LEE LEATHER CO.

The Well-Loved Bible Care Guide

How to store, clean, and protect a leather Bible

For the Bible you read every day — and the one you hope to hand down.

Written by a working Bible rebinder, in plain language.
No jargon. No tools needed. Just your Bible and five minutes.

1. Your Bible is meant to be used

Wear is not failure. A Bible that is read gets soft corners, a broken-in spine, and pages that know their way open. That is a well-loved Bible, not a ruined one.

This guide helps you slow down damage that can be avoided, and spot the damage that needs a rebinder — early, while it is still a small fix.

2. Storage

- Store your Bible upright on a shelf, like a book. Do not stack heavy books flat on top of it.
- Keep it away from heat, damp, and direct sun: not on a radiator, not in a hot car, not on a sunny windowsill, not in a damp basement.
- A dry, steady room is best. Big swings of heat and damp are harder on leather than steady use.

3. Carrying

- Support the spine when you carry your Bible. Do not carry it by one cover, dangling open.
- A bag or case helps, but do not over-stuff it. Extra notebooks, pens, and papers wedged inside strain the hinges every time you close the cover.
- If you carry it daily, a case that holds it snug — not tight — is worth it.

4. Handling

- Clean, dry hands are enough. No lotion, no food grease, no wet hands.
- Turn pages from the top corner, gently, not from the middle of the page.
- Do not fold pages down to mark your place. Use a ribbon or a flat bookmark.

5. Cleaning a leather cover

Start with a dry, soft cloth. Wipe dust off gently. That is enough for most Bibles, most of the time.

Conditioning can help dry leather feel softer, but it cannot fix everything. It cannot mend a cracked hinge, glue a loose page back in place, or save leather that has gone brittle and rotten. If the leather is cracking apart or crumbling, conditioning will not bring it back — that is a job for a rebinder.

> *This guide names no conditioner or cleaning product. If you are unsure what is safe for your cover, ask your rebinder before you put anything on it.*

6. Ribbons

Pull ribbons gently. Do not yank. A frayed ribbon end can be trimmed straight with sharp scissors.

Ribbons wear out faster than covers. That is normal. A worn ribbon is one of the simplest things a rebinder can replace, and original ribbons are kept whenever they can be saved.

7. Pages: loose page or loose section?

A single loose page and a loose section are different problems. A single page has come free on its own. A section is a whole group of pages coming loose together, often because the binding itself is failing.

Either way, do not force pages back in, and do not try to hold them with anything sticky. Keep the loose pages together, in order, inside the Bible, and show them to a rebinder.

8. The NEVER list

- Never use tape on a Bible. Not on pages, not on the spine, not as a quick fix.
- Never use super glue on a Bible.
- Never use wet wipes or wet cleaning on leather or pages.
- Never use heat to dry a Bible — no hair dryer, no radiator, no oven.
- Never hold a Bible shut with rubber bands or elastic straps. They cut into covers and pages.

9. The 5-minute seasonal check

Four times a year, take five minutes and check:

- ■ Hinges — do the covers still open and close without cracking?
- ■ Spine — is the spine firm, or is it pulling away from the pages?
- ■ Corners — are the corners worn through, or just scuffed?
- ■ Ribbons — are they frayed, tangled, or missing?
- ■ Page block — are any pages loose, or any sections shifting?

Write down what you find. Small changes over time tell a rebinder more than one worried look ever will.

10. When to contact a rebinder

Contact a rebinder if you see any of these:

- Pages or whole sections coming loose.
- A hinge that is cracked through, or a cover coming away from the pages.
- Leather that is brittle, crumbling, or rotten.
- Damage that is getting worse each month.

When you write, send clear photos: the whole Bible closed, the whole Bible open, the spine, and a close-up of the damage. Tell the rebinder what the Bible is, how old it is if you know, and what you would like kept the same.

This guide gives general care advice. It does not replace a rebinder's judgment on a damaged Bible. If you are unsure, ask a rebinder before you act.
Lee Leather Co., Corryton, Tennessee — Bibles made by hand.