

How to Remove Fungus from Leather Shoes



If you've noticed your leather shoes have taken on an unwelcome green or white powdery companion, you're likely dealing with fungus. Here's a quick guide to getting leather footwear back in shape:

- **Brush off the surface mold** with a soft-bristled brush.
- **Clean with a mixture** of water & white vinegar or rubbing alcohol.
- **Dry thoroughly**, away from direct heat and sunlight. Use Newspaper as blotting paper.
- **Condition the leather** to restore its lustre.
- **Store properly**, using silica gel packs to control moisture. Store in a airy & dry place

Dealing with mold on leather isn't just about aesthetics; it's crucial for the longevity & health of footwear. Mold thrives in damp, dark & poorly ventilated environments. When leather shoes are exposed to these conditions, they become fertile ground for mold & mildew growth. This not only compromises the shoe's structure and appearance but can also lead to unpleasant odors.

Understanding the causes & solutions for fungal growth is vital. Proper care, cleaning, and storage can not only rescue affected shoes but also prevent future outbreaks. This helps maintain the quality.

Step to Remove Fungus from Leather Shoes

Follow these essential steps to ensure leather shoes are Fungus/Mold free and well-maintained.



01



BRUSH OFF FUNGUS FROM SURFACE

Use a soft-bristled brush to gently remove any visible fungus from the surface of the shoes.

02



APPLY VINEGAR OR ALCOHOL SOLUTION

Clean the shoes with a mixture of water and either white vinegar or rubbing alcohol to kill the fungus.

03



DRY THOROUGHLY

Let the shoes dry completely in an area with good air circulation, away from direct heat and sunlight wrap and stuff the footwear with newspaper.

04



CONDITION THE LEATHER

After drying, apply a good leather conditioner to restore the shoe's shine and protect the leather.

Identifying Fungus on Leather Shoes

Knowing how to spot fungus early is key. Fungus can cause lasting damage. Let's identify fungus on leather shoes through visual signs, smell, and recognizing the damage it causes.

o Visual Signs

Fungus often appears as discoloured patches on leather. These can range from white & green to black or brown spots. They might look like small, circular shapes or larger patches that seem to spread across the shoe's surface. If you spot anything that looks out of the ordinary, it's likely time for a closer inspection.



o Smell

Mold & mildew have a distinct unclean, & stale smell (Musty Smell). If shoes start to emit an odour that's anything but fresh, consider it a warning sign. This smell is a clear indicator that fungus has started to grow, and it's time to act.

- **Damage**

Fungus can penetrate leather, causing damage. Look for signs where the leather appears weakened or where its colour has faded or darkened in an unusual way. Material breakdown, such as flaking or crumbling, is a serious sign of fungal damage. These changes not only affect the appearance but can also compromise their structure & integrity.

Identifying these signs early can save leather shoes from irreversible damage. Early detection & prompt action are crucial in preventing the spread & minimizing the impact of fungus on leather.

Proven Methods to Remove Fungus

Fungus on leather shoes not only looks bad but can also damage your precious footwear. Luckily, there are some tried and tested methods to get rid of it. Let's dive in.

- **Vinegar Solution**

How It Works: Mix equal parts of white vinegar and water in a spray bottle. Gently spray the solution onto the affected areas of your leather shoes. Use the cloth to wipe away the fungus. Vinegar is a mild acid that kills most types of mold and fungus without damaging the leather.

- **Alcohol Treatment**

How It Works: Create a mixture of one part water & one part IPA. Dip the sponge into the solution and gently apply it to the mouldy areas. IPA is excellent at disinfecting & will kill the fungus on contact, making it easy to wipe away.

- **Baking Soda**

How It Works: Sprinkle baking soda directly on the mouldy spots and leave it overnight. The next day, brush off the baking soda with a soft brush. Baking soda absorbs moisture and odors, making it a great option for removing fungus and the musty smell it leaves behind.

- **Commercial Cleaners**

How It Works: Follow the instructions on the product label carefully. These cleaners are specifically formulated to remove fungus from leather without causing damage. Always do a patch test on a small, inconspicuous area first.

- **Natural Sunlight**

How It Works: After cleaning your shoes with any of the methods above, let them dry in a spot with indirect sunlight. Sunlight helps to dry out any remaining moisture, preventing future fungus growth. However, avoid direct sunlight as it can fade the colour of your leather shoes.

By using these methods, you can effectively remove fungus from your leather shoes and keep them looking their best. Remember to always test a small area first to ensure the cleaning method won't damage your shoes. With a little care and the right approach, your leather shoes can be saved from the damaging effects of fungus.

Preventing Future Fungus Growth

After you've tackled the challenge of removing fungus from your leather shoes, the next step is to ensure it doesn't make an unwelcome return. Let's focus on how to keep your shoes in top condition and fungus-free.

Storage Tips

The way you store leather shoes can make a big difference in preventing fungus growth. Here are a few simple yet effective tips:

- **Keep Dry:** Before storing, make sure shoes are completely dry. Moisture encourages fungus's growth.
- **Ventilated Space:** Store in a well-ventilated area. A closed space encourages moisture & fungus growth.
- **Avoid Direct Contact:** Don't let shoes touch each other directly in storage. This minimizes the risk of any potential fungus spread.

Moisture Control

Controlling moisture is key to preventing fungus. **Use Silica Gel Packs:** These are great at absorbing moisture. Put a couple into each shoe before storing. Remember to replace these packets regularly to keep things dry. You can buy & use them not only in your shoes but also in your shoe storage area. They're a simple, cost-effective way to absorb unwanted moisture.

By following these straightforward steps, you're not just preventing fungus; you're also extending the life and beauty of your shoes. It's all about creating an environment where fungus can't thrive. With proper storage, moisture control, and the strategic use of silica gel and dehumidifiers, you can keep your leather shoes looking great for years to come.

Can mouldy leather shoes be saved?

Absolutely! Don't throw mouldy shoes. With the right approach, many can be restored. Cleaning, sanitizing & conditioning are your best friends. Act quickly, though. The longer mold sits on your shoes, the harder it will be to remove, and the more damage it can cause.

By following above guidelines, you can successfully remove fungus from leather shoes & keep them looking their best. Regular care & proper storage are key to preventing mold growth & extending the life of your leather shoes.

Conclusion

Mold and fungus with the right approach, can be easily tackled & keep shoes in top condition.

Maintenance is crucial. Regular cleaning and conditioning of your leather shoes cannot be overstated. It's like giving your shoes a health check-up; it keeps them resilient against the everyday wear and tear, and against mold and fungus. Every once in a while, give your shoes a good clean & follow up with a quality leather conditioner. This helps in maintaining the leather's flexibility and prevents it from becoming a breeding ground for mold.

Regular checks are your best defence against mold. Don't wait for the problem to show itself; be proactive. When you switch your wardrobes with the changing seasons, take the opportunity to inspect your leather items closely. Look for any signs of mold or mildew, and deal with them immediately. Catching the problem early is half the battle won.

In summary, removing fungus from leather shoes, maintaining them regularly, and conducting frequent checks are essential steps in preserving the life of leather shoes. You can keep your leather shoes looking & feeling great for years to come. The health of your shoes is in your hands.