

# THE Hoofbeat

Your Connection to the Horse Industry

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## Choosing a Conditioner for Your Leather Tack

With Jochen Schleese, CMS, CSE



**Q** I have been told that I should regularly oil my saddle. Can I use baby oil or a vegetable oil if I have nothing else available to add moisture to my leather?

**A** When it comes to your saddle, it's highly recommended that you only use oil that is manufactured for use on leather - use baby oil on babies and olive oil in salads, because that's where they belong.

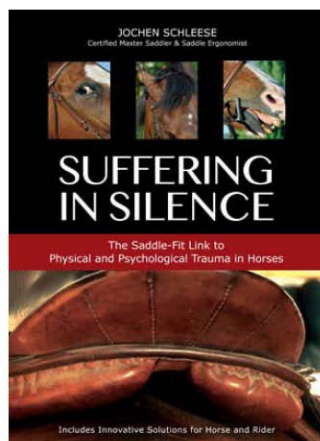
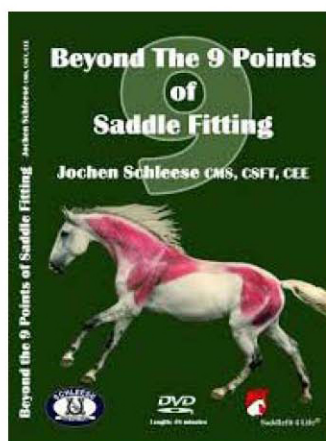
If you use any type of soap (glycerine or otherwise) on your saddle, make sure you rinse it off completely. Soap will eventually eat through the leather just as sweat will, so you're better off using just water if you have nothing else. Get rid of the sweat in any case. Think of washing your hands - when using glycerine soap, you do rinse it off completely and then apply a conditioning hand lotion.

Beeswax cream for saddles works very well as a moisturizing conditioner. We recommend using oil very sparingly on your saddle and tack, and only on those parts of the saddle or tack that don't touch you. In some English saddles, excessive use of oil on the seat will actually soak through the laminated layers of the Beechwood saddle tree and may loosen the glue to the extent that the tree is compromised to the point of breakage. We recommend a very light oiling only once when your saddle is new and thereafter staying with a beeswax conditioning cream to keep the leather supple and looking new.

*Certified Master Saddler and Certified Saddle Ergonomist Jochen Schleese is the owner of Schleese Saddlery and the founder of Saddleftit 4 Life®.*

For more information, please visit [www.saddlesforwomen.com](http://www.saddlesforwomen.com) and [www.saddleftit4life.com](http://www.saddleftit4life.com).

## Congratulations to Our Contest Winners!



- \* Pippa Hodge
- \* Breanne Ellison
- \* Janina Zabel

These three lucky e-subscribers have won a prize pack from Schleese Saddlery that includes the "Beyond the 9 Points of Saddle Fitting" DVD and Jochen Schleese's new book, "Suffering in Silence."

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