



# Waxed Canvas Care Guide

How to care for and maintain waxed canvas soft goods

## Introduction

Waxed canvas bags are a perfect blend of rugged durability and timeless style. Whether you use yours for daily commutes, outdoor adventures, or as a chic accessory, knowing how to care for it properly will ensure it lasts for years. Waxed canvas, with its water-resistant and sturdy nature, requires a little TLC to maintain its appearance and functionality. Here's a comprehensive guide on how to care for your cherished waxed canvas bag.

## Regular Cleaning

Like any other bag, waxed canvas bags benefit from regular cleaning. Start by shaking off any loose dirt or debris. For light soiling, a soft-bristled brush or damp cloth should suffice. Gently scrub the affected areas and then wipe clean with a dry cloth. Avoid using harsh detergents or soaking the bag, which can compromise the wax coating. Use a stiff-bristled brush followed by a soft-bristled with a damp cloth as needed for heavily saturated areas.

## Spot Cleaning

A mild soap solution can be used for tougher stains or stubborn spots. Mix a small amount of mild soap, such as castile soap, with warm water. Dampen a cloth with the solution and gently blot the stained area. Be careful not to scrub too vigorously, damaging the waxed surface. After spot cleaning, rinse the area with clean water and let it air dry before refreshing the wax.

## Refreshing Wax

Over time, the wax coating on your canvas bag may appear to wear off, especially in high-friction areas like the bottom and handles. Refreshing your bag periodically will help maintain its water

resistance and protect it from the elements. Refreshing the wax is not the same as re-waxing. To Refresh the wax, heat the bag to an appropriate melt point so that the wax begins to flow or the surface of the bag looks wet. 120-140 degrees Fahrenheit is typically hot enough to achieve this result. This can be done with a hair dryer or heat gun, or you may put your waxed item inside a linen bag or pillow case and toss it in the clothes dryer on high heat for 2-3 minutes.

## Re-waxing

Re-waxing your bag periodically will help restore its water resistance and protect it from the elements. Various wax products are available specifically designed for waxed canvas. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for application, ensuring coverage and focusing on areas that see the most wear. For Campcraft Outdoors products, we recommend our proprietary house blend wax to ensure you get an original finish on your fabric.

## Storage

Proper storage when not in use is key to preserving the integrity of your waxed canvas bag. Avoid leaving it in direct sunlight for extended periods, as this can cause the fabric to fade and the wax to melt. Instead, store your bag in a cool, dry place away from heat sources and moisture. If possible, stuff the bag with acid-free tissue paper to help maintain its shape.

## Avoid Extreme Changes

While waxed canvas is inherently water-resistant, prolonged exposure to extreme conditions should be avoided. If your bag gets soaking wet, allow it to air dry naturally, away from direct heat. Avoid using a hairdryer or placing it near a radiator to dry, as this can cause the wax to melt and the fabric to stiffen unnaturally and can discolor the fabric. In like manner, when the bag is too hot and appears overly wet, the wax transfer can occur to the contents inside the bag, so allow it to cool in a shaded area.

## Avoid Over Stuffing

Lastly, handle your waxed canvas bag with care. Avoid overloading it with heavy items like rocks, which can strain the seams and weaken the fabric. When not used, hang it on a sturdy hook or lay it flat to prevent distortion. With proper care and maintenance, your waxed canvas bag will age gracefully, developing a unique patina that tells the story of your adventures.

In conclusion, caring for your waxed canvas bag is a simple yet essential practice that will prolong its lifespan and keep it looking its best. By following these tips, you can ensure that your beloved bag remains a faithful companion for future generations.