

## NAKED LEATHER

### WHAT IS NAKED LEATHER?

Naked leathers are dyed skins with no topical finishes such as those used on dressed or painted leather. These fabrics are also suppler than painted or dressed leather, which is partly why naked leathers are so widely used.

### SERVICEABILITY

Naked leather is extremely hard to care for because it is so porous. It is easily stained by both water and solvent-based spills that will often leave darkened areas. These darkened areas can be difficult to remove without changing the appearance of the surrounding leather.

Oil-based stains tend to be the most troublesome. Leather is oleophilic (oil loving) and removing these stains can be both difficult and detrimental. The reason for this is that certain oils are necessary to keep leather supple. Removing unwanted oils can often result in the removal of necessary oils, thus drying the leather to a weakened state.

Water-based spills can penetrate quickly and need to be blotted as quickly as possible to prevent wicking, thus minimizing the affected area.

Ink is extremely difficult to remove and in many cases simply cannot be removed without damage to the dye or skin itself. Extra precautions should be considered in order to avoid ink stains.

### CRACKING

Naked leathers are not prone to the cracking associated with painted leathers, although environmental conditions can lead to cracking. Hot, dry conditions will cause the oils to dissipate more rapidly than normal. As mentioned above, the loss of these necessary oils can often lead to the weakening of the leather and ultimately to cracking.

A good maintenance program will go a long way toward extending the useful life of naked leather.

Below is an example of typical naked leather. Note: Because dyes are used naked leather can come in any color.



### MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

To keep naked leather at its peak condition, it needs to be put on a maintenance schedule. Naked leather receiving light to moderate use would need to be cleaned approximately every six months.

This would include an initial vacuuming and general removal of dry soils, lint and/or foodstuffs that may have accumulated. A dry terry towel, bone spatula and an extractor with upholstery and crevice attachments are needed to perform this initial cleaning.

Any further cleaning of water or oil-based stains may need to be done by a leather expert and should not be attempted by the novice.

Further conditioning should be done on an as-needed basis. Again, only a leather expert should attempt to work on a naked leather as it can be quite difficult to condition naked leather without causing too much of a shade change. (Note: Lexol Conditioner should NOT be used on naked leather as it can darken the leather too much.)

It may be necessary to subcontract a leather expert who is proficient at working with naked leathers.

## **PROTECTIVE TREATMENT A MUST**

Treatments will help reduce the negative effects of spills, although they will not eliminate the problems entirely. Spotting and overall cleaning are made easier when naked leather has a protective finish. When spills do not penetrate as quickly, the client has more time to take action.

## **ON THE BRIGHT SIDE**

Naked leather is quite durable and will last for many years. When this durability is combined with the Fiber-Seal Fabric Care System, naked leather will look its best for years to come.

**AS WITH ALL FABRICS AND FINISHES...  
ALWAYS TEST CHEMICALS AND/OR  
PROCEDURES FIRST IN AN  
INCONSPICUOUS AREA OF THE  
FABRIC.**