

Mayo
LEATHER

General Information

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LEATHER TYPES

There is a lot of confusion over some very basic information necessary to identify, sell, deliver and use Leather. We would like to clarify this confusion and help you understand the classifications of Mayo Leather. Leather can be broken down into the following three basic categories: **ANILINE (A)** – **NUBUCK (N)** – **PROTECTED (P)**. We will give you definitions of these Leather Types. It is very important that you are able to identify Leathers in order to sell the product and be a knowledge base for the customer.

ANILINE LEATHER

ALSO CALLED NATURAL, PULL-UP, PURE, NAKED OR UNPROTECTED

These Leathers are colored with transparent dye. This means that you are able to see the actual surface grain and markings. It is as if you are looking through a colored lens. These Leathers have very little or no protective treatments applied to them. The most common thing to do is to spray a wax finish on the surface that gives short-term water repellence. The actual way that the Leather is made varies from tannery to tannery.

WAYS TO IDENTIFY ANILINE LEATHER:

For care and maintenance purposes you need to know if the surface has been brushed (has a texture like velvet) or not. This is the point at which people have difficulty distinguishing Nubuck from Aniline. There are several ways you can identify Aniline Leathers.

Lightly scratch the surface to see if it leaves a lighter color scratch mark. If it scratches to a lighter color, it is Aniline. This is not the only test to do because some Nubucks will do this also. Wet your finger and lightly rub it into the Leather to see if it darkens. It should darken lightly, but dry invisibly.

These are the best tests that you can do in the field. With time you will be able to identify Aniline Leather visually and by feel.

GENERALLY THIS IS HOW ANILINE LEATHERS ARE MADE:

1. The Leather is tanned, then the leather is dyed to a crust color.
2. Often the surface is sprayed with an additional **Aniline** dye to attempt to even out the coloring.
3. It is possible that additional treatments are done to create looks like **sauvage, pull-up, wax crackle, and shrunken grain**.
4. As a final step, sometimes a light protective spray (such as wax or fluorocarbon) is applied to give the Leather light resistance from staining.

PROTECTED LEATHER

ALSO CALLED FINISHED, SEMI-ANILINE, EVERYDAY, CORRECTED, BUFFED, PIGMENTED OR PAINTED

These Leathers have combined the best aspects of a natural product (Leather) and have utilized tannery technology to create a product that is more uniform in appearance and color (due to the application of pigments to the surface). It then has a finish applied to the surface that makes the Leather more resistant to the effects of heavy use. The pigments and finish applied to the Leather do affect the softness and hand somewhat. The Leather loses its softness when more finish is applied.

What determines the amount of pigment and finish needed is:

1. The color of the Leather (all light colors require more pigment to cover the surface).
2. The selection of the Leather (lower selection requires more mechanical correction).
3. The desired level of resistance the finish needs (automotive requires the highest).

Protected Leathers are the most common leathers, and for most consumers, the most practical.

WAYS TO IDENTIFY PROTECTED LEATHER:

1. Lightly scratch the surface to see if it leaves a lighter color scratch mark. If it does not scratch to a lighter color (this means the color remains the same), then this is a Protected Leather.
2. Liquid should stay on top of the finish and should not darken the Leather.
3. The surface should have some sort of sheen to it. It is like looking at wood that has a lacquer finish compared to a wipe-on oil treatment.

GENERALLY THIS IS HOW PROTECTED LEATHERS ARE MADE:

1. The Leather is tanned, then dyed to a crust color.
2. Depending upon the selection of the hides, the Leather is either partially or heavily machined and buffed to even out and hide the natural markings.
3. Pigment is applied to the Leather either by spraying or roller coating.
4. Depending upon the article, Partial or full embossing of grain is done to the surface.
5. Finish is applied to the Leather to provide rub resistance and to seal the pigment.
6. Steps are taken to soften the Leather either by massaging machines and/or by tumbling.

NUBUCK LEATHER

ALSO CALLED DISTRESSED, BOMBER OR SUEDE.

These are actually **Aniline** Leathers on which the surface has been brushed, and have created a texture similar to velvet on Leather. Many people confuse these with Suede Leather. Suede is the flesh side of a piece of Leather, and **Nubuck** is an effect done to the grain side, making it incredibly soft and more durable. The brushing also makes the Leather more absorbent than **Aniline** Leathers. This makes these two Leathers sometimes difficult to distinguish from each other. The most difficult to identify are the ones which are in the distressed Leathers category or which have waxed finishes applied to them.

WAYS TO IDENTIFY NUBUCK LEATHER:

1. The surface should have a texture similar to velvet. You move your hand across the surface and, if it leaves shading traces similar to the effect when you vacuum a carpet in one direction and then in another, it is Nubuck.
2. Wet your finger and rub it lightly on the surface. The surface will darken and also will dry to a slightly darker shade.
3. For waxed surfaces, rub an area of the Leather with a sponge several times. This will remove the wax and let you see if the Leather meets 1 or 2 above.

Nubuck Leathers can reflect the natural Leather grain or have an endless variety of embossed patterns applied to them, and color vividly. This is why this type of Leather is also very popular for the fashion industry.

GENERALLY THIS IS HOW NUBUCK LEATHERS ARE MADE:

1. The Leather is tanned and dyed to a crust color.
2. The surface is brushed with fine brushes that cut the Leather and create a nap or velvet texture.
3. Depending upon the article, stamping of a grain or print effect may be done.
4. Sometimes, additional Aniline dye is applied to the surface to even out or enrich the color.
5. Fixation agents are sprayed on the surface to seal the color and prevent transfer, or a fluorocarbon treatment is applied to protect the Leather.
6. The Leather is tumbled to bring out the Nubuck effect and maximize softness.

LEATHER GLOSSARY

Aniline: The transparent dye used to color the leather all the way through. It conceals none of the natural character and markings.

Pure Aniline Leather: A top-grain leather that is aniline dyed and receives no additional coloring, but may include a protective treatment such as Scotchguard. Also called full aniline, naked aniline or naked leather.

Semi-Aniline Leather: 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. Also called aniline-plus or protected aniline.

Antique/Distressed: Leather that shows signs of natural aging and wear that have been artificially created.

Corrected Grain: A leather that is buffed to remove undesirable blemishes and embossed to simulate an attractive grain or to add a decorative texture.

Full Grain: A top-grain leather with no corrections or alterations to the natural grain pattern.

Leather-Vinyl-Combination: Often referred to as "Leather-Match". The use of matching vinyl instead of leather on areas of a frame less subject to body contact, typically the sides and back. A common cost-saving measure, particularly in motion and recliners.

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.

Nubuck: A top grain, aniline-dyed leather that is buffed to create a soft nap. Not a suede, which is made from the less desirable split hide Especially vulnerable to stains, nubucks are often lightly finished for protection.

Patina: A luster or shine that develops with use over time, usually associated with fine antiques and vintage materials.

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 more promotional leather. Sometimes called painted leather.

Premium Select: The finest leather hides available, exhibiting few imperfections. "Number 1" selection, only 5% of all hides harvested are suitable for upholstery.

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 the pulled areas. A look associated with quality leather.

Sauvage: A mottled, tone-on-tone effect created by blending similar colors. Used to add depth and character to the leather.

Split: The bottom layers of the hide that have been split off from the top-grain leather, then pigmented or sueded. Generally stiffer and less durable, splits may be used on promotional leather furniture especially in areas of less direct use or as a measure to contain costs.

Top Coat: A transparent protective coating applied to the leather surface. May also impart luster to the surface.

Top Grain: The uppermost layer of the hide and the most preferred for furniture applications.

Genuine Leather from Mayo

Genuine Leather from Mayo is one of nature's most durable and attractive products. However, no two leather hides are ever exactly alike. Each leather hide will have unique properties that cannot be matched to another hide. All natural leathers contain distinctive markings like healed scars, grain variations, wrinkles, stretch marks, veins, and brands. These variations are a natural characteristic of leather and are to be expected when purchasing genuine leather. There will also be variations in color because of the differences in the way each individual hide reacts to the tanning dyes and finishing processes. These color variations can even occur within the same hide. All of these natural markings are your assurance that you have selected genuine leather. Mayo leather products are not manufactured using "splits" or "vinyl matches" anywhere on the product. Rest assured your Mayo leather product selections will be manufactured using only 100% leather.

General Care and Cleaning Information

Leather is one of the most durable and soil resistant materials available for upholstery. Your leather furniture will provide many years of pleasure and comfort with minimal care and effort under most household conditions. To ensure the care and protection of your fine leather furniture, remember the following points:

- Frequent dusting with a clean, dry cloth or light vacuuming with a soft brush attachment will keep your furniture looking fresh.
- Immediately blot up any liquid spills with a clean, absorbent cloth, and allow the leather to dry naturally. Never use detergents, saddle soap, furniture polish, stain removers, turpentine, abrasive cleaning solvents, or ammonia to clean your leather. Refer to the cleaning instructions on the furniture's deck label for further information.
- Avoid direct sunlight exposure, which can cause your leather to fade and lose softness.
- Avoid placing your leather furniture near heat sources like radiators or fireplaces, as prolonged exposure to heat will dry out the leather.
- Keep all sharp objects away from your furniture as they may scratch or cut your fine leather.

SMOKING WARNING: Keep your furniture and family safe from fires caused by careless smoking. Do not smoke when drowsy. Remove immediately any glowing ash or lighted cigarette, which falls on furniture. Smoldering smoking materials can cause upholstered furniture fires.

Mayo **Leather Selections**

GRADE SHEET

MAYO NAME	COLORS	GRADE	MAYO LEATHER ID	DESCRIPTION
Antiqua	Cabernet	63	A	full top grain, semi-aniline
Augusta	Chestnut	63	P	top grain, full aniline
Baja	Cocoa	49	N	top grain, bomber
Bimini	Rawhide	56	A	pure aniline – pull up
Bourbon Street	Creole	64	P	top grain, semi-aniline
Caballero	Chipolte	60	N	full top grain, aniline w/resin
Caribou	Brown, Cognac	44	P	top grain – semi aniline
Cherokee	Auburn, Coffee	49	A & P	top grain – full aniline
Chesterfield	Black, London Tan, Mahogany, Paprika, Pecan, Windsor Blue, Walnut	57	P	Semi-aniline - corrected
El Paso	Saddle	66	A	full top grain, full aniline
Fargo	Whiskey	70	A	Full aniline, full top grain
Glens Falls	Almond, Chaps	64	A	top grain, full aniline
Legacy	Coffee	39	A	pigmented - corrected
Matisse	Chocolate, Sabbia	66	A	semi-aniline – full top grain
Pecos	Chocolate	53	A	full top grain – full aniline
Portsmouth	Cobblestone, Old Money, Pecan, Sandstone	63	A & P	full top grain, drum-dyed aniline
Santana	Saddle	54	AN	full aniline - distressed
Williamsburg	Walnut	63	A & P	full top grain, full aniline