

Leather Care Best Practices

Service Category Vehicle Interior

Section Seat

Market USA

Lexus Supports
ASE Certification 

Applicability

YEAR(S)	MODEL(S)	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
2010 - 2018	CT200H, ES300H, ES350, GS F, GS200T, GS350, GS450H, GX460, HS250H, IS F, IS200T, IS250, IS250C, IS300, IS350, IS350C, LC500, LC500H, LFA, LS460, LS500H, LS600H, LX570, NX200T, NX300H, RC F, RC200T, RC300, RC350, RX350, RX450H	

REVISION NOTICE

January 19, 2018 Rev1:

- **Applicability has been updated to include 2018 model year vehicles.**
- Any previous printed versions of this bulletin should be discarded.**

Introduction

The purpose of this Service Bulletin is to elevate awareness and provide best practices for leather care in Lexus vehicles. As an additional resource, if the vehicle is equipped with factory leather seats, the vehicle Owner's Manual will highlight the importance of proper maintenance and provide guidance for care.

NOTE

Leather seat covers that are replaced for dye transfer or soiling are NOT eligible for replacement under warranty. Likewise, damage caused by unapproved cleaning methods are NOT eligible for replacement under warranty.

Warranty Information

OP CODE	DESCRIPTION	TIME	OFF	T1	T2
N/A	Not Applicable to Warranty	–	–	–	–

Leather Care Best Practices

Background

Leather is a natural material covering used on seat covers and other interior trim that requires periodic maintenance and cleaning comparable to the exterior of the vehicle. Usage will dictate frequency and schedule.

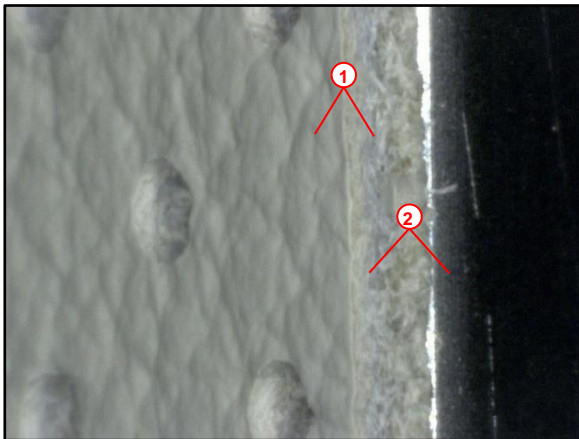
NOTE

- Appearance conditions such as cracking, peeling, and dye transfer may occur to the protective coating of the leather top coat. Abrasive cleaning methods expose the top coat to the surface and effectively remove resistance and protection against dye transfer.
- Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the cross-section layers of leather seat material. Protective coating applied to the top coat portion of the material provides resistance to staining if not removed by abrasive methods.

NOTICE

Many commercial cleaners damage factory coatings and protectants by utilizing solvents and propellants that destroy factory coatings. Strictly adhere to these instructions to ensure the longevity of the vehicle's interior.

Figure 1.



1	Top Coat
2	Material Backing

Figure 2. Top Layer Close-up



1	Top Coat
2	Material Backing
3	Protective Coating

Figure 3. Wear Caused by Outside Influence



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Listed below for reference are excerpts from the 2016 GS Owner’s Manual on how to maintain and care for leather seat products. ALL Owner’s Manuals include a brief description on leather care.

<p>382 6-1.Maintenance and care</p> <p>Cleaning and protecting the vehicle interior</p> <p>The following procedures will help protect your vehicle’s interior and keep it in top condition:</p> <p>Protecting the vehicle interior</p> <p>Remove dirt and dust using a vacuum cleaner. Wipe dirty surfaces with a cloth dampened with lukewarm water.</p> <p>For surfaces that are still dirty, use a diluted water solution of approximately 1% neutral detergent. Afterward, firmly wring out any excess water from a cloth dampened with water, and then wipe off all remaining traces of detergent.</p> <p>Cleaning the areas with satin-finish metal accents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove dirt using a soft cloth or synthetic chamois dampened in a baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) solution. Use a solution of approximately 9% baking soda dissolved in water. Wipe the surface with a dry, soft cloth to remove any remaining moisture. <p>Cleaning the leather areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove dirt and dust using a vacuum cleaner. Wipe off any excess dirt and dust with a soft cloth dampened with diluted detergent. Use a diluted water solution of approximately 5% neutral wool detergent. Wring out any excess water from the cloth and thoroughly wipe off all remaining traces of detergent. Wipe the surface with a dry, soft cloth to remove any remaining moisture. Allow the leather to dry in a shaded and ventilated area. <p>Cleaning the synthetic leather areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove loose dirt using a vacuum cleaner. Apply a mild soap solution to the synthetic leather using a sponge or soft cloth. Allow the solution to soak in for a few minutes. Remove the dirt and wipe off the solution with a clean, damp cloth. 	<p>384 6-1.Maintenance and care</p> <p>NOTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning detergents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use the following types of detergent, as they may discolor the vehicle interior or cause streaks or damage to painted surfaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-seat portions: Organic substances such as benzene or gasoline, alkaline or acidic solutions, dye, and bleach Seats: Alkaline or acidic solutions, such as thinner, benzene, and alcohol Do not use polish wax or polish cleaner. The instrument panel’s or other interior part’s painted surface may be damaged. Preventing damage to leather surfaces <p>Observe the following precautions to avoid damage to and deterioration of leather surfaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove any dust or dirt from leather surfaces immediately. Do not expose the vehicle to direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Park the vehicle in the shade, especially during summer. Do not place items made of vinyl, plastic, or containing wax on the upholstery, as they may stick to the leather surface if the vehicle interior heats up significantly. Water on the floor <p>Do not wash the vehicle floor with water.</p> <p>Vehicle systems such as the audio system may be damaged if water comes into contact with electrical components such as the audio system above or under the floor of the vehicle. Water may also cause the body to rust.</p> When cleaning the inside of the windshield (vehicles with Lexus Safety System+) <p>Do not allow glass cleaner to contact the lens. Also, do not touch the lens. (→P. 233)</p> Cleaning the inside of the rear window <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use glass cleaner to clean the rear window, as this may cause damage to the rear window defogger heater wires or antenna. Use a cloth dampened with lukewarm water to gently wipe the window clean. Wipe the window in strokes running parallel to the heater wires or antenna. Be careful not to scratch or damage the heater wires or antenna.
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NOTICE

- Harsh cleaning practices will remove some or ALL of the protective coating applied to leather during production and will degrade the longevity of the material over time. Vehicle leather should **ONLY** be cleaned by hand with water and mild detergent.
- Do NOT apply cleaners directly to the leather.

- Do NOT:
 - Use mechanical means of cleaning other than hand cleaning (e.g., brushes, sanders, or steel wool).
 - Use harsh cleaners that may contain solvents or propellants.
 - Let stains remain untreated.
 - Gouge, scratch, or use abrasive materials against the surface.

Figure 4.



Leather Care Best Practices

Leather Care Best Practices (Continued)

2. Do:

- Hand clean.
- Clean frequently (when soiling is first noticed).
- Use clean, high-quality microfiber cloths.
- Remove loose dust or dirt prior to cleaning.
- Dust off surface with a dry microfiber cloth or gently vacuum the surface.
- Perform general surface cleaning with a microfiber cloth moistened with clean water.
- Apply cleaners to microfiber towels instead of directly to the seat.
- Spot clean localized stains with a microfiber cloth soaked in baby soap solution, rubbing the cloth with moderate hand pressure.
- Wipe off residues with a clean, wet microfiber cloth.
- Finish drying the surface with a dry microfiber cloth.