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## Wartime Tips for Wise Shoe Care

Janet Russell  
*Iowa State College*

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# Wartime Tips

## *for Wise Shoe Care*

*Rationing places increased emphasis on careful selection and proper care of wartime shoes, reports Janet Russell*

**I**NCREASED shoe mileage has become almost as important as increased tire and gasoline mileage. Consumers, with two coupons a year, are realizing that shoes cannot be selected carelessly or mistreated.

There are two sides to lengthening the life of shoes, according to Miss Elizabeth Peterson, Extension Service clothing specialist. First is the careful selection of each new pair to get shoes that fit correctly. Secondly is to give the best of care to every shoe from the time it is purchased until no longer wearable. By doing both of these, leather vital to the armed forces can be conserved.

New shoes should not need a "breaking-in" period; they should feel as comfortable as well-worn favorites. Measurements are correct only when taken while standing.

The shoe should be about an inch longer than the foot and not less than one-fourth inch narrower than the width of the foot. The arch length or heel-to-ball measurement also must be taken into consideration. Both short and long lasts are available for various arch lengths.

The widest part of the shoe should coincide with the widest part of the foot and the counter should fit snugly around the heel. Shoes which are straight along the inner edge and have a rounded toe with sufficient toe-room are more likely to fit correctly.

Shoes should be kept in good repair from the standpoint of conservation and health. At intervals all shoes should be checked for protruding nails, wrinkled or rough lining or seams and ill-fitting inner soles. Run-over heels often lead to poor posture and foot weariness. But any repair work must be planned ahead of time since most repair men are booked far in advance, says Miss Peterson.

One of the first canons in home care and grooming of shoes is to keep them clean. Soil and mud are harmful to the leather in shoes. Most shoe polishes are wax

or oil cleaners which keep the leather soft. If shoes are not worn regularly they should be cleaned about once every four months to remove dust particles which collect.

Drying wet or muddy shoes too rapidly and at too high a temperature will make them hard, thus they will easily crack. First the mud should be removed carefully. Then a soft, absorbent cloth or a wad of newspapers should be inserted inside the toes to absorb inner moisture and to keep the shoes in shape. The drying should be slow and away from extreme heat.

When the shoes are almost dry, the paper should be removed and the shoes placed where the air can circulate around and through them. A complete cleaning and rubbing with a soft cloth will completely restore the shoes.

Adjustable shoe trees are recommended over those with a flexible metal strip connecting the toe piece and heel ball. The latter may do more harm than good since they develop "camel-humps" in most shoes. A convenient emergency and conservation shoe tree is one made of newspapers. Several pieces may be crumpled and pushed into the shoe until the wad becomes firm and fits tightly.

Shoe racks are to be preferred over shoe pockets for every day storage since they retain the shape of the shoe and permit free circulation of air.

If shoes are to be stored over a long period of time, perhaps a season, they should be covered to keep them protected from dust particles. The storage place should be dry. Since shoes dry out and become less flexible after several months of disuse, they should be treated with a dressing and polished about every four weeks.

Alternate wearing of shoes is better for them than wearing the same pair day after day. This will allow the leather to dry completely between wearings.