



## Hints and Tips on Cleaning Your Harness

Zilco synthetic harness products require minimal maintenance, but like all harness products they must be regularly cleaned, especially on the surface which contacts the horse, in order to prevent rubbing by built up dirt. We recommend the following steps:

- Strip the harness apart (but make a note of the holes used or put a piece of thread through the hole as a “marker”.)
- Gently rinse with a hose or sponge down with clean water, then gently clean with a very mild soap solution (we use a few drops of a washing up liquid in a bucket of warm water) before rinsing. Microfibre cloths are particularly good at shifting stubborn dirt.
- Wet products should then be hung up to air dry, out of direct sunlight.
- Do not use petroleum based products, liniments or solvents on Zilco materials. Some customers have successfully used products intended for vinyl material and we particularly like Gold Label Polyshine for a show finish

With leather harness, we recommend the steps below:

- Take apart section by section and put a thread through the holes used, so it can be easily re assembled.
- Using a warm, damp sponge to wash the leather, making sure not to get the leather too wet. Allow to air dry at room temperature.
- Use saddle soap to clean all inner surfaces and avoid working up a lather.
- Only the reins should be cleaned on both surfaces with saddle soap. Avoid using shoe or similar polishes on reins.
- If any parts of the leather are stiff, treat with Neatsfoot oil. This must only be applied to the inner surfaces, since it’s impossible to get a good shine after oiling.
- Use a brush and apply a good wax shoe polish to the outer surfaces until it almost shines. A simple tip is to gently warm the polish in advance – leaving it in the sun (e.g. on a windowsill) will make application much simpler.
- After this, clean the buckles with Brasso or a good quality metal polish, taking care to keep the polish off the leather. If any brass is deeply tarnished or marked, use 0000 wire wool to apply the polish. Don’t use wire wool coarser than 0000 - it should feel like metal “cotton wool”
- Use a large buffing brush to put a shine on the leather and give the buckles a final polish with a soft cloth.
- Re assemble and give a final buff as necessary.
- Patent leather is treated in the same way, but use a good quality silicone free non wax spray polish (such as Pledge) instead of shoe polish on the patent surfaces