

SHEEPSKIN & LEATHER TERMS

Provided by the
American Sheep Industry Association



A	
Alligator	A general term for leather made of all aquatic species with a grain like the American alligator.
Alligator Grained Leather	Cattle or sheep leathers embossed with an alligator grain pattern.
Alum Leather	Alum Leather – Leather tanned using a combination of alum, salt, egg yolk and other materials.
American Sheepskin	Leather made from lambs from the United States.
Aniline	A type of color/finish used on fine leather hides, wherein the skins are drum-dyed for a smooth, soft hand and to bring out the leather's natural markings.
Aniline Dyed Leather	Leather dyed with transparent aniline dyes, as opposed to those colored with opaque pigments.
Antelope Leather	A rare, soft, leather made from antelope skin.
Antelope Finish Suede	Lambskin, goatskin, or calfskin, sueded and finished to resemble antelope.
Antique Grain	A surface pattern of markings or creases, usually irregular, in which the hollows are often given a contrasting color to produce a two-tone or two-color effect. The creases are produced by embossing, boarding or other similar means.
Antiqued/Distressed	Common descriptive terms for leather that shows signs of natural aging and wear that have been artificially created.
Antiquing	The method used of aging the appearance of a hide. Can be accomplished by either hand or machine.
Australian Sheepskin	Leather made from Australian lambs.
B	
Back	The main portion of a hide, obtained by cutting off the two bellies. Usually, the strongest piece of leather in the entire hide, with the least amount of stretch.
Bark Tanned	Leather preserved with tannins derived from plant sources/contained in the barks of trees. Also referred to as Vegetable Tanned or Oak Tanned.

Bating	Enzyme treatment to clean the inside of a skin and to help create a softer leather.
Belly	(1) Part of the hide covering the underside and the upper part of the legs of the animal. (2) Leather made from the underside of the animal. Usually weak and stretchy, but may be useful where stretchiness is desired, or at least not a problem.
Belly Grain	The tanned outer (hair or grain) layer split from a belly.
Belt Blanks	Precut strips of leather intended for belts or other strap goods.
Blue, in the	Chromium salts cause the tanned hides to be light blue before they are dyed. Other similar terms include In the Rough; In the Crust; In the White; and, In the Pearl.
Boarded Leathers	Sides or skins finished by folding with the grain side in and rubbing the flesh side with a cork surfaced instrument known as a hand-board. Machinery is now also used. The effect is also imitated by embossing.
Bookbinding Leather	Leather used for binding books: skivers, splits, cowhides, sheepskins, goatskins, calf, etc.
Bridle Leather	Vegetable tanned cowhide used for making tack.
Buckskin	Deer or Elk skin leather.
Buff Nubuck	See Nubuck.
Buffalo Leather	Leather from the domesticated water buffalo (not the American bison).
Buffed	Any type of leather that has been "buffed," i.e., polished to soften the surface.
Butt	The part of the hide after the bellies and shoulders have been removed.
Butt Split	The under layers, split from the butt of a cattle hide.
C	
Cabretta	Sheepskins having hair rather than wool. Largely used in the glove and garment trade.
Calf Hair	Sometimes referred to as "pony hair" or "hair-on leather," calf hair is simply cowhide or goat hide with the silky fur side intact. Often used for handbags and footwear for its natural animal-print color and sophisticated texture.
Calfskin	A high-quality, fine-grained leather made from the skins of young cattle.

Capeskin or Cape Leather	Terms used for the glove and garment leather made from sheepskins with the natural grain preserved. Must be qualified as “Domestic Capeskin” if not made from South African hair sheep.
Casing	Soaking, or wetting leather to make it suitable for carving and/or tooling.
Castile Merino Shearling	Spanish shearling regarded for its soft hand and superb quality.
Chamois	A very soft, oil-tanned, suede-finished, leather, originally made from Alpine antelope, but now made from sheepskin splits. Known for its absorbency.
Chamois Leather	(1) Leather made from the flesh split of sheep or lambskin, or from sheep or lambskin, from which the grain has been removed by frizzing, and tanned by processes involving the oxidation of fish or marine animal oils in the skin, using either solely such oils (full oil chamois) or firstly, formaldehyde and then such oils (combination chamois). In France and the United States, the term "chamois", without any qualification, is restricted to the flesh split of sheep or lambskin tanned solely with oils. (2) Leather made from the skin of a mountain antelope or chamois (such leather is rare).
Chrome Re-Tan	Leather which has been first chrome tanned throughout its thickness and subsequently further treated or tanned with vegetable and/or synthetic tanning agents and/or resin filling materials, these agents penetrating notably, but not necessarily completely, into the interior.
Chromium Tanned or Chrome Tanned	(1) Leather preserved using chromium salts, giving the tanned hides a blueish or greenish color. Makes the leather more heat resistant. Not suitable for tooling, due to its resistance to absorbing moisture. (2) Leather tanned either solely with chromium salts or with chromium salts together with quite small amounts of some other tanning agent used merely to assist the chrome tanning process, and not in sufficient amount to alter the essential chrome tanned character of the leather.
Colorado Steers	Term refers to side branded steerhides, not necessarily from Colorado.
Combination Tannage	Leathers tanned with more than one tanning agent, such as chrome and vegetable, to impart favorable qualities of both systems e.g., chrome followed by vegetable (chrome re-tan), vegetable followed by chrome (semi-chrome), formaldehyde followed by oil (combination oil).
Cordovan Leather	Originally leather from Cordoba, Spain, this term now refers to a strong, nonporous shoe leather made from horse hide.

Corrected Grain Leather	Leather from which the grain layer has been partially removed by buffing to a depth governed by the condition of the raw material and upon which a new surface has been built by various finishes. After buffing an artificial grain can be embossed onto the hide. Corrected grain leather offers the sturdiest finish and is the most economical leather.
Country Hides	Term refers to hides removed by butchers and farmers. The quality is usually lower than hides removed by meat packers.
Cowhide	Cowhides are select bovine hides that are naturally dried and tanned to ensure extreme softness and durability. "Hair-on cowhide" features the animal's natural fur for a rugged look and feel.
Crimp	The natural wave in a wool fiber that offers strength and resiliency to a sheepskin product.
Crop	A "side" of leather with belly trimmed off, retaining both head and shoulder.
Crushed Leather	Leather which has the natural grain accentuated during manufacture by plating, boarding or another process. Term also applied to leather which has been "grained" artificially.
Crust	Leather that has been tanned but not finished.
Curly Sheepskin (Also Known as Tigrado)	Sometimes referred to as "slink lamb," curly suede or Tigrado is the name given to sheepskin with tight curls on one side and a suede finish on the other.
Curried Leather	Leather, usually vegetable tanned, which has been subjected to the currying process, i.e., a series of dressing and finishing processes applied to leather after tanning in course of which appropriate amounts of oils and greases are incorporated in the leather to give it increased tensile strength, flexibility, and water-resisting properties.
D	
Deer Nappa	Skins from animals farm-raised in New Zealand and are tanned to exact specifications. Considered the crème de la crème of skins.
Deerskin	A leather with the grain surface intact, not removed like buckskins.
De-Grained Leather	Genuine suedes, finished on the flesh side of skins from which the grain has been removed after tanning by splitting or other process.
Density	The number of wool fibers per square inch on a sheepskin pelt. Density requirements differ depending on the products being made.
Diesel	A process of tanning sheepskin hides to yield a durable finish and strong wool.
Doeskin	The soft, supple formaldehyde and alum tanned skivers of sheep and lambs. The skin of a doe is rarely used.

Drum Dying	Also known as vat dying. This process assures full dye penetration. The hides are immersed in dye and tumbled in a wheel shaped drum for hours.
Dry Salting	Adding salt to dry leather more quickly.
Drying	Makes leather unappetizing to bacteria which ensures skins keep indefinitely.
Dyeing	The coloring of leather using a penetrating, transparent or translucent, fluid, as opposed to painting with an opaque pigment.
E	
Effect Coat	This is the process that gives leathers the desired look such as smoky marbled, antique, or duotone. This process adds interest not only in coloration but dimension. Can be called Tache, Kela, two tone or Sauvage.
Electrified Lambskins or Shearlings	Term applied to dyed and processed sheepskin shearlings finished to resemble fur skins.
Elk	A trade term for cattlehide shoe leather of special tannage and finish. Genuine elk leather is made into one of several types of buckskins.
Embossing	The process in which permanent artificial grain patterns are added through heat and pressure to correct grain hides. Also known as plating.
Embossed Leather	Leather embossed or printed with a raised pattern either imitating or resembling the grain pattern of some animal (usually the natural grain of another, more expensive, animal, such as ostrich or alligator) or quite unrelated to a natural grain pattern.
F	
Facing Leather	A lightweight leather generally used for facing seams and binding the edges of shoe uppers. Terms also applied to lightweight smooth calf and lamb, and to skivers often used in the inner surfaces of wallets.
Fat Liquor	A mixture of oils and soaps which make a leather flexible by lubricating the fibers.
Fat Wrinkles	Marks or wrinkles in the grain of the leather caused naturally by fat deposits. They are most prevalent in the belly and neck area of the hide.
Fifth Quarter	Parts of the animal that cannot be eaten.
Finish	(1) The final process or processes in the manufacture of dressed leather. (2) The surface coating applied to a leather.

Finishing	(1) Any treatment or process performed after tanning includes antiquing, dyeing, glazing, lacquering, pigmenting, and embossing. (2) Treating hide or skin for protection, color, fastness to light, abrasion, or flexibility.
Flay	To strip the skin off an animal
Fleece Length	The length of the wool fiber on the sheepskin.
Flesh Split	The inner or under layer of a hide or skin separated from it by the splitting machine or the leather made of such a split.
Flesher	The flesh-side or under-cut of a sheepskin, split before tanning.
Fleshing	Removal of tissue and fat from the flesh side of raw hides.
Florentine Merino	Luxurious Spanish Merino shearling with a soft suede finish and silky fur that's hand-dyed to create a wild and natural look.
Formaldehyde Tanning	A tanning process which yields white, washable, leather using formaldehyde as the tanning agent.
Frizzing	A process for removing the grain by liming.
Full	(1) Leather made from the unsplit, or full thickness, of hide or skin, e.g., full sheep. (2) Leather tanned solely with one agent, e.g., full chrome in contrast to semi-chrome, and full oil in contrast to combination oil.
Full Chrome (Tanned)	Leather tanned solely with one agent, e.g., full chrome in contrast to semi-chrome, and full oil in contrast to combination oil.
Full Grain	(1) Leather bearing the original grain surface as exposed by removal of the epidermis and with none of the surface removed by buffing, snuffing, or splitting. In contrast see "corrected grain". (2) First cut taken from the hair side of a hide from which only the hair and epidermis have been removed. (3) Leather features the genuine grain texture of the natural hide.
G	
Garment Leather	Leather which has been tanned to have the softness and durability necessary for clothing.
Glazed Finish	A glossy, smooth, sheen imparted to leather by polishing using pressurized glass or steel rollers.
Glazing	Also known as top coating, this process involves the application of protective transparent resins to the leather and determines its shine or Glaze. Can be a high gloss or matte shine.

Glove Leather	Leather from sheep, lamb, deer, pig, goat, and mocha skins which are used for dress gloves. Horsehide, cattlehide, splits, calfskins, sheepskins, and pigskins are used for work gloves.
Glutaraldehyde Leather	Leather tanned with glutaraldehyde, usually in combination with other tanning agents, to make the leather more resistant to deterioration under moist conditions.
Glutaraldehyde Tanning	A popular tanning process used for medical grade sheepskin. The tanning process is dye free and can be washed without any degeneration to the skin.
Goat Suede	Made from the finest goat skins tanned in Spain, goat suede is soft, velvety, and extremely lightweight. Goat suede characteristics include a short, tight nap with a very uniform luster. The skins tend to be small, and as a result, most goat suede garments are multi-paneled.
Goatskin	The skin or leather from a mature goat.
Grain	Refers to the outer surface, markings, or patterns on the leather's surface. Also, an abbreviation for "grain split".
Grain Layer	The portion of a hide or skin extending from the surface exposed by removal of the hair or wool and epidermis down to about the level of the hair or wool roots.
Grained Leather	(1) Leather which has the grain layer substantially intact, and which is finished on the grain side. (2) A leather which has been finished to accent the natural grain.
Grain Split	The outer (wool or hair) layer of a hide or skin that has been split into two or more layers.
H	
Hair-On	Leather with the hair still on it.
Hand	An industry term denoting the feel or touch of leather.
Harness Leather	Curried vegetable-tanned cattlehide which is made quite strong for heavy use.
Hide	(1) The outer covering of a mature or fully grown large mammal, e.g., cattle, horse, camel, elephant, and whale. (2) Leather made from (1) which has not been split, or from the grain split of such hide; when used in this way the name of the animal e.g., cowhide or ox-hide or the type of leather, e.g., bag hide or case hide, may be added.

Hide Split	Leather made from the flesh split or middle split. NOTE: If the name of the animal whence it originates, or the word "hide" or "skin", or the part of the animal whence it comes, is included in the description then the word "split" in this sense, must be used as a noun, e.g., pig split, hide split, butt split. The word "split" must not be used as an adjective unless the grain layer is described as in "split pigskin".
Horsehide	Leather made from any of the equine species.
I	
Icelandic Sheepskin	Featuring long, coarse wool that lays flat, and has a wild, ruggedly look.
Ironed Sheepskin	Sheepskin that's had its wool straightened, yielding a plush, smooth, fur-like appearance.
K	
Kangaroo Leather	Made from the skin of kangaroos. The strongest known leather, weight for weight.
Kid	The chrome-tanned skin of a goat or kid.
Kidskin	Skin from a lamb or young sheep.
Kildare Goat	Considered the most durable of leathers. Drum-dyed and slightly buffed, this leather shows its full rugged character and fine pebble grain.
Kip	Skin from an animal of the bovine species between the size of a calf and an adult animal.
Kosher Hide	Hide of an animal which has been slaughtered according to Jewish religious custom.
Kela	The mechanical process that adds a second color or Sauvage-look to hides. This is an additional step in the finishing stage, in which a relief roller creates a marbled look and increases the finish's character. The name Kela is derived from the name of the manufacturer, which made the original machine. Other names describing the same look are Tache, High Lighted, Effect Coat or Two Tone.
L	
Lace Leather	Latigo, chrome-tanned, oil-tanned, vegetable-tanned, or rawhide leather cut into long, thin strips for the purpose of lacing.
Lacing	Thin strips of leather used to stitch a project together, or to apply a decorative design, often both.

Lambskin	Skin or leather from a lamb or young sheep. Can also refer to the skin of an adult sheep as the skins are almost identical in appearance after tanning.
Latigo Leather	A durable and flexible prized combination-tanned cowhide leather. Chrome tanned, then vegetable tanned, this sturdy leather is typically infused with oil and waxes for additional softness and flexibility.
Leather	Hide or skin which still retains its original fibrous structure more or less intact, and which has been treated so as to be impermeable even after exposure to water. The hair or wool may or may not have been removed. Certain skins, similarly, treated or dressed, and without the hair removed, are termed "fur". NOTE: No product is described correctly as "leather" if its manufacture involves breaking down the original skin structure into fibers, powder, or other fragments by chemical or mechanical methods and reconstituting these fragments into sheets or other forms.
Leatherette	A manufactured product which imitates leather.
Levant	Leather from goat, sheep, and seal skins with a characteristic shrunken grain pattern produced in tannage.
Liming	Treatment of hide or skin with lime and sodium sulfide to remove hair, fur, and woolskins are not limed.
Lining Leather	Thin leather from almost any species, used for lining shoes, wallets, purses, etc. Most often purchased pre-finished.
Lizard Leather	Chrome-tanned lizard skins with a fine scale pattern. Often used in making cowboy boots and as accents on wallets, belts, etc.
Loading	The process of adding glucose, magnesium sulfate, or other materials to condition vegetable tanned leather for working in modern shoe machinery. Also called "filling."
Long Wool Rug	A natural form sheepskin or lambskin pelt that has not been shorn and therefore has a wool length that can range from 2 inches to 4 inches.
M	
Matisse Lambskin	Refers to a special leather treatment process. The exterior of the leather is first drum-dyed and infused with aniline dyes, while the suede side is dyed and buffed by hand, resulting in a unique vintage look and velvety feel.
Merino Shearling	Usually from Spain or Italy, this fine shearling is highly regarded for its soft hand and superb quality.
Metallic	Dyes applied during the tanning process to give a lustrous appearance.

Metallized Leather	Leather given a metallic luster by the application of metallic foils or powders.
Milling	The process of massaging hides by tumbling them for several hours to ensure softness. Occurs after tanning, dyeing, and finishing.
Mineral Tan	Leather tanned with chromium salts, alum, zirconium, or other mineral agents, as opposed to vegetable tannages.
Mocha Leather & Suede	The former is produced from sheepskin, the grain of which is removed by liming. The fibers below are sueded. The latter is treated the same but is sueded on the flesh side.
Morocco Leather	(1) Vegetable tanned goat skin leather with characteristic grain pattern developed naturally or by hand boarding or graining only. The commonest and most characteristic grain is hard grain. (2) By long usage, especially in the fancy goods trade. Goatskin of any vegetable tannage that has been hand boarded in the damp condition, but in the strict sense it should be limited to goatskin tanned exclusively with sumac.
Mouton	A sheepskin shearling tanned and finished to look like a fur skin.
N	
Nap	A short or fuzzy surface on fabric or leather.
Nappa	(1) A smooth, semi-aniline leather, Nappa (or Napa) is strong, resilient, and durable, and one of the softest leathers available today. Originally used only to describe shearling, Nappa has in recent years been used to interchangeably with the word "soft" to describe other types of leather, as in "Nappa cowhide." (2) Soft full grain gloving or clothing leather made from unsplit sheep or lambskin or kid skin.
Nappalan Leather	A nubuck or suede with a thin layer of color applied. Usually, suede leather from goats or lambs for clothing leather are finished this way. It makes the surface smooth as with top grain leather. Such leathers are very soft and particularly light weight.
Natural Markings	Common leather markings include shading variations, healed scratches, neck wrinkles, insect bites, barbed wire marks, stretch marks, vein marks and brands. Although useful in distinguishing real from fake leathers, and "naked" leathers from pigmented ones, new finishing techniques make it possible to simulate natural markings.
New Zealand Lambskin	Leather made from New Zealand lambs.
Northern Merino (Double-Face) Shearling	This classic shearling hails from the north of Spain and is known for rugged elegance and supple softness.
Norwegian Lamb	With a similar feel to deerskin, Norwegian lamb is drum-dyed with full-anilines for a soft, natural hand.

Nubuck	A top-grain, aniline dyed leather that is buffed to create a soft nap or suede-like appearance. NOT a true suede, which is made from the less desirable split hide. Especially vulnerable to stains, nubucks are often lightly finished for protection.
Nude Leathers	Dyed leather without a protective finish.
O	
Oak Bark Tanned	A light-weighting, unbleached, bark tanned leather, which has been pit tanned, at ambient temperature for not less than five to six months by a process embodying layering for not less than three months, oak bark being employed as a basis of tannage.
Oak Tan/Tannage	A vegetable tanning process employing ground oak bark as the tanning agent. Originally tanning using oak bark but now a term used for vegetable tanning.
Oil Tan/Tanning	(1) A tanning process which commonly uses fish oils. (2) Water absorbent chamois leather made using fish oils.
Ostrich	The tanned hide of an ostrich. Prized for its distinctive pattern of nodules where the feathers grew.
Ounce	A measure of thickness. One ounce = 1/64 inch. One square foot of 4-ounce leather (1/16 inch thick) should weigh 4 ounces.
P	
Parchment	(1) Translucent or opaque material with a smooth surface, suitable for writing, bookbinding, and other purposes. It is made from the flesh split of sheep, domestic ass, or goatskin, by drying out the limed material without applying any tannage, the material being thoroughly cleansed and degreased and smoothed during the process. Generally, the flesh split of a sheepskin. (2) Partially tanned sheepskins that are dried and dewooled.
Patent Leather	(1) A leather is heavily finished to give a highly lustrous, shiny look and sleek feel. (2) Leather with one surface of which is covered with an integral, flexible, waterproof film which has a lustrous mirror-like surface.
Patina	The luster or shine that develops on leather surfaces with time and use. Usually associated with fine antiques and vintage furniture.
Pearlized	A spray-on finish that creates a luminous, pearlized appearance.
Peccary	A chrome-tanned, washable, very durable leather which is very fine and can be split quite thin. It comes from a wild Mexican boar.
Pelt	The natural hide or skin of an animal.

Pickled Sheepskins	Unsplit sheep and lambskins, with the wool removed, treated in a pickling solution.
Pickling	Soaking raw skins in a salt and sulfuric acid solution, which is the initial step in leather making, also a preservative and many sheepskins are sent around the world in this state.
Pigment Finish	An opaque leather finishing material (paint), as opposed to a dye.
Pigmented Leather	A leather that is finished with a solid pigment coating for consistency of color and texture. Pigment may be used to cover imperfections, as well as add protection. Generally used to denote a more promotional leather. Sometimes called "painted" leather.
Pigmenting	An opaque coloring, which coats the leather surface to cover imperfections and produce, hides that are wear and fade resistant.
Pigskin Leather	The vegetable or chrome-tanned skins of domestic pigs. Known for the distinctive pattern of hair follicles, which pierce the skin, and are connected by a series of lines.
Pin Seal or Pin Grain	Name commonly given to a natural grain of high-grade sealskins. Also imitated on sheepskin, goatskin, and calfskin. These are described as "pin-grain sheepskin," etc.
Premium Select	The finest leather hides available, exhibiting few imperfections.
Printed Leather	Leather bearing a surface pattern produced, usually by embossing, but sometimes by other methods, e.g., by silkscreen printing.
Protected Leather	Leather in which certain special chemicals have been incorporated to render it less liable to deterioration through exposure to polluted atmospheres. The treatment is often applied to vegetable tanned upholstery and bookbinding leathers.
Protection	A stain resistant application applied either during finishing or after as a topical coat. Normally 3m Scotchgard.
Pull-Up Leather	A full grain, aniline dyed leather that is waxed or oiled. When pulled, the oils/ waxes cause the color to migrate and become lighter in pulled areas. A look associated with quality leather.
Pure Aniline	A top-grain leather that is aniline dyed and receives no additional coloring. The dye permeates the entire hide and results in a soft, rich color. Also called full aniline, naked aniline, or naked leather.

R	
Rawhide	(1) De-haired, cleaned, and dried cattlehide. (2) A hide which has only been treated to preserve it prior to tanning. (3) Translucent material made from the whole substance (for industrial applications, principally in the textile industry) or the grain split (for luggage) of bovine hide freed from the hair and epidermal and flesh layers and dried out in the limed state, usually without any tanning process being applied.
Remy Lite	The most lightweight leather used in the manufacturing of leather garments. Made of English domestic lambskins, Remy Lite is a suede product with a light resin finish. In time, as the resin wears down, the nap of the suede will become more buffed; however, the color and visual character of the skin will not change.
Remy Soft	Extremely lightweight, soft, full-grain nappa lambskin. These skins are tanned in Italy and feature the exceptional handwork available only at select tanneries. The skins exhibit natural clarity, coupled with a soft drape and a weight that is as light as the Remy Lite.
Resin/Nitrocellulose	Widest used system of finishing which consists of a pigmented resin plus cellulose covering
Retanned	Leather which has been subjected to an additional tannage with similar or other tanning materials.
Retanning	Allows the tannery to alter the original tannage to more specific end use properties, i.e., softness and color applications.
Rough Tanned Leather	Leather which after tanning has not been further processed but has been merely dried out. The term "rough tanned" is used chiefly in connection with vegetable tanned hide leathers. e.g., "rough tanned strap".
Russet Leather	Originally unfinished vegetable tanned cattle hide leather which has been dressed ready for staining or finishing but the leather may now be combination or chrome tanned. Sometimes termed "skirt leather".
S	
Saddle Leather	Vegetable-tanned cowhide used in the manufacture of tack and saddles.
Sauvage	A mottled, tone-on-tone effect created by blending similar colors, used to add depth and character to a hide's finish. A true sauvage look is created as the hides are tumbled during the dyeing process.
Scotchgard	Applications of stain resistant protectant.
Selection	The process of sorting hides for their intended use. Normally accepted Upholstery Industry standards state that A selection allow the cutting of 3 x 25" squares, B grade = 2 x 25" squares.

Semi-Aniline (Leather)	(1) Also called aniline-plus or protected aniline. A top grain leather that is aniline dyed and coated with matching pigment and/or other topical finishes to even out the color and add protection (2) Hides, which have been dyed in a shortened process and have a pigmented surface finish applied. These leathers feature a softer hand than leather finished with only pigment.
Shadow Finish	Shading of certain parts of the leather in footwear and other leather products, usually by the manufacturer.
Sharkskin	he vegetable-tanned hide of a shark. Very rough.
Shearling	A sheepskin or lambskin pelt that has been shorn once for a wool finish that's uniform in look, length, and feel. Tanned with the wool intact, shearling pelts typically feature a sueded leather surface on one side and shorn wool on the other.
Sheepskin	(1) The leather or skin of a mature sheep. (2) Skin of a wool-bearing sheep made into leather but still bearing the original wool. See also, Lambskin.
Shoe Leather	Leather of nearly all types and weights, used in the manufacture of shoes.
Shrunk(en) Grain	Leather specially tanned to shrink the grain layer and having a grain surface of uneven folds and valleys. Sometimes called "drawn grain".
Side	One half of a hide, divided down the backbone.
Simulated Sheepskin	May be made using a sueded leather from cattle or sueded sheep leather.
Skin	(1) General. The outer covering of an animal. (2) In the strict sense. The outer covering of small mammals and other vertebrates, e.g., sheep and goats; or of the immature animals of the larger species, e.g., calves and colts. Used in relation to pigs, reptiles, birds, and fish. (3) Leather, made from (1) and (2) which has not been split. (4) The outer covering of a fur-bearing animal dressed and finished with the hair on.
Skive	To thin down, by paring (shaving), a piece of leather. Done as an aid in joining two pieces or along fold lines to assist in making a clean fold.
Skiver	The tanned outer or grain split of a sheep or lambskin. Sometimes applied to goatskin. Used for linings, and bookbinding.
Slink	A high-grade lamb skin pelt commonly used in garments. It is light weight, extremely pliable and rich in feel.
Slunk	The skin of an unborn calf.
Snuffing	The mildest form of sanding a hide

Sole	Ten-to-twelve-ounce vegetable-tanned leather used for shoe soles.
Solvent Tannage	A tanning system utilizing organic solvents, such as acetone, in place of aqueous solution, to carry the tanning agents.
Split	(1) A single layer from a hide or skin that has been separated over its whole area into two or more layers. The layers thus obtained are termed: (a) grain split (outer split); (b) flesh split (inner split); (c) in heavy hides there can also be a middle split. (2) Leather made from the flesh split or middle split. NOTE: If the name of the animal whence it originates, or the word "hide" or "skin", or the part of the animal whence it comes, is included in the description, then the word "split" in this sense, must be used as a noun. e.g., pig split, hide split, butt split. The word "split" must not be used as an adjective unless the grain layer is described as in "split pigskin".
Split Hide	(1) The outer (hair or grain) layer of a hide from which the under or flesh side has been split to give it a reasonably uniform thickness. (2) Leather made from (1). Originally vegetable or combination tanned now also chrome tanned. The leather is dressed according to the purpose required, e.g., upholstery, luggage, bags.
Splits	The underside or second cut of leather generally used for suedes or reprocessed to simulate the top grain look. Splits are smaller than top grain hides generally running 25 to 25 sq. ft. in size, thus they have a greater waste factor in cutting.
Staking	The manual or mechanical softening of a leather by working it over a blunt stake.
Steerhide	Heavy leather made from the hide of steers.
Stucco	A filling material used to plug defects in the hide.
Stuffed	Leather into which wax, or grease has been worked.
Suede	(1) A finish (not a type of leather) produced by separating the fibers, giving the leather a nap by abrading with sandpaper or emery wheel. (2) Leather that has had the underside buffed to produce a textured, velvety hand.
Suede Split	Leather made from the flesh split of hide or skin and finished with a velvet-like nap normally on the split surface.
Super Split	The same as splits but with more attention given to elasticity so the leather can be used all over the upholstered item.
T	
Table Run	This is the combination of the graded hide selections. Hides are graded by Alpha or numeric terms for typically 6 grades. Also called Tannery Run.

Tannage	The treatment of a skin or hide, which would normally putrefy, into leather.
Tannery	A building where tanning takes place
Tanning	(1) Refers to a method of preserving the leather. (2) The conversion of a raw animal skin to a stable, workable, long-lasting material.
Tawing	An old English term for alum tanning.
Tibetan Sheepskin	Long, curly wool sheepskin type that has a soft, silky texture.
Timber Calf	A naturally rugged Italian calfskin with a waxy hand, tanned with a special process that allows the skin to change color tonalities as it is worn.
Togging	Hides are anchored and stretched during drying to maintain their shape and size.
Top Coat	A transparent, protective coating applied to the leather surface. May also impart luster to the surface.
Top Finished	A leather which has been given a final coating of a finish to confer special properties such as gloss, level color, fastness to wet rubbing, waterproofness and so forth.
Top Grain	The uppermost layer of the hide. This is the highest quality part of the hide and the most preferred for upholstery applications.
Toscana Shearling	Features a soft suede finish on one side and long, silky wool on the other.
Tumbling	The mechanical process that softens, removes water, and enhances the grain of the hides.
Tuscan Merino Shearling	A fine Italian shearling regarded for its soft hand and superb quality.
U	
Unhairing	The removal of hair, roots, and epidermis.
Upholstery Leather	A general term for leather used to cover furniture, automobile, and airplane seats.
Upper Leather	Leather produced for the outside upper part of footwear.
Urethane	Urethane emulsion can be used to give flexibility, abrasive resistance, and color to leather.

V	
Vegetable Tanning	A generic term for a tanning process that uses vegetable extracts such as tan liquors from bark, wood, and other plant and tree parts extracts to preserve the leather.
Verona Calf	An extremely lightweight, semi-nubuck calf leather, Verona calf is drum-dyed and slightly buffed to obtain a soft feel.
W	
Wallaby Leather	Leather from a medium-sized species of kangaroo.
Walrus	An extremely thick leather, used most often for buffing wheels.
Washable Leather	Leather which may be washed without losing shape, flexibility, or color.
Water Repellent Leather	Leather which is stuffed with oil, grease, or chemical compounds to minimize absorption of water.
Waxed or Wax Finish	The skin is exactly the same as buffed leather, but with an added layer of wax or hard grease applied to give a grain-like feel and protect the leather from moisture.
Wet Blue Leather	Leather which after chrome tanning has not been further processed and is sold in the wet condition. Also called Blue Skins.
Whisper Suede (*Matisse Lamb)	Matisse lambskin is drum-dyed and buffed to perfection to create an extremely soft, silky suede. A full-grain leather (on ordinary suede, the grain is removed), whisper suede boasts unique body and drape. (*Matisse lambs are a special breed between a lamb and a goat.)
Woolskins	Sheepskins tanned with the wool on.