

Types of Leather

Leather is an ancient, durable material created through a process of tanning animal rawhide to preserve it and make it pliable when dry. Many features of natural leather make it superior to synthetic products including durability, comfort, beauty, suppleness, and resilience. Plus, leather's ability to patina and absorb body oils continues to enhance the leather's appearance and makes it more beautiful over time.

Leather can broadly be divided into full grain, enhanced grain, corrected grain, top grain, and split leathers.

Full Grain Leather

Full grain leather has no surface alterations. The hide's natural pores and grain textures are intact and it will develop a patina over time. The tiny pinholes dotting the surface indicate the hide's open hair follicles. The presence of these hair follicles demonstrates a high quality surface which has not been altered to conceal flaws. This full grain surface breathes. It keeps the user comfortable as it adjusts to body temperature. Full grain leather is the highest quality, most beautiful, and most comfortable leather available.

Enhanced Grain Leather

Enhanced grain leather is a full grain with an artificial grain embossed over the natural grain. Enhanced grain leather has the same comfort and breathability of a full grain, but the surface has received minor alteration to improve grain appearance.

Corrected Grain Leather

Corrected grain leather is produced from the upper portion of the hide. The surface is lightly sanded or refined then embossed with an artificial grain texture. Corrected grain leathers have a more consistent appearance across the entire surface.

Top Grain or Split Leather

Top grain leather is produced from a split. Split leather is leather created from the fibrous part of the hide left once the upper portion of the rawhide has been separated from the hide. Unlike full grain leather, a top grain product begins with an inferior raw material. Its grain surface is removed and an artificial grain pattern applied. Top grain leather has to be heavily pigmented and heavily altered in order to compensate for imperfections and lack of natural fiber structure.

