



Taking care of your investment enhances appearance and longevity.

by Jochen Schleese, CMS, CSFT, CSE, ©2019 Saddlefit 4 Life® All Rights Reserved

It seems like the appropriate time to remind you how to take proper care of your leather goods for many years of use and enjoyment, as many people will be gearing up for the upcoming show season. Taking time to take the proper care enhances appearance and lifespan, no matter the brand.

Saddle soaps should be used for cleansing only. Soap (usually somewhat basic in pH) and sweat (more acidic) are the two greatest enemies - impacting leather longevity and appearance if not removed. Saddle soap rids accumulated sweat and grime which, if left on, will result in the leather becoming brittle and cracking. Better just to use water rather than leave on a layer of saddle soap. A clean saddle doesn't irritate your horse's hide. Most people protect their saddles with a pad – which is easily washed. Important here is to find a detergent that won't irritate your horse's skin.

April 2019 - Saddle Maintenance

Written by by Jochen Schleese, CMS, CSFT, CSE - ©2019 Saddleft 4 Life™ All Rights Reserved
Friday, 29 March 2019 01:44



Soaps containing built-in moisturizers are beneficial only because they remove fewer natural lubricants from the leather during washing. Leather gets destroyed by unremoved soap faster because of more chemicals remaining on the surface.

Every time you clean your saddle, the soap (even glycerine) should be rinsed off and moisturizer applied, since leather is no longer alive and cannot replenish its moisture content itself.

For moisturizing, we recommend a leather cream without any cleaning ingredients. Leather oil should be used sparingly to darken the original color, and thereafter only on the saddle panel as a lubricant - the wool will soak up any excess. On the seat it soaks through into the laminated glued layers of the tree, possibly eventually causing tree breakage. (True for most english saddles which still use beechwood trees; not so much for saddles made with synthetic bases). Oil should not be used anywhere the leather comes into contact with you (breeches, gloves) as it discolors these. Oiled flaps can soften the leather, making them too flexible. If used too generously on bridles, the leather may stretch out of shape. Use only products that are meant for leather.

April 2019 - Saddle Maintenance

Written by by Jochen Schleese, CMS, CSFT, CSE - ©2019 Saddlefit 4 Life™ All Rights Reserved
Friday, 29 March 2019 01:44

