



Manufacturer of fine brushes since 1935

# BÜRSTENHAUS REDECKER



## ALL ABOUT SHOE CARE

Valuable information on footwear care



luxury shoe care set

## VALUABLE INFORMATION ON LEATHER

(Leather = animal skin preserved by tanning)

Making leather can be described as one of the oldest trades pursued by people. Even primitive humans knew that the animal skins they used as clothing could be preserved and softened with fat.

Leather products are incomparable in terms of appearance and functionality. Tanned, supple leather is relatively impermeable to water, breathable, and also offers heat insulation.

Since even footwear has become a disposable article, polishing shoes has become a virtually forgotten art today. But buying and caring for good shoes is well worth it – both for your feet and, over the longer term, for your wallet.

## HINT:

Store your shoes in a dry place (e.g. in a shoebox) but never in a plastic bag. Do not put your leather shoes on or near radiators or other sources of heat. This can cause the leather to warp, crack and become brittle.



## CARING FOR SMOOTH LEATHER SHOES

### Pre-cleaning

Remove the laces. Use a scrub brush to remove coarse dirt (you can also use the same brush to clean the sole and frame). Use a moist cotton cloth to remove dust.



### Applying the shoe polish

Apply a thin layer of shoe polish with an applicator brush and massage it in with circular strokes. Now the polish has to penetrate the leather. You should ideally allow the shoes to sit overnight.



### Polishing the leather

Polish the shoes using a polishing brush with rapid strokes and only light pressure on the leather. The heat generated during polishing optimises the consistency of the shoe polish to create a thin protective film. For maximum shine, you can finely polish the shoes with a goat hair brush as the final step.



## CARING FOR SUEDE SHOES

### Pre-cleaning

Remove the laces. Brush the shoes using a brass brush (in case of suede) or a nubuck brush (in case of nubuck leather).



### Cleaning

Use an appropriate cleaning agent to clean full-grain leather shoes. Massage it in using a brush for full-grain leather. If the shoes are very dirty, you can also clean them with a suitable rubber (e.g. the Redecker „Rubbel“) and then with a brush under running water. Allow the shoes to dry.

### Care

After cleaning, apply a care product for full-grain leather in order to protect it on the one hand and refresh the leather colour on the other hand.

### Impregnating

Impregnate your shoes after you clean them. This protects the shoes against water and dirt. Finally, roughen the leather using the suede brush.

## LEATHER PRODUCTION

In leather production, the first step is to clean dirt and preservatives applied for storage from the raw material by soaking the skins in so-called soft water. This restores the skins to the water content they had before preservation.

In order to separate hair from animal skins, they are subsequently immersed in sulphur compounds and lime. Then subcutaneous and residual tissues are removed from the skins by knife rollers. This is followed by bating and pickling, which prepares the animal skins for actual tanning.

During tanning, the skins absorb the tanning agents (for example from tree bark) into the spaces inside the skin. This irreversible process turns the animal skin into supple, tear-resistant leather.

The leather is then dewatered and split into even thicknesses. Subsequently, the acid that developed during tanning is neutralised. Then the leather is coloured depending on the type of leather and application. The desired softness is achieved by applying fats.

After drying, the leather is ready for finishing. This serves to both enhance and protect the tanned leather.



### HINT:

#### **Day of rest for leather shoes**

Leather shoes should only be worn every second day so that they have time to dry. Insert wooden shoetrees when not being worn. Also, it is best to polish shoes immediately after wearing them since the leather is warm so it absorbs the shoe polish more readily.



shoe shine brushes  
with handle



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## TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN HARMONY

The first handcrafted Redecker brushes were produced in 1935. A lot has changed since then. Today, the name Redecker stands, as it has for many years, for an ideal combination of natural quality, function, and design. It lives from our very own blend of inventiveness, sound craftsmanship, and creativity.

For further information, you may contact us by phone **+ 49 (0) 5423-9464-0** or email at **info@redecker.de**! Also visit us on the internet at **www.redecker.de**! In addition to tips and ideas, you will also find a catalogue that allows you to browse through all available Redecker products.



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