
GALLATIN VALLEY

FURNITURE CARPET ONE

Bozeman Montana

Leather Characteristics & Features

Leather for furniture comes mostly from cattle, and no two hides are alike. Age, heredity and environment each influence the character of leather. Leather is the strongest, most versatile natural upholstery material. It should be noted that the durability of leather will depend on the type of leather and the quality of the upholstery frame. (See more information about upholstered frames in the “Furniture Construction” section)

A great feature of leather is that it is environmentally sound and a renewable resource. Since leather is a by-product of the meat industry, its use allows us to create valuable products from material that would otherwise be wasted. There are four main categories of upholstery leather:

- **Aniline Dyed Full-Grain Leathers**

Full-Grain leather, made from the finest raw material, are clean natural hides which have not been sanded to remove imperfections. Only the hair has been removed. Aniline is a transparent liquid dye used to color high quality hides. These dyes provide permanent color that also allows natural grain and markings to show through. Caution: The word "aniline" is used in a couple of ways, which can be confusing.

- **Pure Aniline**

Lovers of truly natural products are particularly fond of these leathers: Their buttery, glove-soft texture adds an extra dimension of comfort to your sofa or chair. Only premium hides with the most pleasing color and texture are selected for this category. To create this luxurious softness and their rich gem-like colors, aniline dyed leathers are tumbled for up to 12 hours in drums containing transparent dyes. These dyes enhance the subtle textural and color variation of each hide.

- **Aniline-Plus Leathers**

Sometimes called “Semi-Aniline,” these leathers are first drum dyed in penetrating aniline dyes. Then a thin matching topcoat is applied to even out the color of the hide surface. They retain the softness of pure aniline dyed leather because the natural top grain is left intact.

- **Corrected Grain Leathers**

Many hides are marred by naturally occurring imperfections such as insect bites, barbed wire scars, scrapes and other defects. To remove these imperfections, corrected grain leathers are first sanded or buffed, then embossed to restore a natural-looking grain pattern. Finally, additional color and a protective topcoat are applied. The resulting surface is somewhat stiffer than pure



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aniline leather, although it will soften with use. The proportionality large number of hides in this category makes this the most economical grade of top grain furniture leather.

- **Nubuck and Suede**

Both of these leathers are buffed for a soft, velvety nap and appear very similar. However, suede is a split grain and is less expensive. Suede requires more care and caution. Nubuck is aniline dyed top-grain leather and although it shows more natural markings, is the longer lasting of the two. Nubuck often receives a protective coating to help guard against stains.

- **Hair-on-Hide**

Used from a variety of animals, the natural hair and fur is not removed from the leather. Depending on the type of hide used, some hair / fur may be treated to reduce shedding and guard against stains.

Upholstered leather furniture is a great way to add character to any room. Visit our showroom today to explore the vast variety of leather furniture today.

