

## Leather Terms

**Aniline:** Leather that is colored all the way through with a transparent dye. The effect is applied by immersing the leather in a dye bath. Because the finish is transparent and shows the natural markings of the leather, only the best quality hides can be used.

**Corrected Grain:** Portions of the grain surface lightly abraded with emery wheel or sandpaper, so as to lessen the effect of grain damage. (See Snuffed Grain.)

**Double Needle Stitch** is used to securely join two pieces of leather. Also called a saddler's stitch, it is one of the strongest used in leather work. Also serves as a decorative accent on leather furniture.

**Embossing:** A process by which design is added to leather by pressure to alter or enhance the surface. Often, full hides are lightly sanded and embossed with a grain applied by a roller.

**Hand:** A term used to describe the softness or feel of a leather.

**Milling:** A natural softening process in which leather is tumbled in a drum.

**Natural Markings:** The subtle markings on leather are analogous to finger prints. They distinguish genuine leather from man made materials. Other marks which can appear on the surface of leather are healed scratches and scars, barbed wire marks, stretch marks, vein marks, wrinkles, brands and insect holes

**Patina:** A lustre that develops with time and use.

**Savage:** The light application of one color over another. Usually a darker color over a lighter one. Can be applied by hand by sponge, or by spraying for uniform application.



## Natural Markings

**Brands:** Rarely seen on furniture upholstery. Brands are distinctive marks used to identify steers.

**Barbed Wire Scratches:** Fairly common on leather upholstery, these are healed nicks and scratches from contact

**Grain:** Pore patterns distinguish the hides surface on un-altered leather. The Grain can also vary on pending on which part of the cow it comes from.

**Wrinkles:** Wrinkles found in the neck and shoulder areas appear like furrows on the hide.

## Care of Leather

- Leather should be vacuumed & dusted regularly.
- A Good Quality Leather Conditioner should be applied every 6 months.
- Wipe off spills immediately, allow to air dry. **No Soap or Water** should be used.
- Protect the leather from direct sun as it will fade from UV exposure.



# Product Knowledge Brochure

# Leather



Prestige, eye appeal, a soft touch, luxurious comfort, quality, and value. From the earliest civilizations leather has been prized. Leather's rare combination of beauty and function has always made it one of the best values in upholstered furniture.

## The Appeal Of Leather

**Timeless.** From the earliest civilizations, leather has been prized. Leather is strong, durable and useful, but most of all, it is beautiful and appealing.

### **Affects our Senses and Emotions.**

Aesthetic appeal, it varies from person to person, is a sense present in all of us. Leather appeals to the consumers' aesthetic nature—the softness, the deep color and distinctive aroma—excite the sense of touch, sight, and smell.

**Physical Features:** Beautiful and appealing as leather is, it would not have achieved the importance it holds today based on touch and feel alone. Today, leather furniture has been specially tanned, colored and treated to fit any environment and active lifestyle.

Leather outlasts fabric four to one.

Leather will not tear and is half again as strong as any fabric, even along the seam lines.

Today's finishing techniques assure that leather will not rub off, fade, crack or peel.

Leather will breathe and assume body temperature rapidly and is instantly comfortable...warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer than man-made products.

Leather is ideal for busy lifestyles. It ages well. does not wear like fabric covers. Instead, fine leather acquires a fine natural patina and will become more supple over time.



## The Making of Leather

**Chrome-tanned leather**, invented in 1858, is tanned using Chromium Sulfate and other salts of Chromium. It is more supple and pliable than vegetable-tanned leather, and does not discolor or lose shape as drastically in water as vegetable-tanned. It is also known as wet-blue for its color derived from the chromium. More esoteric colors are possible using chrome tanning.

### The Three Basic Steps In The Making Of Leather.



**Tanning:** Taking raw cattle hides that are in the perishable state and putting them into a preserved state. Hides at this stage are light blue in color (wet blues) and have an unlimited life. Tumbling, or milling, at this stage softens the hides.

**Dyeing:** This is the first step to introduce color to the hides. The dye has the same effect on the hide as stain does on wood. The hide is soaked in a solution of dye until the color has penetrated all the way through. Different parts of the hide accept dye differently. Dye, with no solids (color), will have a very natural look and feel.

**Finishing:** A slight coating of color, with solids, or just a clear top coat of polyurethane protection, is put onto the hide to create a more consistent look and coloration. The finish acts as a barrier between the user and the actual "skin."

## Types of Leather



- 1. Pure Aniline:** A "Full Grain" Leather. The grain remains in its natural state, and is dyed with a transparent dye. These are rare hides that show off all natural marks.
- 2. Semi Aniline:** A "Top Grain" Leather. The grain is somewhat corrected and the color is dyed through the hide. Color is more uniform and Semi Aniline shows fewer marks.
- 3. Pigmented Leather:** A "Corrected Grain" Leather. The leather has an opaque base coat with an embossed grain applied to the hide. These hides have a light protective clear coat applied for enhanced stain & UV protection. Our most widely used.
- 4. Split Hide:** The "Split" hide is the inside layer of the hide. Split leather then has an artificial layer applied to the surface of the split and is embossed with a leather grain.
- 5. Bicast:** Is a man-made synthetic upholstery product consisting of a thick polyurethane layer applied to a leather or reconstituted leather substrate. It is quite thick and somewhat stiffer in feel.
- 6. Durablend:** is not really a true leather but a man-made material composed of approximately 17% leather fibers (often scrap from leather tanneries or leather workshops) bonded together with latex binders to create a look and feel similar to that of 'true' leather at a fraction of the cost. This is actually a high performance fabric and should be referred to as such.