

CARING FOR YOUR COWHIDE RUG

**Gorgeous Creatures cowhides are hardwearing in most situations.
To keep hides looking like new follow these steps:-**

Include your cowhide rug, calf skin, furniture or cushions in your normal cleaning routine, simply vacuum with the power reduced to the rug setting and the vacuum head brush in the down position or give rugs and cushions a shake outside to remove dust and small dry particles of dirt. Rotate your rug or move to a different location from time to time so that it wears evenly.

You can wipe cowhide smoothly in the direction of the hair with a damp (but not wet) cloth with mild soap and water. Do not soak the hide or get it too wet. DO NOT wash in a washing machine or dry clean. Brushing with a hard plastic bristle brush or broom helps to keep the hair soft and fluffy and helps to remove dirt and larger particles trapped in the hair.

For common spills like red or white wine, coffee, tea, juice, food, soup, urine and vomit - soak up spills with a paper towel or sponge immediately. Remove solid matter with the blunt edge of knife by scraping gently in the direction of the hair. Then wipe with a damp (but not wet) sponge or cloth using mild soapy solution. You can wipe and rub the hair vigorously in any direction. Finally clean with a damp cloth using a diluted 5% white vinegar and 95% water solution, this balances the PH levels and helps to eliminate unpleasant odours.

For oil based stains like fat, grease, lipstick, tar and chewing gum - Remove solid matter with the blunt edge of knife by scraping gently in the direction of the hair. Then apply Eucalyptus oil directly to the affected area on a soft cloth by dabbing gently. Finally wipe with a damp (but not wet) sponge or cloth using a mild soapy solution. You can wipe and rub the hair vigorously in any direction. We can not guarantee that this will remove your oily stain, but it the best method of trying. This is done at your own risk.

On a sunny day you can put your cowhide outside with the underside facing the sun. Store them in a fresh dry place, preferably rolled around a tube core with a clean cotton sheet to protect from dust and dirt while in storage.

We recommend that white, cream, beige or other light coloured cowhides be sprayed with a light coating of colourless nubuck and suede water proof spray from a cobbler or shoe shop when they are new. If you clean the cowhide with soap and water you can re-spray the surface again for added protection.

N.B. White spirits can also be used instead of Eucalyptus oil – no need to use soap & water after using white spirits.

Edge Curling – The Facts

There are a number of things that might cause edge curling on cowhide. A poor quality hide that has been unevenly split during the tanning process is a strong possibility. Because the leather fibres in the thinner areas dry out faster than fibres in the thicker areas it can create uneven surface tension and make them curl. Expect cheap cowhide to curl quite quickly. This is sometimes called cigaring.

However even a good quality cowhide can curl with the right environmental influences. Again if the top surface fibres are drying and contracting faster than the underneath due to heat expose like strong sun or a heater blowing hot air over the hide over a long period of time. Or the reverse can be true for under floor heating which dries out the underneath faster than the top surface.

They are most vulnerable to curling around the narrow leather parts like the legs and the cheek leather near the head. Curling is simply something that cowhide rugs can do, it should be considered the "nature of the beast".

There isn't really a cure but try to roll the leather back in the opposite direction to the curl and give it a squeeze massage. A misting of water can also help put a small controlled amount of moisture back into the leather. You can steam iron cowhide on either the leather or hair side with a cloth between the iron and the hide to help make it lay flat.

Visit www.gorgeouscreatures.co.nz for more information about cowhide care.

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