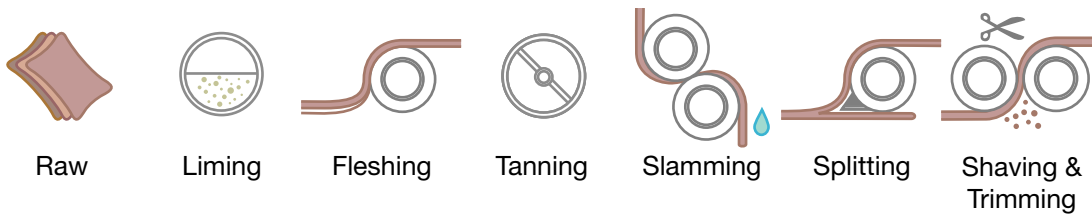


How Leather Is Made

Pre-Production



The treatment of the hide begins in the raw material warehouse. The first operations in the production cycle are liming (removal of hair) and fleshing (removal of fat), followed by tanning, using agents to stabilize the leather so it does not decompose. All of these processes are carried out in large wooden drums. Excess liquid is removed by pressing the hide (slamming), so that it is ready to be uniformly shaved to a predetermined thickness (splitting). Finally, the hide is trimmed to remove unnecessary appendages.

How Leather Is Made

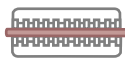
Finishing



Dyeing



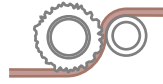
Drying



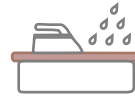
Staking



Dry



Buffing



Finishing

The hides are rotated in wooden drums filled with water-based aniline dyes which permeate each hide from back to front. After being removed from the dyeing vats and air dried, the hides are soaked (mechanically pounded in order to soften them) and returned to the drum for additional drying. Leather with visible defects may be buffed, or lightly corrected to eliminate those defects. Finally, the hides are sprayed with a topcoat to perfect the color and add additional protective agents.

How Leather Is Made

Surface Refinement and Post-Production



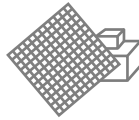
Pressing & Printing



Quality



Trimming



Measuring & Packing

During this final stage, the hides receive their ultimate texture, sheen and any special characteristics, such as antiquing. They are pressed under high heat and pressure to achieve an ultra-smooth finish or to impose a particular pattern. Quality control insures that any hide that does not conform or does not yield a suitable cutting area is removed. The hides are then trimmed to eliminate irregularities, and finally measured and packed for air shipment to the Cortina warehouse in New York.