

R. M. W I L L I A M S

Boot guides

Built from the ground up

You can tell a lot about a person by the state of their boots. Some of our customers bought their first pair of RM's over half a century ago and still wear them till this day. In fact, some would argue, as did RM himself, that the worst their boots looked, was the day they bought them. With every wear, your pair is branded with personality. Even the smallest scuff has a story worth telling.

An investment, not a purchase

Your new R.M. Williams boots have been crafted by hand at the workshop in Adelaide, South Australia, using time-honoured processes. Highly-skilled artisans use the finest available leathers and components to create boots that will stand the test of time, serving as reliable companions on all of life's journeys. With regular care and maintenance, you can prolong the lifespan of your boots and ensure they look and feel great for many years to come.



Everyday boot care

The daily rituals that we recommend to keep your boots looking fresh:

Wearing

Allow the two 'tugs' to take the strain when pulling on your elastic sided boots; this will keep the back strong and spread the strain over the 'tugs' and the elastic.

Don't remove your boots by using the other foot to pull them off. Always pull the boot off with your hand from the back heel.

Fine leather boots can require a full day to dry out from natural perspiration. It's recommended to alternate wearing your pairs of boots every few days, if possible, to let them dry out from natural perspiration.

Cleaning and drying

Mud or dirt should be removed from footwear when still wet, using a damp cloth and then waiting until dry before cleaning and polishing.

If your footwear becomes damp or saturated with water, allow them to dry naturally. Never use direct or forced heat, as this will harm the leather upper and may damage the sole.

Storing

When you're not wearing them, your boots can be kept in shape with shoe trees. These are a must when boots have become saturated with water, because the shoe trees will allow the boots to dry completely without distortion.



Ongoing leather care

A consistent care routine is the best way to avoid lasting damage and maintain the look and feel of your boots.

Video: https://youtu.be/Zvsx_hLp_Vc

Polishing

Use R.M. Williams Stockman's Boot Polish regularly to maintain the colour of your boots and remove scuffs. This keeps the smart finish of your leather boots, particularly for dress boots.

We recommend using our time-honoured formula as it is free of alcohols and chemicals which can damage leather.

Do not use Stockman's Boot Polish on vesta or greasy kip leathers, as it drastically changes the colour of the boots.

Video: <https://youtu.be/6WESVSmJZco>

Cleaning and conditioning

Regular cleaning and conditioning with high quality products will increase your leather's lifespan and allow you to enjoy it for many years.

The leather upper needs to be conditioned to prevent it from drying out and cracking over time. Be careful not to over condition; leather also needs to breathe. Therefore, if you clean your boots every week, do not use conditioner each time.

Make sure to read our Boot maintenance guide for specific care instructions for each leather type, as we do not recommend leather conditioner and cleaner for all types.

Video: <https://youtu.be/WVyuTSrbuIY>

Maintenance

The regularity of your care routine depends on how often you wear your boots, and for what purpose.

Casual to light wear – minimal maintenance, every 3 months.

Dress and office wear – regular maintenance, every 8 weeks.

Outdoor work wear – high maintenance, every 4 weeks.



Sole life

Keeping vigilant on the condition of your soles can be the difference between a simple re-sole and a complete re-last. Make sure you know what to look out for, and when to bring them back to us for a tune-up.

Important signs to look for

Replace the sole before the wear extends to the innersole. This way, the boots can be re-soled without having to be re-lasted.

Replace the heel rubber before the wear extends to the leather heel stack underneath, so the entire heel does not need to be replaced.

Additions or modifications to either sole or heel, such as synthetic top-soles should be avoided, as these can affect the balance and comfort of the boots and can lead to premature failure in either the sole or upper.

Leather soles

As a guide, R.M. Williams believes that leather soles have a wear rate of 9 – 12 months (as per the International Standards) based on an average wear of 3 to 4 days per week, however most customers will exceed this period. Sole wear will vary based on the wearer, usage and surfaces walked on.

When leather soles wear thin, they tend to absorb more moisture. Repairing your boots in good time is a practice worth observing as fine quality boots can easily be ruined due to overdue repair work.

Rubber soles

Rubber soles are the more durable option and do offer a better wear rate.

As a guide, R.M. Williams believes that rubber soles have a wear rate of 18 – 24 months (as per the International Standards) based on an average wear of 3 to 4 days per week, however most customers will exceed this period. Sole wear will vary based on the wearer, usage and surfaces walked on.

Caring for pigmented finished leathers



Pigmented finished leathers include

Yearling, veal calf, willow, kangaroo black and chestnut, ostrich black, crocodile

Pigmented finished leathers

Leathers with a pigmented finish (e.g. yearling, veal calf, crocodile) undergo a process that involves the application of pigments and protective coatings to the surface of the hide. This finishing method creates a smooth, uniform and consistent appearance, concealing the natural variations in the leather's texture and colour.

Cleaning

R.M.Williams Leather Cleaner is specifically formulated to remove dirt and grime from leather boots, shoes and accessories.

1. Wipe the boot with a damp cloth to remove surface mud, dirt, dust or salt.
2. Apply R.M.Williams Leather Cleaner directly onto any excessive marks in the leather and rub evenly over the surface with a damp cloth until clean.
3. Remove any excess cleaner with a dry clean cloth.

Conditioning

R.M.Williams Leather Conditioner should be applied regularly to pigmented finished leather footwear to maintain and preserve the leather, preventing it from drying out or cracking.

1. Apply R.M.Williams Leather Conditioner evenly to pigmented finished leathers with a clean cloth or hands.
2. Allow the conditioner to penetrate leather for approximately one hour.

Note: Be careful not to over condition; leather also needs to breathe. We recommend conditioning your leather boots every 2-3 months, no matter how often you clean or polish them.

Polishing

Use R.M.Williams Stockman's Boot Polish regularly to maintain the colour of your boots, remove scuffs and keep them looking fresh.

1. Apply R.M.Williams Stockman's Boot Polish to finished leathers with a clean cloth or brush and rub in well.
2. Allow polish to rest on surface and penetrate leather for a minute.
3. Buff surface thoroughly with a shoeshine brush and finish with a buffing cloth to obtain a high shine.

Note: For badly scuffed boots, leave the polish on the uppers overnight to ensure the pigment is absorbed into the leather.

Leather guide

At R.M.Williams only the best leathers are selected. If the quality required is not available, they will not make the boots until it is. Their commitment to sourcing the finest leather from around the world and placing it in the hands of the Australia's finest craftspeople ensures a product that will go the distance.

Whether you're searching for the right leather to invest in for your next pair of boots, or wanting to understand your favourite pair a little better, the below Leather Guide will outline the key qualities of each type.

Burnished

Burnishing is an intricate, artisanal process in which coloured dye is applied to crust leather by hand. The result is a natural patina that develops over time, with each boot having a unique colouring.

Care: clean lightly with a damp cloth. Polish and protect with R.M.Williams **Natural** Stockman Polish. Do not use any cleaner or conditioner.

Crocodile

Rare and luxurious, crocodile is a leather synonymous with Australian style. Natural, intricate scaling patterns ensure each boot has a unique look and feel.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Apply leather conditioner and R.M.Williams Stockman's Boot Polish.

Desert kip

A heavyweight leather suede, with a chrome tanned finish.

Care: before initial use apply suede protector. Suede cleaner can be used for light stains. Maintain and prevent stains with suede protector every three months.

Distressed / crazy horse

A full grained, heavyweight leather seen across a range of dress and work boots.

Care: before initial use, apply suede protector. Use warm air to level colour contrast – a hair dryer at low heat level and continuous movement.

Greasy kip

A heavyweight, chrome tanned, leather with a durable finish. The leather is infused with oils during tanning to make it water-resistant.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Condition with saddle dressing or leather conditioner.

Hi shine

The leather surface is varnished and coated to give it a high-gloss finish, perfect for dress boots or those looking to smarten up their daily look.

Care: clean with damp cloth.

Kangaroo – black, chestnut

Kangaroo leather is the strongest for its weight in the world and polishes up well for a stylish boot. This, combined with its unique markings, makes it a favourite for fine craftwork.

*At R.M. Williams, providing you with high quality leather products is a top priority and so is minimising impact on the environment. By accepting kangaroo leather that has minor imperfections caused by scratches or abrasions that occur in the animal's natural habitat, we're using significantly fewer skins and markedly reducing the amount of wastage incurred during processing.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Apply leather conditioner and R.M. Williams Stockman Polish.

Note: tanbark kangaroo leather is an aniline finish so do not apply leather conditioner to this colour. See below for more details.

Kangaroo - tanbark

Kangaroo tanbark leather is a little more prone to water marks and stains than other kangaroo leather colours.

Care: clean with damp cloth. Apply R.M. Williams **Natural** Stockman's Polish for natural shine and protection. Do not use any cleaner or conditioner as it will alter the appearance of the leather.

Metallics

Metallic leather offers a bolder look and higher sheen, achieved by applying a foil with metallic optics to a smooth leather.

Care: clean lightly with damp cloth. Metallics are designed to age with wear.

Nubuck

Made from the top grain of the hide, nubuck leather is sanded on the grain side to create a velvety appearance. Nubuck is susceptible to environmental factors such as mud, dirt, and grit.

Care: clean with R.M.Williams suede cleaner and maintain every three months with suede protector.

Oily fern

Oily fern leathers are crafted by applying wax and oils to a full grain leather surface that has been smoothed out. Natural marks and shade variation should be expected. This leather is durable, strong and weatherproof, with a unique look and feel.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Minimal application of leather conditioner can be applied, though it will darken the leather for a short period of time.

Ostrich black

Lightweight yet strong, Ostrich leather is one of the most exotic leathers in the world. It has a distinctive quill pattern and soft feel.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Apply leather conditioner and R.M.Williams Stockman's Boot Polish.

Ostrich brown

Care: clean with a damp cloth. Apply R.M.Williams Natural Stockman Polish for natural shine and protection. No leather cleaner or conditioner.

Rough-out suede

Rough-out leather is suede with a rough finish that has been treated with oil and wax for a fashionable aged and worn look.

Care: designed to age therefore no maintenance is required.

Suede

Suede is made from the underside of the animal hide and is soft and pliable, with a napped finish.

Care: before initial use apply suede protector and reapply every three months for maintenance. Suede cleaner can be used for light stains.

Veal calf

An extremely fine-grained leather. Veal calf has a superb high shine finish ideal for dress boots.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Apply leather conditioner and R.M.Williams Stockman's Polish.

Vesta

Vesta leather is known as a pull-up leather. It is designed to develop a vintage patina over time. It's water-repellent and highly durable, with a matte finish.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Applying conditioner will darken the leather and even out the appearance of the pull-up.

Willow

A chrome tanned, aged ox hide, characterised by its heavyweight and durable finish.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Apply leather conditioner and R.M.Williams Stockman Polish.

Yearling

A versatile fine-grained leather from yearling-aged cattle. Its chrome tanned, making it very supple, ideal for dress and light work boots.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Apply leather conditioner and R.M.Williams Stockman's Polish.

Yearling rum

Our yearling leather in rum is an uncoated (aniline) dye leather that shows unique surface characteristics of the animal hide. As a result, you can expect some natural marks and shade variation.

Care: wipe over with a damp cloth or clean with leather cleaner. Leather conditioner can be applied; however it will darken the leather for the short term. Use **natural** polish to offer a shine and protection.

Yearling nutmeg

Our yearling leather in nutmeg is designed to age naturally and will develop character with wear.

Care: clean with damp cloth. Apply R.M.Williams Natural Stockman Polish for natural shine and protection.
Do not use leather cleaner or conditioner.