



Laundering of Leather Gloves

Commercial dry cleaning is an acceptable cost effective method to re-using most all leather work gloves. Some differences in shrinkage, hardening, weight loss, and color retention may occur due to the dry cleaning process or chemicals used.

Leather work gloves with fabric backs and cuffs are suggested to be laundered as follows:

- Dry cleaning is to be done in front loading, commercial washers/extractors. Different solvents and chemicals may be used such as mineral spirits, petroleum solvents, and dry cleaning detergents. Then number of cleaning cycles and times depend on how soiled the glove is:
 - For **lightly** soiled gloves: Wash in petroleum solvents and detergents up to 10 minutes.
 - For **heavy** soiled gloves: Wash in two or three rinse cycles. First cycle should run 5 to 10 minutes; second and third cycles should run 10 minutes.
- Washing is done with chemicals at room temperature. No heat is needed. All chemicals are to be removed after each cycle. Chemicals can be filtered and re-used. All distilled chemicals are to be destroyed after use per E.P.A. regulations.
- To dry gloves: Extractors are to be set at 110 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit and should run for 4 to 6 minutes.
- To remove stiffness in leather, gloves can be air-dried in a tumbler with $\frac{3}{4}$ " hard rubber balls to soften the leather for up to 30 minutes at temperatures of 110 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Do not use any chlorine or bleach cleaning compound.

The number of cleaning cycles a glove can withstand depends on the grade and quality of leather and the quality of glove fabrics. Some elastic materials used in glove cuffs may harden and become brittle due to chemical effects and heat. Gloves with duck fabric/backings are most acceptable to laundering. The thickness and grade of leather determines the durability of a glove both in use and in laundering.