

Leather FORECAST

Meet our logical approach to testing a selection of leather cleaners. Jody Vaughan reckons the outlook is good

NEXT MONTH
On an even keel: we test a selection of spirit levels

1. HG Hagesan 4 in 1 for Leather

Designed to treat lighter soils (HG also offers a product suitable for deeper cleaning), this cleans, nourishes, softens and prevents the leather from drying out. After application, it leaves a non-sticky, invisible layer that is not only perspiration resistant but allows ballpoint pen and other similar marks to be easily removed. It doesn't smell particularly pleasant, but if you are after an all-encompassing product, then this is a great choice. To keep leather in the best condition possible, it is recommended that you treat it with this product every two or three months.

STAIN RESISTANT FINISH

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £7.94
Size: 250ml
Contact: 01733 241960, homecareessentials.co.uk

2. Meguiar's Gold Class Rich Leather Cleaner and Conditioner

Popular with classic car enthusiasts in particular, Meguiar's all-in-one cleaner and conditioner does the job with no mess and little need for elbow grease. The company does produce individual cleaners and conditioners, but this single pump-action bottle is so easy to use – simply apply the creamy liquid onto the leather and then wipe off with a cloth. It has UV protection which helps prevent the leather ageing or fading, and it can be used on perforated, cracked or stitched surfaces.

EASY TO USE

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £9.99
Size: 400ml
Contact: 0870 241 6696, meguiars.co.uk

3. Gliptone Liquid Leather Cleaner and Liquid Leather Conditioner

Although best used regularly on lightly-soiled leather, this cleaner did a pretty good job on my filthy test chair. It's very easy to use – simply spray and leave for 20 seconds before rubbing off with either a cloth or a nail brush (for heavier stains). The accompanying bottle of cream conditioner then soaks quickly into the treated material, giving a soft finish.

SOFT FINISH

AT A GLANCE

RRP: cleaner £11.35; conditioner £8
Sizes: cleaner 500ml; conditioner 250ml
Contact: 01706 819365, liquidleather.com

4. Renapur Leather Balsam

Although it didn't effectively clean my very ingrained test chair (for that I would need Renapur's pre-treatment leather cleaner), this is another favourite product with 'those in the know'. It has a non-abrasive natural finish that nourishes, conditions and restores leather and is ideal if you're just sprucing up primarily clean surfaces. It has waterproof properties, is said to extend any leather's lifespan and is guaranteed not to dry out for five years – even if you leave the lid off. It may not have been the best performer in this tough test, but this is the pot that I keep in my cupboard at home and, take it from me, a little goes a long way.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £5.99 (50ml)
Size: 50ml (travel pot) to 1-litre (bucket)
Contact: 0800 993 0130, renapur.com

5. Autoglym Leather Cleaner and Leather Care Balm

Just spray the liquid cleaner on and, for heavy soils, leave for up to two minutes. Then wipe dry and you've a remarkably clean patch of leather. It smells fresh and has a neutral pH formula that doesn't remove the leather's essential oils. The accompanying balm gently refreshes the material with its soap, natural oil and polymeric surface-proofing agents that Autoglym claims nourish and moisturise.

VERY EFFECTIVE

AT A GLANCE

RRP: cleaner £6.25; balm, £9.99
Sizes: both 500ml
Contact: 01462 677766, autoglym.com

6. Tableau Leather Cleaner

Containing lanolin, coconut oil and sorbitol, this cleaner gently lifts dirt and grime while, at the same time, moisturises. Easy to use, you simply apply it, leave it for 30 seconds and then buff. A word of warning though, it is water based and is very runny. It might not clean quite as well as others here, but it is particularly kind on your pocket. Like all the others here, this product should not be used on suede.

GOOD VALUE

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £5.95
Size: 500ml
Contact: 01733 241960, homecareessentials.co.uk

