

Boot and Shoe Care

Uniform Care – Shoes

Your boots/shoes should be plain black leather boots/shoes. To keep your shoes looking their best at all times, they should be kept clean and polished regularly. The following notes should help your shoes to keep their shine for a long time. There is no 'quick and easy' way to polish your shoes, so-called 'time saving' methods such as 'paint-on shine' invariably give a poorer finish that will eventually crack and leave your shoes looking second rate.



HOW TO SPIT SHINE



Spread a thick layer of paste polish over the leather to be spit shined. Allow it to dry for 5 minutes. Wrap a soft, clean cloth around your index finger so you have a smooth area on the end of your finger and dip it in water so it is thoroughly wet but not dripping (see note 1 below).

Using a small circular motion (see note 2 below), buff the dried polish with the wet cloth until a shine starts to develop. Then, still using the damp rag on your finger, apply a fine layer of polish in a circular motion and keep on rubbing lightly until a hazy shine develops. Keeping the rag damp. Build up the shine with thin layers of polish applied in circles with light pressure until a glossy shine develops.

When sufficient shine has developed, use a clean, dry, soft cloth to give it a final buff and remove any last haze.

NOTE:

1. The reason you use a wet cloth is to stop the fine coats of polish sticking to the cloth and to encourage the polish to stick to the leather. You want to keep on building up thin layers of wax until you have a completely smooth surface that gives the glossy shine.
2. After the first heavy coat of polish you must use minimal amounts of polish to build up the shine. If you use too much polish, the solvent in the polish you are applying will dissolve the base you have already built up and you will have to start again in that area.
3. When boots/shoes are "spit polished", the polish will eventually crack after wearing them and this old polish must be removed before applying new polish. If you don't remove the cracked polish, the cracks will appear through the new polish and spoil the finish.

