

Leathers In Common Use

Leather Types	Characteristics	Uses	Size
Cattle	Compact fibres. Deep follicles spaced over the surface. The structure varies through the the hide. Thick - easily spilt.	Majority of all leather comes from cattle. Tanned and finished in numerous ways and combinations. Practical for all types of bags.	Varies in size from 3.72-5.57 sq m Average 5.11 sq m
Calf Skin	Small follicles very fine and compact grain. The structure varies very little across the skin.	Used different finishes - Prada uses it as Saffiano, a textured leather finish which is scratch resistant. Box calf is usually chromed tanned. firm to handle but soft to touch - used in high end luxury bags, including Hermes vintage Kelly bags.	Varies in size from 0.56–1.68 sq m Average 2.322 sq m
Buffalo	Strong. Tough with a rubbery quality, textural appearance.	Outer material for bag body.	Average 1.68-2.23 sq m
Goat	Strong with a fine grain structure. Goat is soft and pliable due to lanolin a waxy grease produced by goat's skin. Water resistant.	Suitable when leather needs to be strong but lightweight - high quality luxury bags. Goats suede has a velvet look and feel. Can be used for linings.	Varies in size, average 0.83 sq m
Kid	Kid suede, from small goats, has the softest velvety suede leather.	Kid skins, mainly chrome tanned, is a thin soft leather used for fine small leather goods, linings and gloves.	Average Kid Skin 0.37 sq m
Sheep	Tanned with the fleece intact. Skin from recently shorn sheep that is tanned with clipped surface is called Shearling. It has a suede surface on one side and a clipped fur surface on the other.		Average size 0.81 sq m
Lamb	Soft, stretchable skin, finely grained with a buttery feel.	Fine leather goods. Smaller luxury bags - due to skin size. Lamb suede is soft, luxurious, lightweight and very finely grained - used for outer and linings on high quality bags.	Average size 0.65 sq m
Pig	Obvious grain pattern. Softer to handle than cow skin. Bristles penetrate the dermis giving a characteristic triangular surface pattern.	The leather is used in high end bags both as an outer and lining. Pig suede made using the finely trimmed and brushed flesh side of the skin.	Average size 1.39 sq m
Peccary	A peccary is a medium-sized, pig-like hoofed mammal. The skin has a soft grainy surface.	Peccary used for small high quality leather goods and wallets.	Average size 1.85 sq m
Kangaroo	Structure similar to calf but with a higher tensile strength than cowhide. Can be used as a split leather.	High performance, good for very functional, practical bags.	Average size 0.7 sq m Thickness approx 1.1 cm
Deer	Tight very visible grain structure. Soft, supple to touch and stretchy.	Handbags and wallets.	Varies in size from 0.65 – 1.14 sq m
Cordovan	Leather made from the tight firm portion of horse butts, commonly known as the 'shell'. It has a very tight grain, will not crease or stretch and is highly durable.	Wallets, small bags and other high end accessories.	Varies in size from 0.45 – 0.61 sq m