

# Caring for Sheepskin – it's simple

Sheepskin is very easy to look after. The fibre's unique structure gives it a natural durability and robustness. It even repels dirt!

Even so, a little care and attention won't go astray.

- Avoid direct sunlight. This stops UV damage or fading of darker shaded products
- Shake rugs, cushions, bean bags regularly, if it can handle a shake, liven it up!
- Dry vacuum rugs regularly
- Attend to spills and stains as promptly as possible
- Remember not to rub, brush or massage wool skin products when they are damp or wet

Regular vacuuming with a plain suction vacuum cleaner\* will help to maintain wool fibres. Longer wool rugs benefit from occasional brushing with a wire pet brush (pet slicker pad). Small spills can be sponged off with a damp cloth. Avoid exposure to strong direct sunlight as UV will damage the natural fibers and fade dyed sheepskins. Do not store in damp or wet conditions as the natural leather pelt may deteriorate. Treat sheepskin like one of the family.

*\*Turbo and revolving brush vacuum cleaners can damage the wool fibre and cause “frizziness”. These are a strict NO!*



Brushing is effective on unshorn, long wool products only. After washing, the wool fibers will likely revert back to their natural curly state. Brushing with a wire wool comb when wet, and once dry, will help restore the fluffy appearance and natural “loft” of the fibers.

<https://www.ultimatesheepskin.com/product/sheepskin-care-brush/>

Air-dry your sheepskin by hanging it on a line or laying it out flat – although please remember, not in direct sunlight. It is important to stretch sheepskin during the drying process, this helps to retain the shape and prevent excessive shrinkage. You would be brave to tumble dry, iron or bleach your sheepskin – please do not do this!

Dogs, pets and children all love sheepskin, but rest assured small stains and light soiling can be spot cleaned easily with a damp cloth and mild detergent. For a more thorough clean, and to gain the best result, dry-cleaning is recommended.

**Natural sheepskins can be hand or machine-washed** in warm water (40C / 104F) using a mild liquid detergent that is suitable for hand washing dishes, on a ‘gentle’ wash cycle. Please note that machine or hand washing may affect the appearance of the natural wool fibers and the leather pelt.

**Products with cotton** or other backing material are generally not suitable for machine or hand washing. Dry cleaning is recommended for any products with backing materials. It is best to dry clean dyed products as colors may bleed.

Washing Instructions

Hand or machine wash in warm water, gentle washing cycle. Use a mild liquid detergent that is suitable for hand washing dishes.


Do not bleach

Dry flat or on a line

Do not tumble dry

Do not iron

Dry cleaning is recommended



AUSKIN | EASY SHEEPSKIN CARE

To avoid permanent damage, accidental spills and stains should be dealt with immediately – or in... ahem... two shakes of a lamb’s tail. Before using any stain treatment, make sure you have “contained the stain”. This will stop it spreading further.

### **Soiling**

The most common culprit for soiling is the dreaded ‘dirty shoes on the rug’ scenario. A cleverly positioned front door mat can stop potential offenders traipsing their way through the home with weapons of rug destruction on their feet. Dirty disaster avoided!

### **Staining bonds**

Staining occurs when pigments chemically bond with wool fibre. Once this bonding has taken place, removing the stain without some damage to the wool pile can be extremely difficult. It is very important to attend to spills and stains

promptly.

Frequent and moderate cleaning is advised. This will help to avoid more serious measures to recover sheepskin products to their full glory.

### **DO ‘Contain the stain’**

- Blot up liquids immediately using a paper towel or clean cloth. In the event of any large area spills, we would recommend putting a clean towel down and standing on it to absorb as much liquid as possible.
- Scoop up solids immediately using a knife or spoon – try not to push the substance further into the wool pile.

### **DON’T ‘Treat it mean’**

- Rub wet wool pile... ever! This will damage the wool pile and can spread the stain further.
- Drown the wool in water or any other liquid. This may cause watermarks on the surface and/or damage the backing of rugs.

We recommend the use of a Wet Stain Remover for liquid stains. But, again, you must firmly blot up the stain first before applying any stain treatment.

If you don't have any 'Wet Stain Remover', dilute the area with lukewarm water (not hot water) and re-blot thoroughly using a clean dry towel or paper towel. Make sure that you do not rub the stain. You can continue to gently apply water and re-blot. The wool pile will not be damaged by water as long as you don't over-wet the wool. The good news is most oily or greasy stains can be removed, even after a period of time.

## Wool and Stain Removal

There are a number of cleaning treatments that can be used, depending on the type of stain. However, BEFORE you use any of them, do make sure you have 'contained the stain' – firmly blotting up any excess liquid spills and scraping up any solids.

STAIN TYPE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
Beer & spirits	1	2	
Bleach	1	12	
Blood	1	2	
Butter	4	2	
Candle Wax	9	4	
Chewing Gum	5	4	
Chocolate	4	1	
Coffee	1	6	
Cola & soft drinks	1	2	
Cooking oil	4	2	
Cream	1	4	
Egg	1	12	
Faeces	1	3	12
Floor wax	4	1	
Fruit juice	1	2	
Furniture polish	4	1	
Gravy & sauces	1		
Ink – ballpoint	8	1	
Ink – felt tip	4	1	

Lipstick	4	2	
Milk	1	4	
Mud (when dry)	10	4	
Mustard	1		
Nail polish	7	4	
Oil & grease	4	2	
Paint (oil based)	4		
Paint (acrylic)	1	2	
Rust	6	12	
Salad dressing	1	4	
Shoe polish	4	2	
Soot	10	4	
Tar	11	4	
Tea	1	6	
Tomato sauce	7	2	
Urine (fresh)	1	2	3
Urine (old stain)	12		
Vomit	1	3	6
Wine	1	6	

In the event of a very large stain, put a towel down and stand on it to firmly remove as much liquid as you can before applying any stain treatment. And remember, NEVER rub wet wool. Simply cross reference the type of treatment with the specific stain in the table below.

1. Stain Remover for Wet Stains\*\*
2. One teaspoon of wool detergent with one teaspoon of white vinegar in one litre of warm water
3. Clear household disinfectant
4. Stain Remover for Dry Stains
5. Chill with ice cubes in a plastic bag. Pick or scrape off solids.
6. Mix 1/3 cup of white vinegar with 2/3 cup of water
7. Nail polish remover (should not contain lanolin)
8. Surgical alcohol
9. Place absorbent paper over wax or paper towel and apply hot iron to paper. Wax will melt and be absorbed by paper.
10. Vacuum clean
11. Mineral turpentine
12. Seek assistance from a professional cleaner

\*\*if you don't have any wet stain remover handy, then lukewarm water will be the next best option and will do no harm, as long as you do not over-saturate the wool. Please ensure you have blotted up as much excess moisture as possible before gently squeezing any water onto a stain and then blotting up.

As with all spills, the first step is to 'contain the stain' so it doesn't spread any further, **BEFORE** applying any stain treatment. Use a clean dry towel or paper towels to firmly blot up the excess liquid prior to using the wet stain remover. If the stain covers a very large area, we'd recommend putting a towel down and standing on it to quickly blot up the excess. It is important to take up all the liquid you can in this first step as this will ensure you need to use less of the stain remover product and will also give you the best result.

It is tempting when you are in a panic to throw water or other liquids directly onto a stain, but that will only spread the stain further and can damage the woolskin backing.

The extent to which this happens is entirely dependent on the type of red wine and can vary markedly. Again, the most important thing is to firmly blot up as much of the red wine as you can **BEFORE** applying a wet stain remover, and then to continue to reapply and re-blot the area until no further color comes off onto the towel or cloth you are using. As the woolskin dries, the stain should lift further.

Happily, red wine is the one stain where a wet stain remover product can be used to some effect, even after the stain has dried off. If you still notice some discoloration after the stain has dried, try a repeat application to pull more of the stain out of your woolskin.

Designed to work on most food, drink, oil and grease-based stains and is suitable for woolskin rugs. Is effective on almost any dry stain that has not caused a chemical reaction with the wool fibres.

Rubbing a wet woolskin is an absolute no-no (it damages the fibres) so a dry stain remover is designed to be lightly applied as a spray and then the resulting powder vacuumed up using a fine nozzle. You should also check the manufacturer's advice for your specific brand of vacuum cleaner as some more modern vacuums can be sensitive to fine powder and lose their suction.