HOW TO PROTECT YOUR POLE SHOES

The other day I unboxed a new pair of shiny, red pole shoes. Aah! They were so perfect, and I got lots of lovely compliments from fellow students. Unfortunately, after just a couple of months, they weren't looking so good. Big chunks of shiny red paint had scraped away from the toe box and the sole was starting to peel back.

While I'd love to buy new pole shoes six or seven times a year, my budget just doesn't allow for that. So I decided to research how to make pole shoes last longer.

Here's what I found out:

TREAT YOUR POLE SHOES LIKE A PET

You wouldn't leave your pet in the car on an 80-degree day or a freezing cold night, right? Pole shoes don't like extreme heat or cold either. Hot temps weaken glue bonds and temperatures below freezing can cause sandal tops and shoe straps to crack. So don't leave your shoes in a hot or freezing cold car.

BUY BOX PROTECTORS

Platform protectors, also known as box protectors, are a sheath of fabric that wrap around the platform part of your pole shoe. They're a simple and stylish way to keep your shoes relatively unscathed. The studio sells them for $12 and they're made by a Studio 4 student!

If you're low on cashola, you can also cut up an old pair of socks. Here's a short tutorial vid.

GLUE UP A LOOSE SOLE

If the sole of your shoe has come unglued, that's not just a style points deduction, it's a hazard. Avoid a faceplant or other painful spill by using super glue or gorilla glue to reattach the sole.

AVOID THESE MISTAKES

◆ DON'T use a permanent marker to cover up a bald spot (it rubs off on the floor)

◆ DON'T use electrical tape to cover up paint that's scraped away (the color will also rub off on the floor)

If you keep your pole shoes looking nice for longer, you might find the straps stretch out before the shoes are ready for the bin. If this happens, don't risk a twisted ankle or a fall, get some replacement straps. You can buy them at the studio or, if you don't see the color or style you need, get them online.