

# UNIVERSAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR LEATHER REPAIR AND REFINISHING

**Additional materials for improved results** - Hair dryer, drop cloth, terry cloth towels (white), newspaper, lacquer thinner, masking tape 1", plastic cups, scissors, tweezers, nail clippers. **IMPORTANT TIPS BEFORE YOU START** – Read through all directions before starting. Read all warnings and labels on bottles. Always work in an area that is well-ventilated, free from distractions and dust. Always put the cap back on bottles while working to avoid spills. Most existing leather finishes can be prepared for refinishing by using alcohol pads, lacquer thinner, or acetone (these are flammable substances, follow all safety precautions from the manufacturer). **Shake color refinisher well.** Any areas not to be refinished should be masked or taped. **IMPORTANT – ALWAYS TEST THE PRODUCTS AND LACQUER THINNER ON A HIDDEN AREA OF THE ITEM TO BE REFINISHED TO GAUGE RESULTS FOR PROPER COLOR, APPEARANCE AND COLOR FASTNESS OF PRE-EXISTING FINISHES.** If you are not satisfied with the test results, do not continue; return the product for a refund according to the terms posted on our web site at [www.leatherrenew.com](http://www.leatherrenew.com). Lacquer thinner can be used to correct mistakes or remove color refinisher from unwanted areas. Preparation of the leather surface is key to successful results. **Color refinisher normally has a semi-gloss appearance. If you selected a matte/flat appearance, we have added a flattening agent directly to the color refinisher.**

**STEP 1** – Mask all areas not to be refinished with paper and tape, including kick panels, carpet, wooden legs, wooden legs, center consoles, seat belts, etc. You can completely remove the seats from the vehicle if you wish but it is generally not necessary.

**STEP 2** – Place work materials in close proximity to work area.

**STEP 3** – Use nail clippers to remove any leather tags (frayed leather due to scratches, etc.). Use 320 grit sandpaper to smooth any areas to be repaired (scratches, defects, etc.). Don't be afraid to use pressure. Sandpaper will work better when moistened.

**STEP 4** – **For a small repair**, use alcohol wipes provided to prepare and clean the surface to be refinished. **For larger jobs**, cut terry cloth towels into 3 to 4 inch wide strips. Fold them over enough to be comfortable to use for cleaning leather. Apply lacquer thinner to terry cloth rag and begin cleaning leather a small area at a time, continuously checking rag for dirt/old finish and changing to new area on rag when it becomes saturated with dirt and old finish. It is very important that all areas of leather to be refinished are cleaned with solvent to remove layers of old finish, oils and grease. Sometimes it is necessary to scrape off tar-like or gum-like substances with either the attachment on the nail clippers, a butter knife or sandpaper. All foreign substances must be removed from the leather. **Proper preparation of the leather is key to successful results. Cracks in leather finishes should be scrubbed vigorously with lacquer thinner. Let leather dry completely prior to re-coloring.**

**STEP 5** – Make sure leather is completely dry before attempting repairs or re-coloring, use hair dryer at a distance of not closer than 12 inches if necessary to speed drying process. Examine leather for areas requiring repair. **SMALL HOLES – (dime size or smaller)** – cut sub patch backing material larger than hole to be repaired. Use tweezers to insert sub patch backing material into hole. Insure that sub patch lies flat behind the hole, is centered and covers entire hole. Apply leather filler with spatula between underside of leather and top of backing material. Let dry (15 to 20 minutes). Continue to apply leather filler to hole in thin coats. Use hair dryer to dry leather filler between coats if needed. Continue to use thin coats to fill until smooth. If you cannot obtain smooth results with spatula, sanding is an option. Leather filler must be completely dry prior to sanding. **Use Leather Renew cut kit for cuts/holes larger than a dime, refer to instructions at the end of this document. SCRATCHES** – remove any frayed leather tags with nail clippers and sand if necessary. Apply leather filler with spatula to scratch in thin coats. Use hair dryer to dry leather filler between coats if needed. Continue to use thin coats to fill until smooth. If you cannot obtain smooth results with spatula, sanding is an option. Leather filler must be completely dry prior to sanding if sanding is necessary.

**STEP 6** - Shake color refinisher well. **Leather should not be hot – such as in an automobile in the summer. Colorant will dry too fast and may streak when applied. Cool leather to room temperature using automobile air conditioning.** Pour about one and one half inch (about 2 ounces) of color refinisher through paper strainer into bottom of plastic cup and set strainer into another empty plastic cup, put cap back on color refinisher bottle. At this time add any additives such as bond aide (3 to 4 drops/2 ounces), flex aide (up to 20%), or slip agent (up to 20%) directly to color refinisher according to instructions on bottle. Restrain color refinisher and additives. Dip foam brush into cup "**less is more**" color refinisher goes a long way. Less colorant on foam brush will provide better results. If you have purchased a preal sprayer or are using a compressed air sprayer, pour strained colorant mixture into the cup designed for the unit. If you experience problems spraying you can thin with water. Use only enough water to allow color refinisher to spray easily. Apply color refinisher to all repaired areas and all hard to get areas first. If bubbles or runs appear in applied color refinisher, use foam brush until dissipated. Many professionals use a sprayer in one hand and a foam brush in the other to smooth any defects such as runs, bubbles or drips as they go along. *Sometimes it is necessary to use clamps to expose hard to get to areas of leather such as folds in lean back cushions. Simply clamp leather with spring clamps in a manner to expose inner folds of leather and refinish those areas first. Use hair dryer to speed drying process.* **Do not speed dry if bond aide is used.** Color refinisher is self-leveling and will dry to touch in about ten to twenty minutes. Use thin coats of color refinisher and speed dry with hair dryer. Full coverage on the first coat is not expected or necessary. A light first coat (tack coat) is recommended. Repeat straining and additive process and apply two to three coats of color refinisher to leather or until desired results are achieved. Sand out any dust particles that may have become imbedded in the color refinisher during the coating process with 600 to 1000 grit sandpaper. Touch up with color refinisher if necessary. Do not let foam brush dry out with color refinisher on it. Continuously clean brush with water and dry with towel to insure softness and flexibility.

**STEP 7** – Remove masking and use Leather Renew spot remover or lacquer thinner for cleanup.

**STEP 8** – Use Leather Renew cleaner and conditioner for ongoing maintenance and protection for leather. Use Leather Renew water proofer to repel liquid from fabrics and leather.

**Leather Renew cut kit** – read all directions and warnings on back of sealant tube. Cut backing material so that it is at least one half inch bigger than hole or cut. The bigger that you can cut the backing material and still get it behind the hole or cut with sealant on it, the better! Apply sealant to the underside of the leather/vinyl that has the hole/cut using the spatula provided. Apply sealant to the backing material that you have cut to size. Let dry about five minutes. Tuck the backing material with applied sealant, into the hole/cut so that it lies flat underneath the leather/vinyl and in such a manner that the sealant can bond to the surfaces that you've applied it to. At this point if you have a cut and you are able to bring the edges of the cut together, do nothing more. Let your repair dry for 24 hours. After 24 hours, fill in any seams with Leather Renew crack filler and prepare refinishing according to step # 5. If you have a hole, fill it a layer at a time with sealant until filled. Sealant dries to touch in about 1 hour; it totally cures in 24 hours. Use Leather Renew crack filler to fill in any small depressions or cracks. Now you are ready to apply color. Clean up sealant with lacquer thinner or nail polish remover. If you apply too much sealant, you can use lacquer thinner or nail polish remover to "melt down" the sealant to produce desired results.