

# Leather Finishes

Appearance	Type of Finishes	Types of Hides/Skins	Description	Comments
Colour Only	Aniline Dyed	Calf, Cow, Kid and Lamb	Pure dye. Natural looking, texture of the leather remains visible. Used on top quality hides and skins.	Not durable, stains and soils easily
	Semi-Aniline	Buffalo, Cow, Calf, Pig, Kid and Lamb	A more opaque finish that hides imperfections in the leather.	Semi durable with a constant colour finish. Can be made fully durable with a protective coating.
	Pigmented	Buffalo, Cow, Calf, Pig, Kid and Lamb	Total coverage no grain visible.	Coated, fully durable, with a plastic-like finish.
Velvety Appearance	Suede	Cow, Calf, Goat, Kid, Pig and Lamb	Made using the flesh side of hides and skins.	Colour fastness and soiling can be a problem. Needs to be cut in one direction to avoid shading issues.
	Split Suede	Cow, Calf, Sheep, Goat and Pig	Made using the flesh side of hides and skins.	A delicate material with the same look as suede but without the tensile strength.
	Nubuck	Cow and Calf	A top grain leather. Buffed finish that retains the grain effect. Calf Nubuck is full aniline that has been sanded or buffed in order to create a nap.	Very compact. Needs to be cut in one direction to avoid shading issues.
	Sheepskin	Sheep	Wool kept and treated with buffed underside, can be used with velvet finish as an outer.	Needs protective treatment to avoid soiling.
Sheen and High Shine	Glazed	Calf and Kid	Glass rollers used to give a smooth glossy finish	
	Pearlised Iridescent	All types of leather	Metallic powders and pigments are added to the surface giving it an iridescent appearance.	
	Patent	All types of leather	Leather sprayed with a layer of varnish or covered with film. Available in different finishes from stiff to flexible.	Never store in plastic or close to other colours as the colour transfers easily.
	Mirror Look	All types of leather	Similar to patent with a mirror surface	
	Naplack	All types of leather	Dry milled patent giving it a wrinkled look	
Metallized	Laminated	All types of leather	Metallic powders applied in a transfer foil.	The Metallized treatments can come away from surface of the leather.
	Foils	All types of leather	Foils applied directly to the leather.	
	Metallized	All types of leather	Metallic pigments sprayed on to the leather.	
Embossed	Mock	All types of leather	A pattern, typically crocodilian, is stamped onto the surface of leather. No visible grain	Directional and can have a repeat.
	Patterns and Textures	All types of leather	Part or all of the surface is embossed using the same technique as the mock exotics.	Directional and can have a repeat.
Special Treatments on Leather	Mill Grain	All types of leather	Leather is dry tumbled in drums to raise the grain	
	Shrunken Grain	All types of leather	An astringent is used to shrink grain giving a wrinkled appearance.	
	Washed Leather	All types of leather	Leather is soaked in water and dry milled to leaving folds and creases.	
	Hair On Hide Cavallino	Cow and Calf	Hides tanned with the natural hair in place.	Hair is directional and can shed causing bald spots.
	Laser Cut	Cow, Lamb and Pig	A laser is used to etch a pattern or cut through the leather for lace effect.	Potential scorch marks around laser cuts. Leathers need to be checked for similar thickness.
	Cut-Out	Cow, Lamb and Pig	Similar effect to laser cut using knives.	
	Scaly Leather	Cow, Lamb and Pig	Knife cut or laser to achieve a reptile appearance.	Directional and can have a repeat
	Perforated Leather	Cow and Lamb	Design punched out using a punching machine to create a regular geometric pattern.	Can effect the strength and performance of the leather.
	Woven Leather	All types of leather	Different methods of production using looms, hand weaving or using perforated leather as a base.	Depending on how it is produced, it can affect bag construction, strength and stability.
	Pleated Leather	Lamb	Leather pleated between card, rolled steamed and cooled.	Can lose pleats permanently.
	Quilted Leather	Any soft, pliable leather	Leather with padding and backing stitched to look like a quilt.	Panel matching requires careful attention. Pre-sample testing is important.
	Mock Quilted Leather	Any soft, pliable leather	Heat is applied to the leather to imprint a mock stitching effect.	
	Stitched	All types of leather	Stitching by hand or machine for decorative effect.	Pre-sample testing is important to establish the look and cost.
	Gathered Leather	Any soft, pliable leather	An elastic thread stitched to a thin supple leather for easy gathers.	Pre-sample testing is important. Need to know the exact the amount of gathers and the look before sampling.
Printed Leather	Digital	All types of leather	Ink jet printing using computer generated designs.	Need to ensure the leather will take a sharp print without banding or cracking. Surface texture may effect the design.
	Transfer		Using transfers and coating.	
	Screen Printed		Traditional screen printing.	
	Hand Painted		Oils are removed from the leather surface before painting with thin coats and finishing with a sealant.	Can be subject to cracking