



Glossary of Terms

ANILINE LEATHER

- Leather that has been dyed through with aniline dyes. Sometimes topped with a protein, resin, or lacquer protective coating. May also be waxed.

CHROME TANNAGE

- The most widely used tanning method--leather tanned with chromium salts, primarily basic chromium sulphate resulting in soft mellow hides receptive to excellent colour variety.

CORRECTED GRAIN

- The outside enamel is buffed or sanded to minimize natural markings. It is then pigmented to cover the sanding and often printed with a false grain. A sealer topcoat is applied. Corrected grain material is also called top grain leather.

EMBOSSSED LEATHER

- Sometimes corrected, in which a pattern is applied by extreme heat and pressure in a press to give a unique design or imitation of full grain characteristics. Sometimes leathers are embossed to make them appear to be another leather.

FINISH

- A surface application on the leather to colour, protect or mask imperfections. More specifically, all processes administered to the leather after it has been tanned.

FULL GRAIN

- The term used for the outside original skin or hide that has had the hair removed, but otherwise has not been corrected or altered. Full grain leather possesses the genuine original grain of the animal.

HAND

- A term used in the leather industry to describe the feel, i.e. softness or fullness of leather.

NAKED LEATHER

- A leather with no surface, impregnated treatment of finish other than dye matter which might mask or alter the natural state of the leather.

NATURAL GRAIN

- A leather which retains the full original grain.

NUBUK

- A brushed, grain sueded leather.

PATENT LEATHER

- Leather with a glossy impermeable finish produced by successive coats of drying oils, varnish or resins.

PATINA

- A surface appearance of something grown beautiful especially with age or use.

PERFORATED

- The process of die cutting small holes to form a pattern. The holes can vary in size, density and pattern.

SADDLE LEATHER

- Vegetable tanned cattle hide leather for saddles and harnesses usually of a natural tan shade and rather flexible.

SPLIT LEATHER

- The hide is sliced in layers to give uniform thickness to the grain. The split is the next layer, which is a bi-product, which is trimmed and finished as suede. Cheap leathers are sometime pigmented splits with an embossed imitation grain.

SUEDE

- Leathers that are finished by buffing the flesh side (opposite the grain side) to produce a nap.

SUEDING

- The process of raising fibres on the grain side of a hide to give a velvet nap effect. This is generally referred to as "Nubuk".

TOP GRAIN

- The term intended to define genuine grain leather, as opposed to split leather which has been pigmented and embossed with a new grain.

UNFINISHED LEATHER

- Normally defines aniline dyed leathers or naked leathers with no additional application intended to finish, colour or treat in any way that would alter the natural characteristics of the leather.

UPHOLSTERY LEATHER

- A general term for leather processed in whole hides for use in furniture, automobiles and aircraft.

VEGETABLE TANNING

- The conversion of raw hide into leather using vegetable tanning materials, producing a leather with greater density, body and firmness than chrome tanned leather.