

Sash Care for Titleholders 101

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LEATHER SASHES:

Basic maintenance

Regular care helps your sash looking its best, especially after big events:

1 CLEAN

Wipe your sash down with a damp rag, use some soap if needed.

2 DRY

Wipe off the excess moisture with a dry towel.

3 CONDITION

Treat the sash with a thin layer of leather conditioner and let it soak in for a couple of minutes.

4 BRUSH

Gently wipe or brush the excess off and you're good to go!

Storage:

If you're not traveling, store the sash hanging in a dry and airy place, and keep away from moisture to prevent mold.

Faux leather:

Clean with a damp rag, keep out of direct sunlight for storage, and use cleaning and care products formulated for synthetics if needed.





RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

- Clean rags, e.g. cut-up old shirt, old dish towel
- If needed, sparingly use mild glycerine soap on your damp rag to get rid of sticky residue.
- Clean horsehair brush (don't use your dirty shoe brush!); you can also use a clean rag or a clean nylon stocking instead for buffing. If you're feeling fancy or have a sash with lots of intricate detail, you can get a softer goat hair brush.
- A light conditioning cream or lotion that doesn't darken the leather is highly recommended, especially with intricate designs. Heavy dubbin might darken coloured leather. If in doubt, ask a bootblack about product recommendations available locally.

Here are some suggestions:

- ✓ Collonil 1909 Leather Lotion, Leather Cream (Germany)
- ✓ Burgol Renovator, Leather Milk (Austria)
- ✓ Leather Creams by Wren's (UK)
- ✓ Alistair LeatherHiraeth's Daddy's conditioner (UK)
- ✓ Saphir Crème Universelle, Lotion, Renovateur (France)
- ✓ Famaco Crème Délicate (France)

LEATHER SASHES:

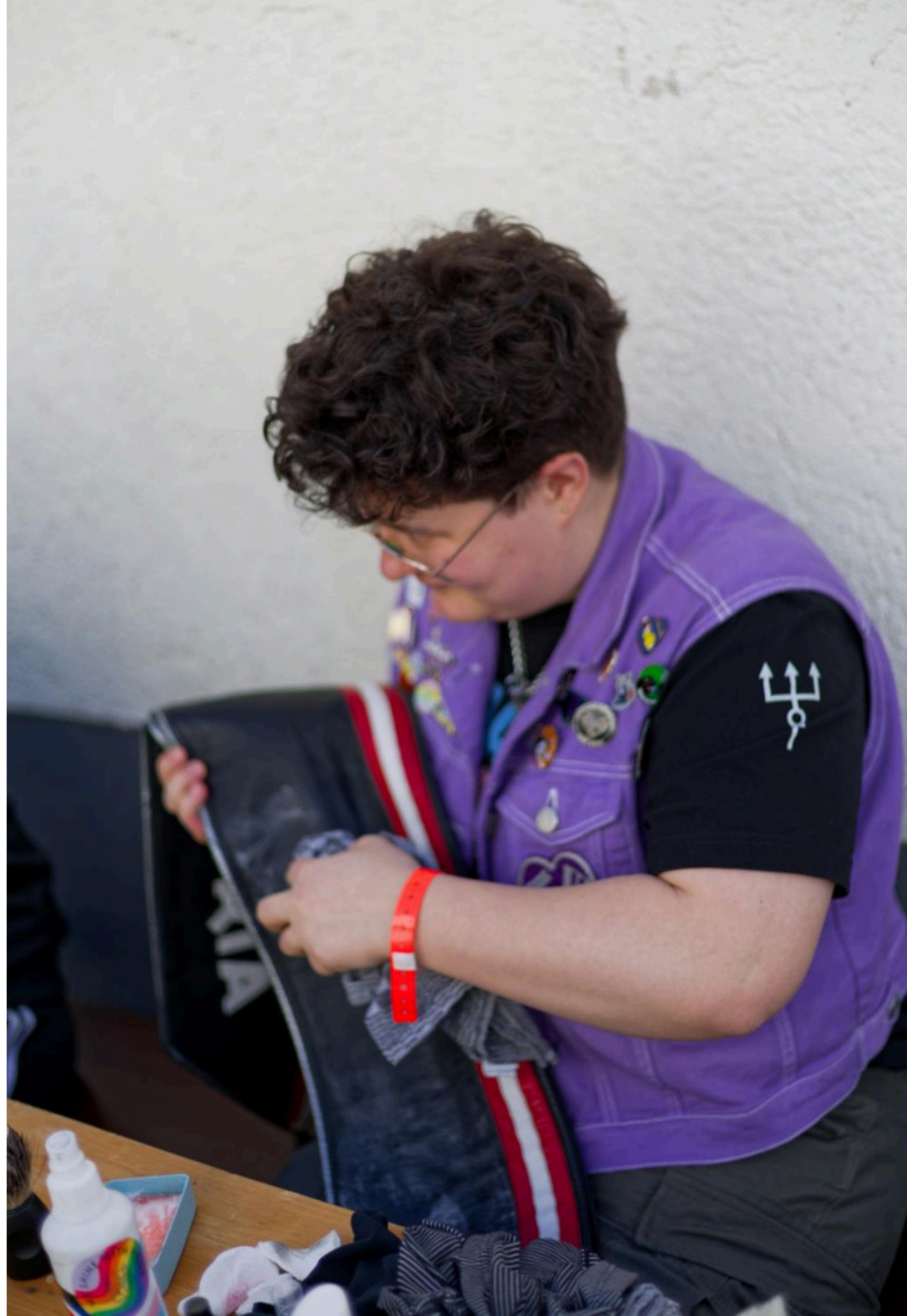
Glitter, stains & grime

The **usual grime** from regular wear is easily cleaned with a damp rag. You can also use some mild soap if needed.

Got doused in beer or liquor? First aid: Carefully pat the sash dry with paper towels and be careful with colours bleeding out (no rubbing!). Clean with a damp rag afterwards, you can use some mild glycerine soap if needed to get rid of sticky residue.

Glitter is removed most easily with a dry microfiber dusting cloth.

Red leather is known for being difficult to handle: The colour tends to bleed out when it gets wet (e.g. getting rained on, during cleaning, contact with leather conditioner) and might stain other parts of the sash/your clothes. Carefully clean and condition red leather separate from the other colours, especially white.





RUBBER SASHES

If you're holding a rubber title, you're probably well versed in rubber care already, but just in case here are some basics to keep in mind:

- The most important thing to remember when handling your rubber sash is the colour and thickness of the rubber used for the lettering and decorative details.
- While black rubber is quite resilient, white, translucent, semi-translucent and light-coloured rubber is prone to **colour transfer** when touched, so avoid touching different coloured rubber, as well as materials such as leather and copper.
- **Storage:** Store in a dark, cool place. Plastic zip bags are a tried and tested storage solution. Push the air out before closing the bag to prevent oxidation. Alternatively, you can store it on a hanger in a garment bag.

RUBBER SASHES

- Often, a shine with your preferred shining oil at the start of an event is enough to get you through the whole weekend.
- It's recommended to wash your rubber sash after extended wear (e.g. an event weekend) with a specialized cleaner; Viviclean works particularly well on keeping white rubber looking fresh.
- Afterwards, bathe it in a solution of water and a dash of your preferred shining oil to prevent the rubber from sticking together during storage. You can use talcum powder instead if you prefer.

A big thank you for Mx Pup Aspen (Mx Florida Rubber 2024) and Rob Rubber (Mr Rubber Europe 2025) for their contributions to the rubber care section!





FABRIC SASHES (e.g. Sportswear titles)

- Use water and gentle soap for spot treatment, bring it to the dry cleaner's if necessary.
- Let the sash dry and air out after each wear to get rid of moisture.
- Storage: store in a dry breathable fabric bag, as mould might develop in a plastic bag.
- Command strips will help keeping the sash in place on slippery fabrics.

All tips were graciously provided by Chris A (Mr Sportswear UK 2023-24). Thank you!

AFTER THE SASH:

Caring for your Titleholder Vest

- Same basic rules as for leather sashes apply. Give the vest a gentle damp wipe-down after extended wear and sparingly treat it with a light conditioner afterwards.
- Store your vest on a hanger in a dry and airy place and keep it away from moisture to prevent mould.
- White salt stains: Use mild soap and water to get rid of salt stains that might form from sweat.
- If in doubt, ask a bootblack for help.





Got more questions
or need help
from a gear care
expert?

Ask a bootblack!

WHAT ARE BOOTBLACKS?

- Bootblacks are the people who have dedicated themselves to take care of the leather community's heart and soul: the precious leathers as well as other gear. In Europe, we are a small but steadily growing community.
- You might encounter bootblacks working at local leather events, and especially at big events like Darklandsfest and Folsom Europe. Or you'll meet our titleholders, Bootblack Europe and UK Bootblack, out and about.
- We are happy to work on your gear (boots and shoes of all kinds, garments, puppy hoods, etc.) or help with questions about leather care. Bootblacking at events typically involves caring for someone's gear while they're wearing it. It can be a sexy, bonding experience, or simply a relaxing pampering session for both you and your gear.
- Always tip your bootblack! Learning how to bootblack takes a lot of time and skill, as well as a plethora of products and tools. Your tip shows appreciation for their skill and helps them to continue to invest in their craft.





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