

Exotic Leathers (Cites III and non-Cites)			
Name	Description	Comments	Size
Stingray (Shagreen) (Mainly from Thailand) Note: some species of stingray are designated Cites III	Prized for its pearled texture, toughness and durability. Unlike the other exotics, stingray skins are sourced as a by-product of the fishing industry.	Because they are a wild product they are more likely to suffer damage and Grade 1 skins are appreciably more expensive. Strong and durable, with a soft underside. Available in a wide range of finishes.	Although mature ray skins can be 40cm by 40cm, the vast majority are less than half that size, requiring multiple skins for bag construction.
Fish Leathers	Sourced from a variety of farmed and wild caught fish. Scales give a similar appearance to lizard skin. Includes Salmon, Tilapia, Carp, Wolf Fish, and Pirarucu among others.	Tanning is similar to leather but uses less chemicals and is a hands on process. The texture and quality depends on the type of fish. Fish leathers are thin compared to animal leather but they are stronger, odour free and durable.	Size will depend on the species, but generally skins are relatively small requiring multiple skins for bag construction.
Eel	By-product of the fishing industry. Tough, flexible paper like skin.	Sold in sheets and panels	Average width 60cm length 1.5cm Requires multiple skins for bag construction.
Ostrich (Southern Africa)	By product of Ostrich farming for meat. Known for its distinctive pattern of bumps created by vacant quill follicles, which take up a third of the hide. The remainder being smooth. Legs have a scaly finish down centre panel.	Involves an intricate production process making it costly. The leather is strong and durable, while retaining a soft pliable quality. There are a wide range of finishes available.	Average hides are 3.35sqm with thickness ranging between 0.6mm – 0.8mm Legs range from 11.4cm – 20cm wide and 45cm in length