

TYPES OF LEATHER AND CARE & MAINTENANCE

Full Grain and Top Grain Leathers

Full-grain leather is natural -- not buffed. The natural grain provides natural breathability, resulting in greater comfort. Full-grain leather can be either pure aniline or semi-aniline (when a light pigment is applied to protect leather against spills and scratches).

Top-grain leather (a.k.a. corrected grain) is lightly buffed or sanded to hide imperfections such as scratches or bug bites in the cowhide. Corrected leathers are more stain resistant because they are dyed and coated with a heavier layer of pigment. Top-grain leathers are typically used for heavy traffic areas (e.g., commercial and hospitality) and high-energy families. Note: even though top-grain leathers are "corrected" some hides may exhibit some natural characteristics such as heeled scars.

Even though Top-grain leathers are considered worry-free and easy to clean, routine care and cleaning is very important to maintaining the longevity of your upholstered furniture. Wipe the leather with a clean white cloth and distilled water to remove dust and dirt. If this process doesn't remove tougher stains use a non-alkaline soap, such as saddle soap. Never use solvents, abrasives or caustic household cleaners such as soap or dish detergent. These vary widely in strength and may cause cracking or other damage to the leather surface.

Aniline

Aniline leathers receive their color from dye only. In other words, the color has not been "painted" onto the surface. The cell structure of the skin causes the dye to be absorbed in different amounts, much like natural wood can absorb stain differently. As a result, aniline leathers display unique color variations.

Aniline is the most expensive leather to finish because only the top 5-10% of hides, which are relatively free from surface imperfections, are used.

Aniline leather has excellent softness and will develop a rich patina over the years and with use. But remember, Aniline leathers do not resist the sun and will fade if exposed to direct sunlight.

Aniline leathers require different cleaning procedures than semi-aniline leather due to its porous nature. The leather furniture should be vacuumed (with a drapery nozzle). After the furniture has been vacuumed, dampen a clean white cloth with distilled water and wipe the leather to remove any dust particles that the vacuum may have missed. Wipe the area until the water turns the leather dark; allow the leather to dry before repeating the process.

Nubuck

Nubuk is a top grain, aniline-dyed leather that is surface brushed on the grain side of the leather creating a nap and leaving a texture similar to velvet. Nubuck is NOT a suede. Suede is made from the less desirable split hide.

Nubuk leather can show natural characteristics such as healed scars, scratches, neck and belly wrinkles that will be visible on your furniture. Some nubuk's are embossed with a pattern to further enhance the surface with a decorative pattern.

Nubuk leathers will develop a patina over time and with use. Nubuk leathers will fade when exposed to direct sun. Nubuk furniture must be maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. Nubuk upholstered furniture should be vacuumed using the drapery nozzle only. You may then dampen a clean white cloth with distilled waters and wipe the leather to remove any dust particles. Do not use any type of soap on nubuk leathers they contain alkaline, which will crack and dry the leather.