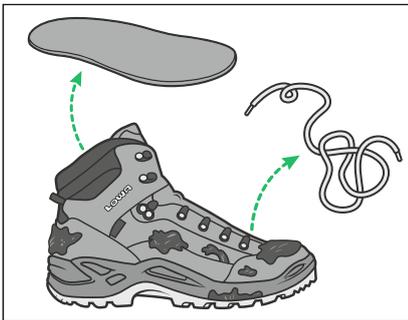


THE RIGHT WAY TO CARE FOR YOUR **LOWA BOOTS!**

Your new LOWA boots are made of leather with exceptional properties: It is flexible, durable and breathable. To make sure that the leather stays this way and that you enjoy your high-quality boots for many years to come, you should definitely care for them **regularly**. Good care will keep your shoes comfortable and water repellent for a long time! The following tips are designed for all LOWA models made of smooth, nubuck and suede leather.

New boots require no additional care before you wear them for the first time, but they benefit from being impregnated anew.

STEP 1: PREPARATION



If your footwear has gotten wet or soiled, let it dry in a well-ventilated room, but do not place your boots near any source of heat. If you do so, the leather could shrink or crack. Remove the laces. This will enable

care products to reach the recessed areas of your shoes. Remove the footbed. This is a critical step, particularly after a multi-day hike: Moisture tends to collect especially in the insoles of boots.

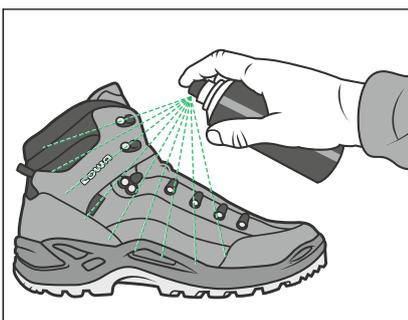
STEP 2: CLEANING



Thoroughly brush off your boots. This will make the leather permeable to air and breathable once again. Then clean them with warm water and a brush. If your boots are heavily soiled, you should use a lukewarm soap solution or a boot care product. The boot care product will open the pores of the leather and should be thoroughly rinsed off with water. The leather is now in an **unprotected condition**: It will immediately absorb any water that comes in contact with it. **For this reason, you should always impregnate your boots.**

Take care when drying your boots: Let them dry in a well-ventilated room. You should never dry them in the sun, in a bathroom, next to a heating unit or oven or in a car! The wet leather can "burn", causing irreparable cracks. Your boots can begin to mould if you place them in damp rooms.

STEP 3: IMPREGNATION



Your boots should be **slightly damp when you apply** impregnation spray to them. The pores of damp leather are wide open, enabling the impregnation spray to penetrate deeply into the material. The spray reaches its greatest level of effectiveness after 24 hours. Your boots will then be water and dirt repellent once again. The spray's effect begins to wear off after about three weeks.

Regular impregnation treatments will repel water and dirt. The breathability of the leather will be maintained as well: The leather will not absorb water and is water repellent. Your boots are completely protected once again. You should impregnate your boots once again before you set off on your next tour.

STEP 4: CARE



If you wear your boots frequently and get them wet often, you should use a boot-care product on them. Apply a waxy shoe paste or cream with a soft brush so that the boots retain their resistance. You should also apply this paste or cream to boots with **GORE-TEX®**



membranes. Poorly maintained leather dries out, becomes brittle and cracks. Ultimately, the boot will become irreparably damaged. Give your boots enough time to dry out. You should impregnate your boots once again **before you start**

your next tour. Do not use any oils or fats on your boots. These treatments may indeed make the leather very soft and nearly waterproof. But they also close the pores of the leather, causing boots to lose their stability and breathability. The adhesives used in the footwear can loosen as well.

One special feature of nubuck and suede leather:

The surface of these types of leather will become smoother, shinier and darker when wax is applied to them. The surface of suede leather can be brushed out with a wire brush, but the original look will suffer to a certain degree. This step is not necessary or possible for smooth and nubuck leather.

STEP 5: STORAGE



Store your shoes in a shoe bag or box in a dry, well-ventilated place. Use a wooden shoe tree to maintain your boots' form. It will preserve the boot's shape and prevent creases from forming. As an alternative, you can stuff crumpled newspaper in the toe of the boots. The paper will absorb moisture and help preserve the shape of the boot. Change the paper every day until the boots are dry.

Contact LOWA's service department if you have any questions. You can reach us on +49 (0)8137/999-448 or at service@lowa.de

OTHER CARE TIPS FOR YOUR BOOTS

Take good care of the lining!

A special leather-care lotion (like Patina Ledermilch or Keralux LCK) should be applied from time to time to leather linings because the very aggressive and salty sweat generated by the feet can dry out the lining and make it brittle and hard.

GORE-TEX® linings require no special care. But they can be cleaned occasionally with lukewarm water and a gentle soap solution. The membrane will lose its effectiveness if you care for leather improperly or do not care for it at all. For this reason, it is not enough to apply impregnation or shoe-care spray to intensely used GORE-TEX® shoes!

Do not clean them in a washing machine!

You should never put leather shoes or synthetic shoes in a washing machine. The mechanical effect of the washing process in combination with the increased water temperature can wash out leather pigments, damage the upper materials and loosen adhesives. Your boots could suffer irreparable damage.

Do not forget textile materials!

You should also regularly impregnate the textile materials of your boots in order to improve the material's ability to repel water and dirt.

Avoid contact with acid, petrol and manure!

They attack the materials used in the soles of boots and adhesives and set a degradation process in motion that can damage your LOWA boots. Try to avoid such substances. Thoroughly clean your boots if the footwear comes in contact with them.

LOWA boot-care products

We recommend the following boot-care products. You can purchase them in speciality stores or online: **LOWA Water Stop Pro**, **LOWA Active Creme** or **LOWA Active Creme Black Edition** for black, smooth leather footwear.