



# CTL LEATHER

A Garrett Leather Company

Leather 101 – Overview



# SELLING TECHNIQUES

Leather is the oldest, most durable materials known to man. It's extremely strong because of its 3-dimensional fiber weave structure; it takes more than 200 pounds of pressure to puncture leather-covered furniture and is resistant to tearing as well.

Most experts give leather an average life four times than that of textile products.

By its nature, leather is not flammable. Leather is the only material that meets the high standards required by the FAA for airline seating, without the addition of further flame-resistant products.

Leather does not cause allergies. All dust particles can be eliminated from leather, so it is perfect for people who are allergic to dust.

Leather is a natural substance, leather breathes.

Good quality leather contains from 10 to 15 percent of its weight in water. It absorbs and evacuates moisture that never stays on its surface. Leather is a lot like our skin; it maintains the temperature of the room and is porous. Air moves through leather freely while vinyl and synthetic back fabrics can trap air.

Leather molds to a form, but will not stretch out of shape. Like a favorite pair of jeans, it conforms to the body shape and becomes more comfortable with each use. Only leather ages so gracefully, becoming more supple and beautiful throughout its years of use.

Leather is the easiest type of furniture to care for. It needs only occasional dusting/vacuuming or for a more thorough cleaning.

You should clean every 3-4 months.







# LEATHER DISCLAIMER

Leather is a natural product produced as a byproduct of animal hides (mostly cows, steer, and water buffalo). Due to the life-style of the animals, leather will always have natural markings such as brands, insect bites, scars, fat wrinkles, stretch marks, abrasions, and burns. These natural markings are not considered defects but rather are indications of true full top grain leather.

Some natural markings may be less evident in leathers that have had the top grain altered via sanding processes and then covered up with pigments. These leathers tend to be more uniform in color and texture but sacrifice the natural softness and raw beauty of the product.

Most high quality leathers are only stained with translucent dyes that allow all the natural

beauty of the leather to show including the markings mentioned above. In addition to these distinct characteristics, the leather may also vary (some-times excessively) in dye lot coloration, much like the staining of wood products. Some leathers such as “pull-ups” (leather with waxes and oils pressed into the surface) are created to enhance this dye variation and will become extreme as the leather is pulled over upholstered frames.

Natural markings and dye lot variations are in no way considered defects. It is a common policy to accept no returns on product for any reason where the cause is due to the nature of this product.





---

# SOME PRINCIPALS

---

**Aniline Leather,** Pores completely visible, no extra labour on grain side

**Semi aniline leather,** Surface is covered with resin and pigment

**Grained leather,** Surface is covered with resin and pigment and then embossed with a small grain plate, this will give a uniform grain appearance

**Corrected grain leather,** natural grain is completely removed. Surface is pigmented heavily with resin and pigment and embossed with a coarse grain plate, this will give also a uniform but artificial grain appearance





**Full Anilines (Sauvage):**

- Most attractive, natural, soft, and expensive leathers
- Best hide selection used
- Dyed –through with no colour coating to surface
- Shows ALL natural characteristics, as there is no corrections done to the leather.
- More susceptible to liquid absorption due to natural porosity
- Breathes easiest & cooler to sit on

**Pull Up (Wax & Oil Pull-ups):**

- Aniline leather with extra top treatment of oil and/or wax
- Designed to be come “distressed” looking over time
- Similar properties to anilines but will become lighter in areas of heavy use, or when upholstering.
- Products available to ‘help’ restore look and feel

**Semi-Anilines:**

- Have been dyed-through & have thin finishing layer on surface
- Dyeing process with thin top-coating provides very even colouration
- Provide softness & feel of anilines w/ protective benefits of a surface finish
- Leather remains softer and protected, due to thin top-coat
- Similar properties as an aniline, with slight coverage, to protect the leather.







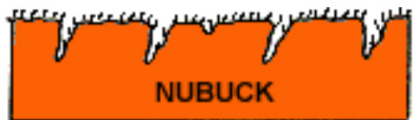
#### **Pigmented:**

- Leather may be buffed (corrected) to reduce heavy natural scarring & blemishes, concealing some natural markings
- Leather is coloured with coating containing opaque pigments
- Leather is embossed with grain pattern to ensure uniformity of colour & resistance to fading



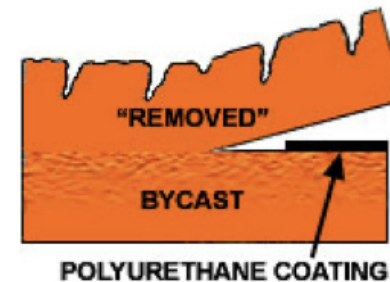
#### **Nubuck (Chaps, Suede):**

- Aniline leathers with brushed surface to create 'velvet' texture
  - Suede is 'flesh' side of piece of leather
  - Nubuck is an 'effect' on grain side of leather
- Brushing breaks surface and opens leather to make it incredibly soft
- Brushing makes leather even more absorbent than aniline leathers



#### **Bycast Leather:**

- Lower split leather with glued on film of coloured polyurethane
- Typically produced in darker colours and lightens when stretched
- Scratches easily
- Relatively new to furniture market (used in handbags & belts for some time)
- Product varies in quality



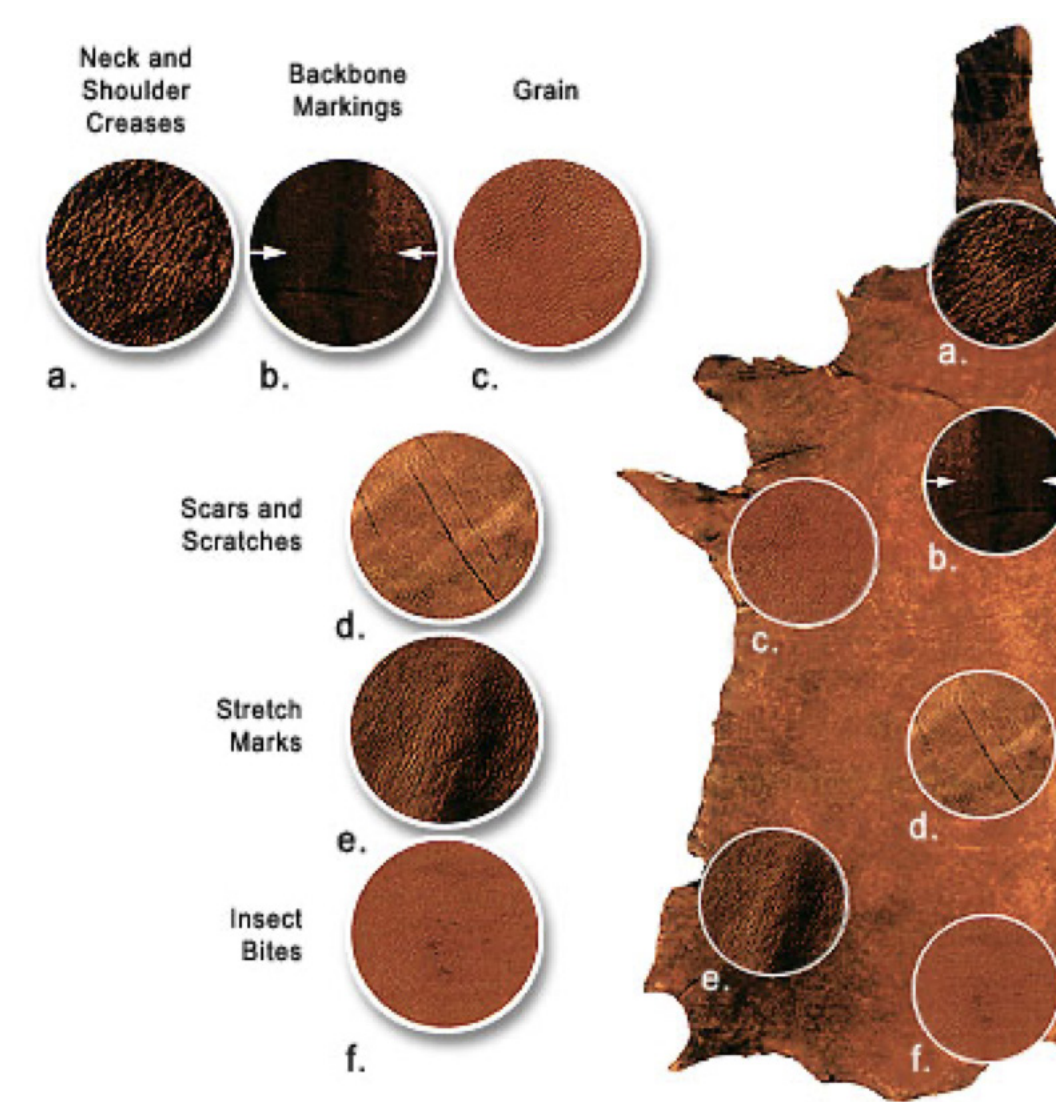
#### **Bonded Leather:**

- Polyurethane product with leather shavings glued to backside
- Not "technically" leather at all



When choosing leather, consider that it is a natural material and nature's signatures will be incorporated into it. These signatures may be in the form of healed scars, blemishes or other markings that should be considered natural beauty marks. The finest natural leathers exhibit various surface markings and texture variations. These variations are ALSO caused by factors including climate, location and age. Variations within the leather are not flaws and will not affect durability and strength.

Colour variations also occur in some leathers (aniline leathers), during the dyeing process, since pigments are not used. Each hide absorbs the dye in varying amounts, much like wood varies when stained. An arm of a sofa may have a slightly different shade than the cushion or back of a sofa, because both pieces were cut from different parts of the hide, this is not a material defect, but evidence that it is natural leather.



A swatch or sample cutting represents the colour, texture and feel of the leather. However it will likely not be an exact match to the hides the customer receives. Variations are due to the fact that leather is a natural product with unique characteristics that differ from hide to hide (like a person to person).





# HIGH TRAFFIC AREA LEATHERS

Madras, Meridian, Preston have been used in many Air Canada lounges and hotels.

- Atlantis
- Bombay (15)
- Bull (27)
- Carrera (30)
- Cortina (20)
- Dublin (41)
- Epic (12)
- Madras (30)
- Mardi Gras (15)
- Meridian (102)
- Paradiso (13)
- Preston (106)
- Rio (15)
- Santiago (32)
- Verona (20)





# MID TRAFFIC AREA LEATHERS

Anything in the High Traffic area can also be used here depending on the clientele's expectations. – Used in many local Toronto restaurants and bars.

- Bruges (18)
- Caress (21)
- Cowboy (27)
- Dakota (20)
- Dallas (44)
- Dartmoor (13)
- Lodge (23)
- Mustang (19)
- Palma (12)
- Queensland (15)
- Roxy (12)
- Seide (17)
- Siena (20)
- Soho (32)
- Stagecoach (12)
- Trentino (10)
- Tuscany (12)





# RESIDENTIAL/HANDBAG LEATHERS

Anything in the High traffic and Mid can also be used here. – Based on the clients desires and expectations of the articles.





# ANILINE & PULL UP (WAX AND OIL PULL-UPS)

*(Caress, Classic, Cowboy, Dakota, Dallas, Dartmoor, Epic, Lodge, Mustang, Palma, Queensland, Seide, Soho, Trentino, Tuscany)*



Most attractive, natural, soft and costly leathers. The result of this particular tanning process is exceptionally soft leather in its most natural state.

Best hide selection used. Usually of European Origin.

Dyed with no colour coating to surface. Color pigments or protective top coats are never added to full aniline leathers.

More susceptible to liquid absorption, due to natural porosity.

Direct exposure to ultra violet sun rays will cause fading and/or dis-colouration.

Soaks up color (dye) during the dyeing process and this may create subtle shading variations within the hide, due to the thickness and location (also within the same production lot, hides will vary).

Natural, subtle variations in color and grain, much like wood varies when stained, no covering up any natural markings, scars, scratches, wrinkles, stretch marks and other natural characteristics. These are unique characteristics and will be incorporated into upholstered furniture.

An arm of a sofa may have a slightly different shade than the cushion or back of a sofa, because both pieces were cut from different parts of the hide, this is not a material defect, but evidence that it is natural leather.

Hides can vary (hide to hide, lot to lot and within a hide - sides to middle), due to the nature of the leather.

Unprotected Leathers such as this, require special handling. Leather care products are recommended for their protection and cleaning (Use a professional Leather Cleaning Service.)



Oil and wax pull-up leathers are basically aniline leathers that are coated with a certain wax or oil on the surface of the leather to produce a finish that gives a unique feel and response to wear.

The natural lines in the leather are distinctly lighter than the rest of the surface of the leather, sometimes almost appearing like slight cracks.

Surface scratches are more pronounced but can be removed by rubbing them with your fingertips. The warmth of your hand releases the natural oils, blending away the marks. The leather takes on a beautiful aged look that should take years to create.

Wax pull-ups also have a distinctive look to them, designed to become “distressed” looking over time, becoming lighter in areas with use, or even with upholstery.

When pulled tight around corners and edges or with consumer use, produces a brilliant burst and

change of colour. Pull-ups are full aniline leathers that have received an oil and/or wax application. When the leather is pulled, the oil and/or wax separates, causing the colour to become lighter.

More susceptible to liquid absorption due to natural porosity.

Natural, subtle variations in color and grain, much like wood varies when stained, no covering up any natural markings, scars, scratches, wrinkles, stretch marks and other natural characteristics. These are unique characteristics and will be incorporated into upholstered furniture.

Shade variations can still occur, because pieces are cut from different parts of the hide, this is not a material defect, but evidence that it is natural leather.

Unprotected Leathers such as this, require special handling. (Use a professional Leather prod.)





# SEMI ANILINES

*(Bruges, Cortina, Dublin, Mardi Gras, Preston, Roxy, Siena, Stagecoach, Queensland)*

The tanning process of semi-aniline begins in the same way as an Aniline, however, have the addition of color pigments applied to the surface.

A very light pigment coat is sprayed or rolled onto the hide surface, generally it is just enough to aid in offering a uniform colour.

The light pigment also provides a degree of protection from fading and helps to control SOME shade variations from hide to hide.

Semi-aniline (and Aniline) leathers are 'full grain', meaning that typically no alterations have been made to the surface of the leather.

More susceptible to liquid absorption due to natural porosity.

Natural, subtle variations in color and grain, much like wood varies when stained, no covering up any natural markings, scars, scratches, wrinkles, stretch marks and other natural characteristics. These are unique characteristics and will be incorporated into upholstered furniture.

Slightly different shade variations can still occur (less than an aniline), as pieces are cut from different parts of the hide, this is not a material defect, but evidence that it is natural leather.

Unprotected Leathers such as this, require special handling. Leather care products are recommended for their protection and cleaning (Use a professional Leather Cleaning Service.)







# NUBUK

*(Dartmoor, Paradiso)*

Nubuck is a leather with the grain's surface lightly sanded to produce an even, smooth texture with a velvety, lustrous look and feel. It has had its finished surface buffed to produce a slight nap or suede-like appearance. Most nubuck leathers are pure aniline leathers and many feature a moisture repellent. It is prized for its elegance and versatility in crafting items like shoes, furniture, and accessories.

Although nubuck is sensitive, it offers an unmatched suppleness. Leather, in general, carries a premium price tag, and Nubuck is no exception. Although it undergoes less processing than other leather types, its brushed appearance gives it an elegant edge.

Weighing the Pros and Cons, like every leather type, nubuck has its highs and lows. Its strengths lie in its softness, breathability, and versatility. However, its sensitivity to water and dirt necessitates special care. That said, the charm and elegance it brings to the table are unparalleled, making every bit of care worth the effort.

Because nubuck is made from top-grain leather, it is long-lasting, breathable and relatively durable. Not only is it comfortable, it also looks great no matter what product it is used in.



# VEGTAN

*(Tuscan Oil/Pompeii Smooth and Waves)*

Vegetable-tanned leather dates back to the primeval times when humans worked on transforming animal skins into clothing and several other crafts. However, the vegetable tanning procedure is traced to over 5000 years ago. And it is believed to have begun with the Ancient Egyptians.

Vegetable-tanned leather refers to leather that has gone through “vegetable tanning,” which means that the leather has been treated with tannin-rich plant extracts. It is a thick leather characterized by its robust and natural finish – you would find the hide’s natural fibers visible on the finished product.

It is often viewed as not having a soft hand. Many goods, such as boots, jackets, wallets, and accessories, start stiff and smooth and therefore this product is ideal for these applications. With time and use, they break in, becoming softer and more pliable, which is largely dependent on the hide. Every leather item crafted from this vegetable-tanned leather has an unmistakable appearance, with distinctive features including its thickness, earthy smell, and silky feel. It is pretty durable and develops a rich-colored patina as it ages.

Vegetable tanned leather is a long-lasting and durable material. Although the finish can

scratch and it is susceptible to abrasion, it can be cleaned with mild soaps, such as saddle soap. The leather can be conditioned with simple leather conditioners that will keep them lasting a long time.

The biggest enemy of veg tan leather is water, which can stiffen and darken it. Often, when working with vegetable tanned leather, it is important to use a sealer on the leather to keep the water from penetrating it.





# PIGMENTED/ENHANCED

*(Atlantis, Bombay, Bull, Carrera, Madras, Meridian, Rio, Santiago, Verona)*

Leather may be buffed (corrected) to reduce and conceal heavy natural scarring & blemishes.

Leather is coloured with coating containing opaque pigments. Coated with clear sealant to enhance stain resistance. Degrees of topcoat pigmentation (protection) varies in this category from light to heavy.

The pigments actually create a film on top of the leather hide, and depending on the heaviness of the application, the pigments may actually cover the actual surface and camouflage excessive scarring or “defects.” However, the lighter the coating of pigment, the softer the feel, but the more natural scarring will show.

Leather is embossed with grain pattern to ensure uniformity of colour & resistance to fading, creating a highly uniform and consistent texture.

Referred to as ‘protected leathers’, most common leathers for many consumers and the most practical. Least likely top-grain leather to fade or stain.

Excellent durability with minimal maintenance. Top coated leather is very durable and will provide excellent wear characteristics if maintained properly.

Very little natural leather markings can be seen through the coated surface because a pigmented “non-penetrating” dye is used to “paint” the leather’s surface.

Water will not stain this leather nor does it scratch easily.

There are some natural defects (such as brands, tics, holes) to cut around for the Upholsterer, but due to the pigmentations, corrections & embossment, the yield is very good

