



## Understanding LEATHER

### **What is leather?**

Leather is the tanned /preserved hide of animals it is a by-product of the meat industry. It has many applications, including upholstery, footwear and clothing.

### **Upholstery leather types are:**

**Aniline Full Grain ... leather in its most natural form.** It has a beautiful feel but can suffer from soiling and fade due to light exposure.

**Pigmented Full Grain ... leather with a protective coating that covers minor surface defects and greatly improves wear characteristics.** The finish of the leather comprises a base coat, middle coat and finish coat.

**Pigmented Corrected Grain ... leather that has a lot of surface defects can have the top surface removed.** The leather then is finished in a similar fashion to that of pigmented grain with a more dense finish coat to improve wear. A grain is embossed into the hide. This leather will have a very uniform surface but will deteriorate under flexing due to the dense finish coat.

**Pigmented Finished Split ... a thick leather hide is split into two hides.** The finish system is similar to Pigmented Corrected Grain. This is cheap leather and should not be substituted for a full grain leather.

When considering the purchase of a leather lounge suite or choosing automotive trim:

1. Has full grain leather been used?
2. Price does not necessarily reflect quality of the leather used.
3. Has leather been used in all components or used in selected parts
4. What warranty is attached and written description of the leather.

### **How can I care for my leather?**

Regular cleaning will remove grime, body oils, dirt and perspiration preventing damage to your leather surface. We recommend that you use products that have been developed specifically for upholstery leather to preserve the top coat of the finish system. Abrasive detergents, saddle soap, solvents and silicone should be avoided.

Modern leathers benefit most from Protectors as they act as a protective film on the surface of the finished leather, greatly increasing their resistance to wear and soiling.

When the leather is cleaned, the protectant is removed, together with its embedded dust and soiling. Simply reapply protectant after cleaning to continue to care for your investment. This is the most important aspect to maintaining modern leather.

Conditioners replace oils that are lost with age, keeping the leather soft and supple. For most modern leathers the use of conditioners is not recommended as they tend to sit on the surface and create a soiling issue. Traditional conditioners tend to be manufactured for older vegetable tanned leather used in saddlery and outdoor leather (a very different product), requiring specific maintenance.

New Life Repair Services offers professional cleaning and protecting to maintain your leather in beautiful condition

Recent advances in anti-soiling and anti-staining have rewritten the rules of maintaining leather in its best possible condition. TFL

### **Can damaged leather be prepared?**

New Life Repair Services has developed exclusive repair systems for leather that is worn and faded. Minor damage; such as scuffs, scratches and small tears can also be repaired, saving you the considerable cost of reupholstering. We can also recolour your old leather to fit in with your new décor at only a fraction of the replacement cost. Service can usually be carried out on-site for you convenience.

Contact your local New Life Repair Technician for fast, friendly service and an obligation-free quote.

\*New Life is authorised to apply TFL™ anti-soiling coating, protectants and cleaners.

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