

Breaking in Your Child's Baseball Glove to Start the Year

For youngsters, new gloves can be stiff. The kids often times do not have the strength in their little hands to close the glove to make a catch when the glove is this stiff. It is crucial to oil your child's baseball glove after purchasing it, and oiling it before each new season. Baseball gloves tend to be very rigid and stiff because the leather that is used in the glove has not been broken in and conditioned. This can and likely will affect your child's ability to catch the ball. You should oil your glove to make the leather soft and easy to bend.

To oil a baseball glove, you will need:

- ***A baseball glove***
- ***A baseball***
- ***Baseball glove oil, baby oil, petroleum jelly, or specialty leather oils***
- ***Rubber band, string, or rope***
- ***A soft cloth***

1.) Rub oil on your new glove using a soft cloth. You can use special glove oils (can be found at any sports store and generally at department stores in their sports section), baby oil, petroleum jelly, or any specialty oil that can be used on leather. Apply a thin layer over the entire surface of the glove. Less is more when it comes to caring for your baseball glove. Too much conditioning oil can cause it to break down more rapidly than a properly cared for glove.

2.) Put a baseball in the pocket of your glove. Use a strong rubber band, string, or rope to close the pocket of the glove around the ball tightly. Let the glove sit overnight. Untie the glove. The conditioners should have softened and loosened the leather of the glove.

3.) Massage the glove to further loosen the leather. Using your hands, work the glove in different directions to loosen the leather and break in the leather of the baseball glove. You can also play catch with yourself and keep throwing the ball at the glove, as this also assists in breaking in the glove. Do this for about ten to fifteen minutes.

4.) Repeat this process once a year. You will want to oil your glove every year. This will ensure that the leather is conditioned and will extend the life of the glove.

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