



## Leather Characteristics and Care

Leather brings prestige to any interior with its special feel and aroma. In an economy where the consumer wants the most for his or her dollar, leather delivers superior value. It is important that your customer appreciate its virtues and value.

**Longevity:** With continuous use, leather upholstery outlasts fabric at least 4-to-1, and unlike fabric, leather improves with age. Leather is also resilient and resists fading, tearing and cracking. Since fabrics are woven, any change in appearance from age and use detracts from their beauty. Leather, on the other hand, adjusts to its environment. It mellows gracefully with age and develops a “patina”.

**Unique Style:** Leather is always in style. Surface features testify to the authenticity of natural leather. Variations across a hide – density of grain, creases and folds – are distinctive characteristics much like the grain of fine wood. Leather is not like a bolt of cloth. On a sofa, five hides may be utilized which will blend and complement, but will never be identical. Leather is available in many price ranges and styles to suit all budgets and decors.

**Worry-free Maintenance:** Leather is a very practical material. Because leather is a natural material and has been preserved in the tanning process, it requires very little maintenance to keep it supple, clean and comfortable. Stains caused by food or drink can be removed from finished leathers with ease. In fact, many spills quickly bead up and can be absorbed or wiped away.

**Temperature Control:** Leather will breathe for comfort and ventilate to adjust to the environment.

**Durability:** Leather is the most durable upholstered material and its extremely strong texture makes it difficult to scratch or scuff. Leather won't stretch out of shape.

**Health Benefits:** Leather is lint and dust-free, making it ideal for sufferers of asthma and other allergies. Dust mites can grow wherever skin flakes can be found and it is for this reason that allergy experts recommend leather furniture for its ability to resist dust collection and can be easily wiped clean. Leather is fire resistant and emits no toxic fumes even when exposed to intense heat.

**Care & Maintenance:** Vacuum the piece now and then or wipe it off with a damp cloth. Do not place the furniture in direct sunlight and avoid placing it against a warm radiator or register. Stains that are water-soluble can be dabbed lightly and absorbed with a clean natural sponge or paper towel. Use cool water and mild soap such as Ivory if cleaning is required. Do not rub. A grease stain such as butter can be left alone after the surplus has been wiped off with a dry cloth. The grease will eventually vanish into the leather. Never attempt to use chemical spot cleaners. For severe stains or damage, consult a leather repair specialist.

**CCLI Leather R & R Cream:** This rejuvenation cream has been developed to add life to tired and faded leather. It may be used on surface scuffs, scratches, abrasions and faded areas. Apply a small amount to a clean, white cloth and lightly dab the scratch or rub onto the faded area. Be careful not to use too much as this will cause the mark to darken. Always test on a non-visible area first. Not for use on Nubuk or sueded leathers.