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Top Leather Protectors

By The Good Housekeeping Research Institute



To keep shoes and bags looking new, it's smart to make a small investment in a waterproofing spray. The Good Housekeeping Research Institute tested nine products on tan-colored shoes from 6pm.com to see which provided the best resistance to water, mud, and salt while being easy to apply and not altering the shoes' color. These two sealed the deal.

BEST FOR LEATHER

To gauge resistance against mud and rock salt, our product analysts applied these substances to treated shoes and let dry for 24 hours. When evaluating the Liquid Aquaseal Waterproofing & Conditioner for Leather pump spray (\$7, aquaseal.com), however, we ran into some trouble. This sealant worked so well, our test mixes just slid off — they had to be pressed on so they'd stay put for the testing period. Afterward, the treated shoes came completely clean with ease. When applying the spray, wipe any drips with a rag to avoid staining, even on the soles.

BEST FOR SUEDE

Light-colored suede can darken from contact with any liquid—including sprays designed to protect it from water damage. Revivex Nubuck, Suede & Fabric Water Repellent (\$7, amazon.com) caused no such staining, and water on treated shoes beaded right up. Dried mud came off cleanly with just a wipe of a damp cloth, though salt required a little more coaxing by way of a vigorous rub with a dry cloth.

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