HOW TO BREAK IN YOUR GLOVE

1. MOISTEN THE GLOVE’S LEATHER

Pour a small amount of hot water (150 to 170 degrees Fahrenheit) over any area of your new glove you want to make softer. Do not put your glove in the microwave or use detergents to soften the glove, as this can damage the leather. You can also use a small amount of glove oil applied with a sponge. Never put glove oil directly on the glove. It can be too concentrated at the point of application and can leave that spot soaked and heavy.

2. WORK THE MOST RIGID PARTS OF YOUR GLOVE

Once the glove is saturated with warm water or glove oil, bend the thumb and pinky back and forth toward each other and away from each other to begin breaking in these stiff areas of your mitt. Squeeze the thumb and pinky together. Push the back fingers down and squeeze the palm liner. Pull the web top to stretch it a little. Repeat this process six to eight times before your glove is completely dry.
**3. SOFTEN THE GLOVE**

Just like other leather products, your glove should start to soften with extended use. To speed up this process, you can help soften your glove by using a wooden mallet or 5 lb. neoprene dumbbell to pound the pocket where you would catch the ball. Pound the web as well to create a fold where you want your glove to break. This can help create a nice valley for the ball to fall into, as well as iron out any unwanted wrinkles for a smooth pocket finish. If you don’t have a mallet or dumbbell, try throwing a ball into the pocket 30 or so times before the glove dries. Pounding the pocket additionally helps the leather conform to your hand for that ultimate break-in.

**4. SHAPE THE GLOVE**

Put a ball in the pocket and wrap your glove with two to three rubber bands. The bands should be very snug, but not tight, and form an “X” shape as they overlap one another. Allow your glove to set this way for four to five hours. This will help your glove begin to take the shape you want when it dries and not revert back to its natural shape. Pound the pocket again after you remove the ball to work the pocket even more.

**5. JUST PLAY CATCH**

The most fun way to properly break in your baseball or softball glove is to simply play as much catch as possible with it. Through rounds of catch, your glove will slowly begin to form to your hand and the leather loosen with each catch. Playing catch day in and day out is going to be the best way to make sure your glove breaks in to your hand structure, as no oil or cream or pummeling treatment can beat a good old toss when it comes to recreating actual game experiences.