

HOW TO REJUVENATE YOUR LEATHER UPHOLSTERY

HIDE

WE GIVE YOU THE INFO AND SHOW YOU HOW TO REJUVENATE YOUR LEATHER UPHOLSTERY
WORDS AND PHOTOS: BEN NIGHTINGALE



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We think pretty much everyone loves the luxurious feel of leather upholstery. Unless of course you're a tree-hugging leftie vegan, or it's a 40°C day outside and you're frying like an egg.

It was with this love of leather in mind that we took on this month's DIY project – rejuvenating a very tired and very dirty SV5000 rear seat. I purchased it recently with plans to install it in the VK when the time comes, and I got it cheap due to its condition.

I figured that I'd take the punt and have a go at giving it a good clean in the hope that it just needed a little TLC to bring it back from the brink. I made a call to the top guys at Meguiar's, and they armed me with all of the products from their leather and trim-care range to get the leather back looking its best.

Let's look at how it came together.

1. Here are all the products together. We have Meguiar's Cloth and Trim cleaner, Rich Leather Foam, Gold Class Rich Leather Cleaner/Conditioner, a pair of foam applicators and some clean terry towels

2. First thing to do is test some of the product on an inconspicuous area to ensure colourfastness.

As you can see from this pic, none of the colour came off, so we were good to go

3. This is the seat in question. As you can see, it's very dirty, the leather is hard and brittle and it generally looks like crap

4. Start with the Cloth and Trim cleaner as it's for heavy-duty stains. Spray some on the surface and allow it to sit for a couple of minutes to allow the cleaner to lift the dirt from the leather



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5. Use one of your foam applicators to agitate the cleaner to help it get right into the grain, and then wipe off vigorously with some terry towelling

6. After only that quick application, the cleaner is really working. Compare the right side and the left side here. The right - has been cleaned using the Cloth and Trim cleaner

7. One thing to remember is that you should always try to keep the clean side of the cloth in play. This will mean the dirt is in the cloth and not the leather – as you can see here, ours got pretty dirty

8. The next product to use is the Rich Leather Cleaner/Conditioner, which is a cream type product. Apply a small amount to a foam applicator and rub it into the leather

9. As shown in this image, the seat is really coming along well

10. The final product is the Rich Leather Foam, which is very simple to use. Simply spray the foam onto the leather, and work it in using a foam applicator, removing the excess with some terry towel. While the other products are better for hard-core rejuvenation, the foam is great for quick touch ups

11. Here's our clean seat – doesn't it look awesome. It's 100-percent better than when we began. In this image you can see the clean base compared with the yet-to-be-clean back

12. To really bring it home, I did half of one headrest. It is incredible how quickly the Meguiar's products brought the dirt and grime out. I did all of this in only half an hour, so imagine how good it will look given a couple of hours attention.

The leather is now clean, soft and supple where it was dirty, brittle and dry. I had my reservations, but I'm impressed by the results. This seat won't need a re-trim after all! **SC**