

# all about leather

Your Guide to Leather Furniture



# advantages of buying leather

## COMFORT

- Leather is a natural material; making it an ideal choice for comfort.
- Leather has excellent temperature adaptation making it comfortable during the heat of the summer and cool of the winter.

## CONFORMABILITY

- Leather conforms to your body shape and becomes more comfortable with use.
- Only leather ages so that it becomes more supple throughout the years.

## UNIQUENESS

- Each leather hide is unique – No one hide is exactly like another.
- Leather comes with its own distinctive markings and characteristics; making each purchase truly unique.

## DURABILITY

- Leather has legendary tear strength, making it one of the strongest upholstery materials known to man.
- Leather's strength and elasticity gives it high ripping resistance.

## FLAME RESISTANCE

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

## CLEANABILITY

- Like our skin, leather has tight as well as strong fibers that prevent the penetration of dust, lint, animal hairs, or cigarette smoke.
- Leather is an ideal choice for those persons who are dust-sensitive or possess allergenic conditions.



## leather care tips

- Avoid placing your furniture in direct sunlight (under windows or skylights). All materials will fade over time when placed in direct sunlight. Some leathers are especially sensitive to sunlight.
- Maintain at least two feet between your furniture and heating sources. Prolonged exposure to heat vents and radiators may cause your leather to dry out.
- Like all items in your house, leather can accumulate dust. You can fully remove dust particles from the surface with a soft cloth, making it ideal for dust sensitive people.
- Certain types of leathers perform better when preventative maintenance is practiced.
- Use of general household cleaning products, chemicals and abrasives are not recommended as they can break down the leather's protective surface and cause damage. Never use harsh chemicals or cleaning agents (such as furniture polish, ammonia, or detergent soaps) on your leather furniture. Avoid all products containing solvents, silicones, or oils, as they may negatively affect the leather's surface.

# understanding the natural markings

## GRAINING

The grain, similar to human fingerprints, is unique to each individual hide. It is the hallmark of full grain leather hides and can vary from hide to hide or even within one particular hide.



## STRETCH MARKS

Stretch marks occur as a result of giving birth and become a permanent marking on the cow.



## INSECT/TICK BITES

Scars caused by the abundance of insect and/or tick bites. Typically, these scars heal but leave visible markings.

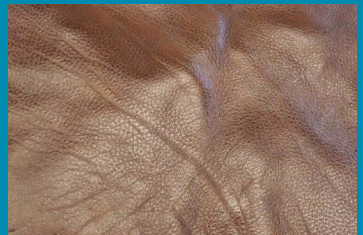


**BRANDING MARKS** Brand marks, or fire brands, are used as identification marks and are part of virtually every hide.



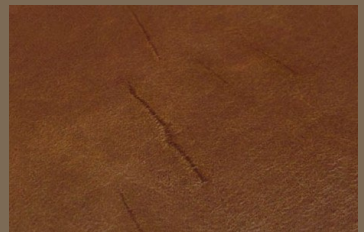
## FAT WRINKLES

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



## HEALED SCARS

Scratch marks are the result of the cow's unsheltered life and evidence that the hide is indeed top grain. Hides with fewer scratch marks are usually more expensive, but the marks do not affect strength or durability. Typical healed scars include those caused by insect/tick bites and barbwire marks.



# material classifications

## 100% LEATHER

- Consists of Top Grain Leather in high use areas combined with split hides on the outside arms and backs.
- Top Grain Leather refers to the “top portion of the leather hide” that is the most supple, durable, and cleanable.
- Considered the premium in Leather Upholstered furniture

*this sectional features  
100% leather*



## LEATHER MATCH\*

- Consists of Top Grain Leather in high use areas combined with PVC (polyvinyl coating) on the outside arms and backs.
- Top Grain Leather refers to the “top portion of the leather hide” that is the most supple, durable, and cleanable.
- Leather Match\* has the same “top grain” qualities as 100% Leather however the PVC versus Split Hides reduces the overall price point.



\*Leather Match upholstery features top-grain leather in the seating areas with skillfully matched vinyl everywhere else.

# glossary of terms

*it's all about the details*

**ANILINE DYED** Leather that has been dyed throughout by immersion in a dye-bath and has not received any coating of pigmented finish. This form of transparent dye penetrates the hide with color.

**DISTRESSED** Process used to create an effect resembling a worn look or an aged appearance. Techniques used to create this effect include tumbling the hides with abrasive items in order to scratch the leather's surface.

**CORRECTED GRAIN LEATHER** Leather from which the grain layer has been partially removed by buffing and upon which a new surface has been created by various finishes (e.g. embossing).

**DRUM DYED** Leather is immersed in a drum with dyes and tumbled to insure complete color absorption.

**EMBOSSING** Process of printing leather with a raised pattern either imitating or resembling an animal grain pattern. A unique pattern may be embossed on the leather that is unrelated to the natural grain pattern. Leathers are pressed with an embossing plate under heat and pressure to either lay out the grain as smoothly as possible or to impart a textured effect. Embossing may also be done to disguise defects or blemishes.

**FAT WRINKLE** Natural wrinkles in the leather's grain that are unique to each hide. Normally visible only in full grain leathers. Common around the neck, belly, and shoulder areas of the hide.

**GLAZED** Leather treated with a top coat containing not only gloss, but also protection.



**GLOSS FINISH** Higher shine/sheen level finish usually with enhanced texture added.

**GRAIN** Pattern characterized by the pores and peculiar to the animal concerned, visible on the outer surface of a hide after the hair has been removed.

**HAND** Term describing the leather's degree of softness and feel as well as the reaction of the sense of touch when leather is held in the hand.

**HAND ANTIQUED** Hand application of a darker color over a lighter color creating a dramatic highlight.

**HIDE** The whole or entire skin of a larger animal, usually cattle, for upholstery leather.

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

**MATTE FINISH** Low gloss finish usually with enhanced texture added.

# glossary of terms

*the basics*

**MICROPIGMENT** Coloring of the hide by using a coating which contains clear, transparent pigments. This coating can also be accompanied by a thin layer of opaque pigmentation creating a more uniform shade.

**NUBUCK** Top grain, aniline dyed leather that has been buffed to create a “suede like” nap effect.

**PATINA** Surface luster that develops on Pure Aniline Leathers and Nubuck Leathers which grows more beautiful with use and the passing of time.

**PIGMENT FINISH** Coloring of the hide by using a coating which contains pigments and other opaque materials. This finish creates a more uniform shade and an increased resistance to fading.

**PURE ANILINE** Leather that is aniline dyed and exhibits natural markings and characteristics because the grain has not been altered in any way.

**SAUVAGE / KELA** Two-toned effect in which a darker color is applied over a lighter color. This effect can be created during the finishing process either with a roller or spray equipment, or by hand. Similar to faux finishes on walls.

**SEMI-ANILINE** Leather that has been aniline dyed throughout then protected by a clear or pigmented finish coating thus creating a more consistent color than pure aniline leathers. Natural markings may be visible with semi-aniline leathers.

**SPLIT GRAIN** The underneath layer of a hide which has been “split” off when the top grain is separated. If finished, the split is heavily embossed and surfaced treated.

**SUEDE** Leather produced from the underneath layer/lower split of a hide possessing a velvet-like nap effect. Suedes do not have the same durable characteristics as top grain leathers.

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

**TANNING** Process using tanning agents to convert a raw hide into a stable, non-perishable material. Tanning strips the hide of indigenous color making it receptive to color dyes.

**TOP GRAIN** Top part of the skin or hide. The grain may be either Full Grain or Embossed Grain. The Top Grain of the hide is stronger and more flexible.



