WASHING AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

EDIX Merino

EDIX Merino products are made from genuine Merino sheepskin. This natural material is breathable, regulates temperature, wicks moisture, and repels dirt. With proper care, you can enjoy your Merino sheepskin product for a long time.

The following instructions are specifically intended for EDIX Merino products, but also apply to genuine sheepskin products from other brands. Only wash natural sheepskin products when necessary. Washing too frequently can adversely affect the sheepskin, but washing too infrequently deprives it of the conditioning it needs to remain supple. Never washing it will therefore not help extend its lifespan either. How often washing is needed depends on factors such as how much your horse sweats and how the product is stored. EDIX wool and leather detergent contains conditioning ingredients specifically formulated for both the hide and the wool.

The level of care required depends on factors such as how much your horse sweats, how dirty your horse’s coat is, and the conditions in which the product is used and stored. Regular airing, thorough drying, and gently combing out hair and loose dirt help reduce the number of washes needed and keep the product looking good, supple and comfortable for as long as possible. EDIX wool and leather detergent contains conditioning ingredients specifically formulated for both the hide and the wool.

Daily care and storage 1
Preparation before washing 1
Black marks and stubborn dirt 1
Machine washing 2
Detergent 2
Immediately after washing 2
Important while the product is wet 2
Hand washing 3
Preparation 3
Detergent 3
Washing 3
Rinsing 4
Removing excess water 4
Drying 4
After drying 4
Appendix – Checking Merino sheepskin products before washing 5
Warning signs before washing 5
Loose wool, bare patches or holes 5
Mould or a strong musty smell 6
A hard, dry or brittle leather hide 6
An unusually soft, weak or abnormal hide structure 6
Discolouration and moisture marks 6
Severely felted or matted wool 6
Storage can have a major impact on lifespan 7
Important warning 7

Daily care and storage

An EDIX Merino product does not need to be washed after every use. After use, allow it to dry completely in a well-ventilated place, away from direct sunlight and heat sources. Always store or dry a Merino product in its natural shape, without folding it. This allows sufficient air to circulate around the material and prevents unnecessary strain on the sheepskin.

Never put a Merino product away while it is damp or wet. Do not dry it in a tack locker, as there is insufficient ventilation. This can allow mould to develop and attract moths, which can cause irreparable damage to the product.

Preparation before washing

- Always remove all removable inserts from pockets and compartments.
- Where possible, remove loose or detachable components, such as knee rolls, girth straps or other separate attachments.
- Remove as much loose horsehair, sand, mud and dried dirt as possible.
- Fasten any velcro closures to prevent them from catching on the product.
- Check the product for stubborn dirt before placing it in the washing machine. If any is present, pre-treat it and allow the cleaning agent to work briefly before putting the product in the machine.

Black marks and stubborn dirt

Dark or black marks on the outer cotton fabric can be spot-treated with ox-gall soap before washing. Apply the soap only where needed and treat the material gently. Hard scrubbing or prolonged soaking is not necessary.

Machine washing

Preferably use the wool cycle at 30 °C. If your washing machine does not have a suitable wool cycle, choose a short, gentle cycle lasting no more than 30 minutes at 30 °C.

- Set the spin speed to a maximum of 600 rpm. A lower speed is always acceptable.
- Preferably wash a large Merino product separately and use a drum with sufficient space.
- Do not use an intensive cotton or synthetics cycle.
- An additional rinse cycle is not necessary.

Detergent

Use EDIX natural detergent for Merino sheepskin and follow the dosage instructions on the packaging. Machine washing requires more detergent than hand washing: use 50 ml. The detergent has been

developed to clean and care for washable sheepskins and contains lanolin, the natural grease found in wool.

- Do not use regular laundry detergent or standard wool detergent. It must be a wool and leather detergent!
- Do not use fabric softener.
- Do not use bleach or aggressive stain removers, as these dry out both the wool and the hide.

Immediately after washing

Remove the product from the washing machine as soon as the cycle has finished. Do not leave a wet Merino product compressed in the drum for an extended period. Merino wool can hold a lot of water, making larger products particularly heavy after washing. Support a large, wet product properly with both hands. Do not lift a heavy bareback pad or large saddle pad solely by one corner, loop, strap or other attachment point.

Important while the product is wet

- Do not wring it out.
- Do not stretch it forcefully. Gentle kneading from time to time during drying is beneficial, but do not do this while the product is still very wet.
- Do not brush it while the wool is wet.
- Do not hang it by a single component if that component will bear the product's entire weight.
- Do not use it until all layers are completely dry.
- Do not put the inserts back in until the product is dry.

Hand washing

Hand washing is a good, gentle way to clean EDIX Merino products. Because you control how the product is moved and handled, you can treat the Merino wool and other natural materials gently throughout the wash.

Always use lukewarm water at a maximum of 30 °C. Avoid large temperature changes and handle the product gently throughout the wash. Do not rub vigorously, scrub, knead or wring. Use as little water as possible to avoid diluting the detergent too much.

Preparation

- Always remove all removable inserts and loose components before washing.
- Remove as much horsehair, sand, mud and other loose dirt as possible.
- Dark or black marks on the cotton outer fabric or underside, where there is no Merino sheepskin, can be spot-treated with ox-gall soap before washing. Prevent the ox-gall soap from soaking into the hide of the Merino sheepskin.
- Fasten any velcro closures before placing the product in the water.

Detergent

Use EDIX natural detergent for Merino sheepskin and follow the dosage instructions on the packaging. For a moderately soiled product weighing 2.5 kg, use 20 ml of detergent; use more detergent for heavy soiling. The detergent has been developed to clean and care for washable sheepskins and contains lanolin, the natural grease found in wool.

- Do not use regular laundry detergent or standard wool detergent. It must be a wool and leather detergent!
- Do not use fabric softener.
- Do not use bleach or aggressive stain removers, as these dry out both the wool and the hide.

Washing

Fill a clean sink, basin or bath with just enough lukewarm water at a maximum of 30 °C. Gently immerse the product and ensure that the Merino sheepskin product becomes evenly wet.

Next, distribute half of the intended amount of EDIX detergent over one side of the Merino sheepskin and gently rub it into the fleece. Turn the pad over and repeat this process on the other side of your Merino sheepskin product. Then move the product gently through the water and carefully press the water through the soiled areas. This distributes the detergent evenly through the water and throughout the Merino sheepskin product.

Do not scrub, rub vigorously, brush or wring. Doing so can tear the wet hide.

Do not leave the product in the water longer than necessary, and never leave it to soak. The hide will absorb too much moisture and become vulnerable to damage. A short, gentle wash is sufficient.

Rinsing

Drain the dirty wash water after washing. If necessary, gently rinse the product with clean water at approximately the same temperature.

Avoid large temperature changes and do not direct a strong jet of water onto the Merino sheepskin.

Removing excess water

Carefully lift the wet product out of the water, supporting it properly. Remember that Merino wool can hold a lot of water, making the product considerably heavier.

Never wring the product out.

Gently press excess water out of the material. Smaller products can be placed between clean, dry towels if desired. Gently press the moisture into the towels without twisting or wringing the product.

Support larger products, such as a bareback pad, properly when moving them. Do not lift a heavy, wet product solely by one side, loop, strap, girth strap or other attachment point.

Drying

Always allow EDIX Merino products to dry naturally in a dry, well-ventilated room. Gently return the product to its natural shape and ensure sufficient air can circulate around the material.

- Do not tumble dry.
- Do not place it on or directly beside a radiator, heater or stove.
- Do not dry it with a hairdryer or any other direct heat source.
- Do not leave it to dry in strong or direct sunlight.

Merino wool retains a lot of moisture, and some EDIX products consist of several layers. The outside may therefore feel dry while moisture remains deeper inside the product. Depending on the product and the conditions, complete drying may take several days. This is normal.

If necessary, carefully turn or reposition the product during drying. Once it is no longer soaking wet, it can be gently kneaded back into shape. Avoid pulling hard, wringing or stretching.

Good ventilation is essential for proper drying. Make sure the Merino sheepskin side faces upwards and keep any pocket openings open.

After drying

Wait until the Merino wool is completely dry before brushing it. The dry wool can then be gently fluffed up with a suitable soft brush to separate the fibres and restore their loft. Do not use a sharp brush that could damage the wool or the underlying hide.

Only replace removed inserts and other components once both the Merino product and the loose components are completely dry. Never put damp inserts back into a dry product, or dry inserts into a Merino sheepskin pocket that is still damp.

Depending on the age of the Merino sheepskin product and the intensity of the wash, the leather may still feel a little dry. If so, use slightly more detergent next time and apply a thin layer of natural leather conditioner to the leather side, preferably Oakwood leather oil or Oakwood leather conditioner.

With proper care, the natural properties, softness and comfort of your EDIX Merino product will be preserved for as long as possible.

Appendix – Checking Merino sheepskin products before washing

Washing can remove dirt, sweat and other soiling from normal use, but it cannot repair existing damage to the wool or leather hide.

If a Merino sheepskin product has received insufficient care over a prolonged period, has been put away damp, stored incorrectly or affected by mould or moths, for example, the structure of the wool and/or leather hide may be permanently damaged. In such cases, washing cannot "save" the product. In fact, if the leather hide is already weakened, washing may reveal the extent of the damage.

We therefore recommend carefully checking a Merino sheepskin product before washing it. Inspect both the wool side and the leather hide.

Warning signs before washing

Loose wool, bare patches or holes

Never pull hard on the wool. Instead, gently check whether it is still firmly attached to the hide. If tufts of wool come away very easily or bare patches are already visible, this may indicate damage to the hide in which the hair roots are anchored. Possible causes include:

- Prolonged exposure to moisture;
- Mould growth;
- Deterioration of the hide's structure;
- Insect damage;
- Insufficient care over a prolonged period.

Where moths or moth larvae are present, loose tufts of wool that come away easily from the hide are often visible. Irregular bare patches or areas of clearly damaged or broken wool may also develop. Rodents can also damage both the wool and the leather during storage. This damage is mechanical and/or structural and cannot be repaired by washing.

Where such damage is present, washing cannot restore the lost attachment between the wool and the hide. Moths are not always visible or detectable in the product!

Mould or a strong musty smell

Visible mould, dark or unusually coloured patches, and a strong musty or damp smell may indicate that the product has been exposed to excessive moisture for a prolonged period. Mould may be present not only on the surface of the wool but may also affect the leather hide. If mould has weakened the hide, it may become brittle, tear or suffer further damage during washing. Washing therefore cannot reverse the effects of prolonged mould damage.

A hard, dry or brittle leather hide

The leather side of a healthy sheepskin should be supple and flexible. If the hide:

- Feels unusually hard;
- Is very dry;
- Has very little flexibility left;
- Makes a cracking sound when moved;
- Shows small cracks;
- Or begins to break easily,

this may indicate that the natural structure of the leather has already been damaged. This can happen, for example, as a result of prolonged storage in an excessively dry or warm environment, near a heat source, or in conditions with large fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Washing cannot restore a dried-out, structurally damaged hide.

An unusually soft, weak or abnormal hide structure

The opposite can also occur. If the hide feels unusually soft, thin, spongy or weak, this may indicate prolonged exposure to moisture or deterioration of its structure. If this has weakened the hide's fibre structure, it may tear or pull apart during washing.

Discolouration and moisture marks

Localised discolouration, dark spots, yellow or brown areas, or distinct moisture rings may indicate previous exposure to moisture, dirt, sweat, urine from mice or rats, or other substances. Not every discolouration means that the product is structurally damaged. However, pronounced discolouration combined with an odour, an abnormal hide structure or loose wool should be treated as a warning sign.

Severely felted or matted wool

Wool that has remained wet, dirty or compressed for a long time can become severely felted. Mild felting can sometimes be gently reduced through proper care, but severe felting may be permanent. If the wool is very compact, hard or completely matted, washing may not be able to restore its original structure.

Storage can have a major impact on lifespan

Merino sheepskin products must not be stored for prolonged periods:

- While still damp;
- In sealed plastic packaging if residual moisture may be present;
- In a very humid room;
- Directly beside a heat source;
- In prolonged direct sunlight;
- In a very warm or extremely dry environment;
- In areas with large temperature fluctuations and condensation;
- Near aggressive chemicals, solvents or strong fumes;
- In places accessible to moths, insects or rodents.

For long-term storage, the product must be clean and completely dry, and kept in a dry, well-ventilated place.

Important warning

Correct washing is part of proper care, but washing cannot repair damage already caused by insufficient care, prolonged soiling, incorrect storage, moisture, mould, drying out, insects or other external influences.

Do not wash a Merino sheepskin product without checking it first.

If the wool is already coming loose, or the leather hide is severely dried out, brittle, mouldy or structurally weakened, there is a risk that the damage will become more apparent or worsen during washing. This does not mean that washing caused the original damage. The water and movement during washing can reveal or worsen pre-existing damage to a weakened hide.

The condition of the product before washing therefore determines the outcome. If there is any doubt about the condition of the wool or leather hide, we recommend carefully assessing the product before proceeding with washing.