FOR TIGHT LEATHER BOOTS AND SHOES

Boot Stretch and Fit Card

Real leather can gain up to about half a size in width. It never gains length. Find where it pinches, pick the gentlest method, and condition the leather afterwards.

1. Find the tight spot, pick the method

Tight spot	Best methods	Expect
Width (ball of foot)	Shoe stretcher + stretch spray; thick socks + gentle heat	Good
Toe box	Freezer bags; stretcher with toe plugs	Some (less with a hard toe cap)
Instep	Thick socks + gentle heat; cobbler	Limited
Calf / shaft	Calf boot stretcher + spray; cobbler	Good on leather lining
Bunion / one spot	Stretcher with bunion plug; cobbler	Targeted
Length	No method works	Choose a bigger size

2. The 7 methods

1. **Wear** with thick socks, 1–2 h a day
2. **Socks + hair dryer**, medium heat, 20–30 s, keep moving
3. **Stretcher**, overnight, a little more each day
4. **Spray**, or 1:1 rubbing alcohol + water (test first)
5. **Freezer**: sealed water bags in the toe, overnight
6. **Newspaper** packed in, dry slowly
7. **Cobbler** for expensive, cowboy or patent boots

3. By material

Lamb / sheep	Stretches most
Goat	Good
Cowhide	Some, slowly
Buffalo	Little
Suede / nubuck	Spray inside only
Patent	Gentle warmth only
Faux (PU/PVC)	Almost none

Never

- × High heat, heaters, ovens
- × Soak and fast-dry
- × Cooking oil, petroleum jelly
- × Skip conditioner afterwards

Full guide: How to Stretch Leather Boots and Shoes.

FIX FIT BEFORE BULK, NOT AFTER

Boot Sample Fit Check Sheet

Tight-fit complaints usually start with the last and the sample size. Try each key size on real feet, in the socks your customers will wear, and record it here before you approve bulk.

Style / sample no.		**Date**	
Upper leather		**Lining**	

Fit by size

Size	Length	Width	Toe box	Instep	Calf	Heel slip	Notes

Mark each cell OK, tight or loose.

Before you approve bulk

- ☐ Last shape fits your market's foot (wider fittings for many EU/US buyers)
- ☐ Width and toe box OK in every key size
- ☐ Calf measured on tall boots
- ☐ No length problems (stretching cannot fix them)
- ☐ Lining agreed: leather gives, synthetic does not
- ☐ Leather type and thickness written in the spec
- ☐ Approved fit sample signed and kept
- ☐ Bulk checked against the fit sample

Sourcing leather footwear or goods from Pakistan?

We work with verified manufacturers and check fit samples before bulk. See how we source or request a quote.