

## How To Take Care of Leather Furniture

Posted By [Michael Wilson](#) On February 4, 2012 @ 3:00 pm In [Articles](#) | [No Comments](#)

# Leather furniture can last seemingly forever, as long as you know how to take care of leather furniture.

That means about every six months, it is wise to take care of leather furniture by wiping down the leather with a leather cleaner and conditioner. That will not only remove body oils and dirt but also keep the leather soft.

But what if drinks and food are spilled on the leather? What do you do if the kids accidentally use a marker and get a swipe on the leather couch? Even worse, what happens if the leather couch gets scratched? Daily living can take a toll on furniture.

## It's got to be fixed, but you don't know how to take care of leather furniture or where to you start?

"We see a big increase in calls to repair the damage to leather furniture this time of year after holiday parties and Super Bowl parties wreak havoc with leather furniture and people decide they don't want to go through a year of looking at a problem with a leather couch," says Michael Wilson, CEO of Fibrenew.

"Clumsy guests cause damage, but the worst disasters are caused by homeowners who don't know the best ways to clean up a mess and repair a problem. "Part of our job as leather and plastics experts is to serve as a resource, helping people understand how take care of leather furniture and what problems they can handle on their own and when they need to call a professional."

## There are several types of leather, and the following tips will help you learn how take care of leather furniture.

These tips apply to all fully-finished leather which makes up 85 percent of the leather market.

### How to take care of leather furniture with ink stains:

Your nephew, tries out his new marker set by drawing Spongebob on your leather couch. You become a crabby Patty and scramble to clean it up.

- **DON'T** use dish soap or hair spray to remove the marks. The degreasing agents in dish soap can permanently de-gloss and damage the top coating on the leather surface. Hair spray has alcohol in it and will ruin the surface coating on your leather.
- **DO** use a soft sponge and specialized leather cleaner. Buy it at most leather furniture retailers – but for serious problems your local Fibrenew franchise can help.

### How to take care of leather furniture with nail polish spills:

You try to sexy up those toenails, but you end up polishing a couch cushion instead.

- **DON'T** use nail polish remover because it will take all of the color out of your leather and leave a bleached spot bigger than the nail polish spot.
- **DO** use a soft sponge and leather cleaner.

[1]

### How to take care of leather furniture with food or wine stains:

Your brother-in-law eats an entire pizza and drops a greasy cheese and his fifth glass of wine on your leather loveseat.



- **DON'T** use window/mirror cleaner because it contains alcohol which will dissolve and destroy the surface coating on your leather.
- **DO** use a damp towel to wipe up the mess and a dry one to finish the job. Fully-finished leather is pretty much water proof, so a little spill isn't going to hurt as long as you clean up quickly before it soaks through.

### How to take care of leather furniture with animal scratches and picks:

For the purr-fect gift, Santa brings your kids a kitty, complete with claws to test on the leather couch.

- **DON'T** touch up the spots with shoe polish because it makes an ugly, sticky mess.
- **DO** try to reduce the visibility of the problem by snipping off the cotton interior strands that often get pulled out when leather gets picked. **DO** use a hair dryer and massage minor scratches with leather cleaner to try to rub it out. Call a professional to fix larger scratches and holes - this is not a DIY kind of job.

### How to take care of leather furniture with burns and discoloration:

Uncle Milt dropped his cigarette ashes on the couch.

- **DON'T** try to rub it out and blend it with the surrounding area, you'll only make the problem bigger.
- **DO** bring in some help. When leather or faux leather gets damaged by heat, the only solution is to call in a professional. Regardless of size, a professional repair can make that burn look brand new and can be done on the spot in your own home.

"Leather furniture is beautiful and durable but the biggest mistake people can make is trying to make a repair themselves if they don't know what they are doing," says Wilson.

"It's best to call a professional if there is a question because they can tell you if this is something you can do yourself. Better to be safe than sorry when it comes to expensive leather furniture."

#### About Fibrenew:

Fibrenew, founded in 1985 in Canada, is an international franchise company that specializes in the renewal of leather and plastics, servicing five major markets: aviation, automotive, commercial, marine and residential.

There are nearly 200 Fibrenew locations in 9 countries around the world. As a global leader in the environmental movement, Fibrenew prevents thousands of tons of leather and plastics from entering landfills.

Fibrenew also supports initiatives that give opportunities to women in third world countries. For more information on how to take care of leather furniture visit [www.Fibrenew.com](http://www.Fibrenew.com) <sup>[1]</sup>

**Michael Wilson**, CEO of Fibrenew

It's not surprising Michael Wilson would grow a business solution to a serious environmental problem because the outdoors and environment are in his blood.



Wilson was born in New Zealand, graduated from the University of Calgary, and sailed to America on a 29 foot wood boat he built in the UK.

A true adventurer, he has traveled extensively, including spending four winters in the Canadian High Arctic working as a surveyor in the oil industry, before settling in Calgary and starting a family and business. Wilson was attracted to owning his own business and having studied environmental science at university it was only natural he would own a green company.

He also saw the business potential in keeping damaged leathers and plastics out of landfills, while saving customers money by repairing and refurbishing rather than replacing these items.

He purchased the first Fibrenew franchise offered for sale in 1987; and he liked the business so much he bought the company in 1994. Today there are more than 200 franchises in the US, Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

Wilson is a widower; has two children and two grandchildren, and besides continuing to grow Fibrenew he divides his free

time between family, ocean sailing and walking in the mountains.

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