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Can you put leather trainers in a washing machine

It has probably washed your clothes hundreds of times, but have you ever wondered what's inside that trusty washing machine?How does it spin the clothes so fast without leaking water? Why is it so heavy? How does the agitator switch directions? In this edition of HowStuffWorks, we'll venture inside a washing machine to answer all of these questions and more.We'll start by explaining how the washing machine cleans clothes, then we'll take a look at how the machine is put together. We'll look at the plumbing, the drive mechanism and the controls. If we take a look under the washing machine, you'll see what makes it so heavy.Yes, that is in fact a block of concrete in the picture above. The concrete is there to balance the equally heavy electric motor, which drives a very heavy gearbox that is attached to the steel inner tub. There are lots of heavy components in a washing machine.The washing machine has two steel tubs. The inner tub is the one that holds the clothes. It has an agitator in the middle of it, and the sides are perforated with holes so that when the tub spins, the water can leave.The outer tub, which seals in all the water, is bolted to the body of the washer. Because the inner tub vibrates and shakes during the wash cycle, it has to be mounted in a way that lets it move around without banging into other parts of the machine.The inner tub is attached to the gearbox, which is attached to the black metal frame you see in the picture above. This frame holds the motor, gearbox and the concrete weight.The picture above shows just the black metal frame, without the tub or gearbox. The cable that you see on the left side of the picture is the other end of the same cable that you see on the right side. There are a total of three pulleys, so that if one side of the frame moves up, the other side moves down. This system supports the weight of the heavy components, letting them move in such a way as not to shake the entire machine.But, if all of these parts are just hanging by cables, why don't they swing around all the time?A laundry machine has a damping system that uses friction to absorb some of the force from the vibrations.In each of the four corners of the machine is a mechanism that works a little like a disc brake. The part attached to the washer frame is a spring. It squeezes two pads against the metal plate that is attached to the black frame. You can see where the pads have polished the plate from movement during vibration. So you've either followed tips on camping for a rainy day, or adhered to guides on camping with dogs, or camping with children. Or you may have gone through simple commutes around town, or you may have spent a lot of time on the trailhead. No matter how cautious you have been, no matter how many guides and tips you have adhered to, your backpack will have naturally gathered plenty of muck by the end of the day. And like all outdoor gear, your backpack needs a thorough cleaning every now and again to keep it in tip-top shape and to extend its lifespan. That said, a simple cleaning every few months ought to do the trick. Here are a few tips on how to wash a backpack. Note: While some recommend machine washing your bag, we prefer a good old fashioned hand washing to prevent unnecessary wear and tear. You'll also want to check the tag inside your bag to determine the manufacturer's washing instructions. For example, some materials cannot be washed at higher temperatures. How to clean a backpack easily For this task, you'll need a sponge, soap, and some water. Before you get started, make sure you empty every pocket to prevent damaging any valuables you may have left inside. Next, unzip each of the pack's compartments, turn it upside-down, and give it a few shakes to loosen up and expel any debris. Wet the sponge in a soapy mixture and wipe out the interior pockets and compartments. Then, you'll want to tackle the exterior of the bag. For denser materials, you may need to use a toothbrush rather than a sponge. Once finished, wring out the now grimy sponge and rinse the bag with a cool, wet sponge. How to clean a backpack thoroughly If it's been a while since you last cleaned your pack — or you've just finished an exceptionally messy trip — your bag may require a more rigorous cleaning session. This process starts the same way as the previous method. First, empty the pack and give it a few shakes to loosen and expel debris. This alone may not be enough to sift away embedded materials. We recommend leaning on a basic vacuum and handheld attachment to remove these items. If your backpack allows you to detach the belt and shoulder straps, do so after the initial shakedown. Cleaning these parts individually allows for a better overall cleaning. If your bag features a metal frame, you'll also need to remove this. Now, grab a bucket of lukewarm water (you can use a sink or a bathtub for this step) then, using non-detergent soap, submerge your bag and give it a few undulations to ensure the soap covers all surfaces and compartments. Use a sponge or brush to wash away stains or dried sediments. Remember to be gentle when scrubbing or brushing more delicate materials. Now, discard the dirty water and refill the bucket with clean, cool water and rinse the bag. It may take a few dips to adequately rinse away soap from the previous step. Do not machine dry the bag at this point. Instead, use clothespins or hangers which allows the pack to completely air-dry as stowing the bag prematurely may result in mildew growth and unwanted odors. Editors' Recommendations Did you know that your kitchen tea towels can contain nasties like E Coli and all sorts of other bacteria? But surely throwing it in the wash will fix that?Well, no! It's all too easy to assume that the inside of your washing machine is as clean as a whistle as its sole purpose is to clean. However, as well as your washing, there could also be a build-up of old detergent, food and bacteria lurking - particularly as we're being encouraged to wash using lower temperatures, so the offending bacteria doesn't get killed off and can go on to reproduce. Something has got to be done... This content is imported from {embed-name}. You may be able to find the same content in another format, or you may be able to find more information, at their web site. Follow these tips to make sure your clothes are as clean as they lookWipe drawers with a damp cloth after each use to stop detergent build-up and, every couple of months, pull out the entire drawer and clean it thoroughly in hot, soapy water and leave it to air dry before placing back in the machine. Give the fabric conditioner section some special attention as gunk can especially build up in there. Run a service wash once a month on a hot wash (60C or higher) with no clothes or detergent in the machine. This will rid the machine of mould and bacteria. Every three to six months, we'd recommend using a proprietary washing machine cleaner - we're fans of Dr Beckmann Service-it Deep Clean. This will ensure that the dirt you can see - and the dirt you can't see - is eliminated leaving it fresh and hygienic. Check and clean drain filters regularly. Water also tends to collect in the base of your machine and can become quite smelly. Use the supplied, built-in drain hose and lower the end into a large bowl for the water to collect. Ensure you place towels around and under the machine as it can get quite messy, so go slow! Wipe the drum's seal with a solution of diluted bleach. Do this after every few washes to prevent build-up of mould and bacteria.Leave the machine door and detergent drawer slightly ajar when not in use. This will allow air to circulate and prevent the growth of bacteria. Like this article? Sign up to our newsletter to get more articles like this delivered straight to your inbox. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io A clean laundry room isn't just a quick vacuum and a load of fresh folded linens. Just like your towels (which BTW, you aren't washing enough), you have to keep your washing machine clean — weekly. And if you're doing heavy loads or washing things every day, then you may want to bump that up to a biweekly cleaning. Never cleaned your washing machine in your entire life? You're not alone, but the time to start is literally now. Fear not: It'll only take you 30 minutes, tops. House Beautiful/Getty Images This content is imported from {embed-name}. You may be able to find the same content in another format, or you may be able to find more information, at their web site. 2 cups vinegar1/4 cup baking soda1/4 cup waterMeasuring cupSponge Mix together 1/4 cup baking soda and 1/4 cup water in a small bowl to create a bicarbonate paste — or, you could call it, the detergent for your machine. Add baking soda and water paste to the detergent container of your machine and pour 2 cups of vinegar into the drum, and air-dry it in a well-ventilated area. MORE: 6 Best Pillows for Side Sleepers 2 Anything covered in pet hair Pet hair can be a real doozy to remove from clothing—but placing pants covered in Fido's fur in the washing machine will only make matters worse. Wet pet hair can clump and adhere to clothing, stick to the sides of a washing-machine drum, or even clog the machine's drain pipes, making it less efficient over time. Do this instead: Remove pet hair before popping it in the washer. First, use a lint roller or masking tape to pull off loose hairs. (Don't have either of those on hand? Put on a rubber glove, dampen it with water, and run your hand over the item.) If pet hair remains, try running the clothing through a short, low- or no-heat dryer cycle, along with a dryer sheet. Hairs loosened from the motion of the dryer will wind up in the lint trap. After that, clean the item as directed on its care label. MORE: 3 Gross Things That Can Happen If You Let Your Dog Lick Your Face 3 Bras Haphazardly Dropping Bras in the Washing Machine is the Quickest Way to Turn them from cute and supportive to pilled, misshapen, and stretched-out. Not to mention, unfashioned bra hooks can snag other clothing or get caught in your machine's cylinder or agitator (the rotating pole running down the center of some machines). Do this instead: Hand-washing is the gold standard here. Use cold water and a small amount of a mild liquid detergent designed for use with delicates. (Try The Laundress Delicate Wash, 16 fl oz, \$17.19, amazon.com.) After cleaning and rinsing thoroughly, gently squeeze out excess water to avoid damaging the fabric. If you're tight on time, there are ways to machine-wash bras—but only if you take special precautions. Be sure to clasp bras so that the hooks are less likely to catch on other items, and choose cold water to reduce the chance of shrinkage. "If you have a front-loader or a top-loader without an agitator, you can place bras in a garment bag and select the gentlest cycle," Forte says. "Whether you machine-wash or hand-wash, though, you should always air-dry to avoid destroying your bras' elastic in the heat of your dryer." MORE: How Often Should You Wash Your Bra? (And 4 More Bra-Washing Tips You Need to Know) 4 Anything with a flammable stain (think: gasoline, motor or cooking oil, paint thinner, alcohol) away from your washing machine—but in this case, the dryer is the real enemy. "The high heat of the dryer could cause the clothing to combust," Forte says, "which could spark an explosion." Not to mention the potential for flammable residue to build up in your machine. Do this instead: Spot-treat the stain with a solvent-based stain remover (like Spray n' Wash, 60 fl oz, \$11.29, amazon.com), and let it sit for at least ten minutes. If the odor from the stain subsides, it's okay to machine-wash the item at this point, so long as you wash it alone (to avoid the risk of the stain transferring) and hang dry afterward. Otherwise, it's always a safe bet to hand-wash the item in hot water—the heat will help pull out the stain—with liquid detergent, and then hang dry. MORE: This Simple Folding Trick Helped Me Declutter My Wardrobe And Save Money 5 Anything lace or embroidered Delicate items with beading or embroidery shouldn't be washed in the machine because the movement can destroy the detailing. This is particularly the case for items with embellishments glued, rather than sewn, on (check for stitches), as those pieces are all the more likely to fall off in the wash. Another item that needs extra TLC: items made with lace. The material can be ripped or torn should it come into contact with clothing that has buttons, snaps, hooks, or zippers. Do this instead: Your best bet here is hand-washing—with one exception. If the item's care label says "Dry Clean" or "Dry Clean Only," bring it to a reputable cleaner and ask them to cover the embellishments with foil or cloth. This way they won't be damaged by the chemical solvents used in the dry cleaning process. MORE: The Danger In Your Dry Cleaning 6 Extra large items "If it doesn't fit with room to move, don't put it in," Forte says. "Without space for the item to move around and for detergent to circulate throughout the drum, the item isn't going to clean well." Overloading your washing machine with a queen- or king-sized comforter or duvet, for example, could cause the item to get tangled. This could break the agitator in a top-loader or throw a front-loader's rotating drum out of alignment. MORE: This Is The Blanket That Finally Stopped Me From Sweating All Night Do this instead: If you find yourself pushing and shoving to fit an item in your machine, you're better off bringing it to a laundromat and using one of the triple- or mega-load washers. Another option: Head to a dry cleaner, and ask if they can wash the item in a commercial-sized machine, which most cleaners have on-site. While you could also get the item dry-cleaned, it's best to avoid that route if your comforter is made of down or other natural fibers, which can be degraded by harsh dry-cleaning solvents. 7 Anything made from wool, velvet, or cashmere These delicate, all-natural fabrics are no match for the abrasive motion of your washing machine—which can cause them to appear pilled, matted, or misshapen after just a single wash. Or even worse, shrink them. (Yes, that's right! Not all shrinking happens in the dryer.) MORE: 8 Things You're Not Washing Nearly Enough Do this instead: If the dirty item is colorfast—meaning, it will hold its color in water—you should hand wash it. (Tip: Check for colorfastness by dampening a part of the fabric near a seam and dabbing with a white cloth. If the cloth shows color, the item is not colorfast, and you should have it dry cleaned instead.) After dissolving a gentle detergent like Woolite (16 fl oz, \$9.34, amazon.com) in a sink filled with warm water, immerse the item fully. Forte instructs. Move it around so it becomes covered by suds. After 10 to 15 minutes of soaking, drain the soapy water and remove the item. (Forte suggests putting it in a colander temporarily so it doesn't drip on the floor.) "Then, fill the sink with cold, clear water and submerge the clothing to rinse," she says, "as opposed to holding it under the tap while water runs over it," which won't effectively remove soap residue. Afterward, squeeze to remove excess water, but avoid wringing, which could misshape the item. Roll in a towel to dry, and then lay on a drying rack or another dry towel, Forte suggests. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. 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