



The Identity Store

Guide to re-dyeing leather & suede items



www.identityleathercraft.com



IDENTITY LEATHER CRAFT

for people who make, mend or adapt things out of leather

COLOUR UP
YOUR LIFE

How to re-dye bags, shoes and clothes

It is very easy to re-colour leather bags, shoes and coats, even furniture to give items a whole new lease of life, and opens up opportunities for re-purposing those vintage finds, and well loved leather items that need a makeover.



You will need:

[Deglazer](#), [Wool Daubers](#), Leather Dye, [Water Based Stains](#) and [Finish & Protector](#)

Plus—newspaper and some rubber gloves.



For Leather (for suede see overleaf):

Step 1— Wipe the leather clean with a damp, slightly soapy cloth using a mild detergent.

Step 2— Carefully wipe the leather with the de-glazer—this removes the top finish and any grease and dirt that might affect the leather dye penetrating evenly.

Step 3—Using plenty of newspaper and the rubber gloves to protect yourself and your work area, give the leather dye a good shake and start applying:

Shoes—use the wool daubers as applicators using the smallest size for edges and difficult to reach areas.

Clothes/Furniture — use the high density sponge and apply the dye in quick circular movements.

Step 4—Leave to dry and then apply a second coat to create an even look.

Step 5—Rub over the leather with a lint free cloth (a piece of cotton sheeting can be good) to remove any dye residue from the surface. For clothing manipulate and move the leather to allow the fibres to loosen and the leather to soften.

Step 6— apply a finish to protect and water-proof your item eg [Collonil Carbon Pro](#) for shoes and bags, [Collonil Protect and Care](#) for jackets, clothing and upholstery.



Have some fun...





Tip: you must always start from a lighter colour to a dark using a stain or dye.



Tip: To get a bright or lighter colour you may need to use an opaque acrylic base paint such as Cova Colour.



For Suede:

Step 1—Lightly wipe the suede clean with a damp cloth to lift off any dirt and grease.

Step 2—Using plenty of newspaper and the rubber gloves to protect yourself and your work area— use a water based dye or stain and slightly dilute with water. Press down the sponge into the suede rather than rubbing in. Keep working over in this way.



Step 4—Leave to dry and then apply a second coat to create an even look.

Step 5—Rub over the suede with a lint free cloth (a piece of cotton sheeting can be good) to remove any dye residue from the surface. This rubbing action will help to lift up and re-soften the suede pile. A suede brush can also be used to help bring back the soft look of the suede.



Step 6— Apply a suitable suede finish to protect and water-proof your item eg Collonil Carbon Pro



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