

LEATHER GUIDE

2024



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WHAT IS LEATHER?

Leather is made from the natural skin of an animal, which is known as the hide. Cowhide is most commonly used.

The hide is put through a very detailed process known as "tanning" to prevent it from decaying, decomposing and oxidizing.

Leather is a naturally porous and breathable material that makes for a beautiful, luxurious seating experience.

ADVANTAGES OF LEATHER

COMFORT

Leather is a natural material. It conforms to your body shape & temperature and becomes even more comfortable with use.

Leather adapts to the temperature in the room, making it comfortable during the heat of the summer and the cool of winter.

Leather becomes more supple as it ages, increasing its coziness.

DURABILITY

Leather is one of the strongest upholstery materials in existence. Its strength, elasticity, and tear resistance are legendary!

ADVANTAGES OF LEATHER

CLEANABILITY

Leather has tight, strong fibers that prevent the penetration of dust, lint, animal hairs and other allergens. Dusting regularly and wiping spills with a soft, slightly damp cloth will prolong the life of leather furniture.

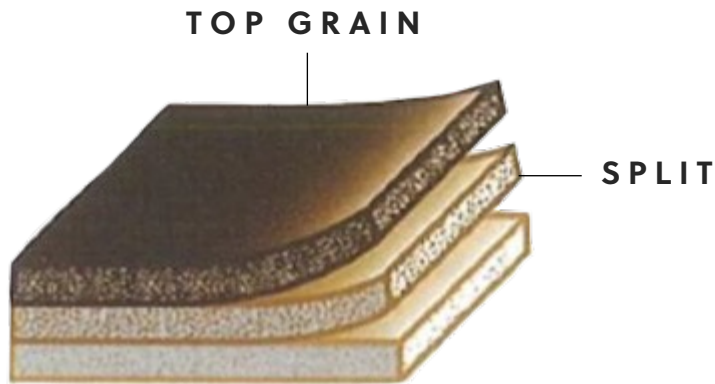
FLAME RESISTANCE

Leather is naturally flame resistant and will not easily burn or melt.

UNIQUENESS

Made from real animal hide, leather is unique. No two hides are alike! Each comes with its own distinctive markings and characteristics, which makes each furniture piece truly one-of-a-kind.

LEATHER CLASSIFICATIONS



Top grain is the top portion of the leather hide, which is the strongest portion.

Split grain hides are the second cut (sometimes the third cut) below the surface of the hide.

Split grain is created from the fibrous part of the hide left once the upper portion (top grain) is removed.

LEATHER CLASSIFICATIONS

100% TOP GRAIN LEATHER FURNITURE

Consists of top grain leather on all surfaces, with no use of split grain.

100% LEATHER FURNITURE

Consists of top grain leather in high use areas combined with split hides on the outside arms, backs and some component boxings.

COMBINATION LEATHER/FAUX LEATHER UPHOLSTERY

Genuine leather typically covers inside areas such as the back, seat and arm cushions; skillfully matched faux leather covers the remaining areas. This is a great option for consumers who love the look & feel of real leather but prefer a lower price point!



A close-up photograph of dark brown leather upholstery, likely from a chair or sofa. The leather has a pebbled texture and is accented with white stitching along the edges of the panels. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture and the contrast between the dark leather and the white thread.

NATURAL MARKINGS



GRAINING

Leather grain, similar to a human fingerprint, is unique to each individual hide.

STRETCHMARKS

These occur as a result of growth and giving birth and become a permanent marking on the cow.

INSECT BITES

Insect bites heal, but sometimes they leave visible scars.



BRANDING MARKS

Brand marks, or fire brands, are used as identification marks and are part of virtually every hide.

WRINKLES

Wrinkles occur naturally in the loose skin around the neck and belly of all cows. The skin must be loose to allow the flexibility for grazing and overall growth.

HEALED SCARS

Stretch marks are the result of a cow's unsheltered life and evidence that the hide is, indeed, top grain. The marks do not affect strength and durability.



A close-up photograph of a black leather sofa. The image shows the backrest, seat, and a portion of the armrest. The leather has a smooth, slightly pebbled texture. White stitching is visible along the seams and edges, providing a sharp contrast against the dark leather. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours and texture of the material.

LEATHER CARE

PLEASE DO:

- Carefully use a vacuum cleaner with a soft bristle brush to lift dust and particles from all surfaces and crevices.
- Follow with a soft cloth to remove remaining dust from the surface. Do not over rub.
- Maintain at least two feet between furniture and heating sources. Prolonged exposure to heat sources may cause leather to dry out.
- Wipe spills from the surface with a soft, slightly damp cloth as quickly as possible after the spill occurs. Do not over rub.
- Be familiar with Ashley's warranty by visiting the website.
- Scratches & marks show more easily on 100% top grain leather due to the top coatings that are added during the finishing process.

PLEASE AVOID:

- Avoid placing leather furniture in direct sunlight. Some materials will fade over time when placed in direct sunlight, and leather is no exception. Because leather is a natural hide, it could not only fade but also dry out.
- Avoid using harsh chemicals or other cleaning agents such as furniture polish, ammonia, detergent soaps or abrasives. These products will break down the leather's natural protective surface and cause damage.
- The use of products containing solvents, silicones or oils may also damage or cause a negative effect on the leather's surface.
- Avoid exposing leather to sharp objects such as studs on clothing, pet claws, or other items with sharper edges that could damage the surface.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS





LEATHER

A hide or skin that has been tanned into a non-perishable material.



HIDE

The whole or entire skin of a larger animal, usually cattle.



TANNING

The process that converts a raw hide into a stable, non-perishable material.



HAND

Term describing the way a textile feels when touched and how it responds when handled.



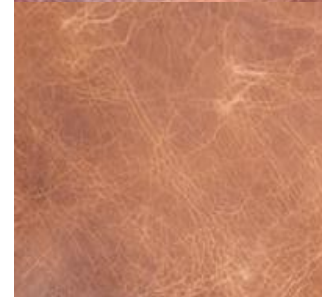
NATURAL GRAIN

The pattern, characterized by the pores and other nuances of the animal, that is visible on the outer surface of a hide after the hair has been removed.



PATINA

The surface luster and/or multi-toned affect that is applied to top-grain leather to achieve a tone-on-tone design.



ANILINE DYED

Leather that has been dyed throughout by immersion in a dye bath. Natural markings are typically most visible with aniline leathers.



SEMI-ANILINE DYED

Leather that has been aniline dyed throughout, then semi-anilines applied to achieve a patina affect. Natural markings may be visible with semi-aniline leathers.



MICROPIGMENT

Coloring of the hide by using a coating which contains a clear, transparent pigment. The coating may include a thin layer of opaque pigmentation to create a more uniform shade.



PIGMENT FINISH

Coloring of the hide by using a coating which contains pigments and other opaque materials.



GLOSS FINISH

A process used to create a higher shine/sheen, usually to enhance a texture that has been added to the leather.



GLAZED FINISH

Leather treated with a top coat that provides a glossy, protective finish.



EMBOSSED FINISH

The process of pressing the leather with an embossing plate under heat and pressure to impart a textured effect or pattern.



PURE ANILINE

Leather that is aniline dyed and exhibits natural markings and characteristics.



MATTE FINISH

A low-gloss finish, usually with enhanced texture added.



SAUVAGE/KELA

Multi-tone effect in which a darker color is applied over a lighter color or vice versa. It is similar to a faux finish one might see on painted walls.



DISTRESSED FINISH

A process used to create an effect resembling a worn or aged appearance. Tumbling the hides with abrasive items is the typical technique used.



HAND-ANTIQUED FINISH

Hand application of a darker color over a lighter color or vice versa, creating a dramatic highlight that imitates an antiqued look.



NATURAL (FULL) GRAIN

Leather whose grain layer has not been altered in any way. The natural appearance of the grain is predominant, showing visibly healed scars, fat wrinkles, insect bites, etc.



CORRECTED GRAIN

Leather whose grain layer has been partially removed by buffing, and upon which a new surface has been created using various finishes.



ASHLEY LEATHER

At Ashley, we source the best materials in the industry to provide beautiful design options and excellent price points in order to inspire the love of home!

