=Auto%20Ultra%20Protect%20%20(T))

For Aniline Style Leather
and pale coloured pigment leather

Ultra Protect

<http://www.leatherclinic.co.uk/subcategory.asp?category=4>

For Pigment Coated Leather

Leather Protect

<http://www.leatherclinic.co.uk/product.asp?product=LEATHER%20PROTECT>

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