



## **GUIDELINES FOR STORING OF FINISHED LEATHER**

Leather is a three-dimensional fiber and it has breathing properties even with finish on. Depending on the conditions of its storage area, leather either gives up moisture or absorbs moisture. Under normal conditions, though finished leathers look dry, they do have a moisture content of 12-20%

Do not expose or store leathers:

1. Under hot and humid conditions
2. Exposed to direct sunlight
3. Exposed to atmosphere where air contains reactive chemical fumes such as sulfur dioxide, ammonia, or others
4. In cold draughts below 32 degrees

It is safe to store leathers in a flat condition, not stacked too high (around 2 feet), in a dry place. The leather should be stacked grain to flesh with the grain side up. The grain side is the finished leather side, while the flesh side is the suede or furry side of the skins. Temperatures of 50-70 degrees F and relative humidity of 30% to 60% would be ideal.

Avoid dampness or bacterial contamination. Leathers are optimally treated with fungicides and anti-mold agents. Tanneries usually avoid excessive dosages of these fungicides because they may cause chaffing or dermatitis to those constantly handling leathers during production or during handling in storage.

It is advised to air-off skins by re-piling them if they are kept for a long time. This should be done every 30-45 days. Sometimes interleaves or marking papers such as kraft paper discolor the shades, particularly if they are pastel shades. It is better to use perforated at random polyethylene or polypropylene sheets that do not contain plasticizers when dividing or covering skins.

Please note that all leathers have a fastness rating ranging from 3 to 5 on the blue wool scale, where 8 is the best rating. Therefore, a certain amount of discoloration is unavoidable over long storage, or in parts covered by labeling etiquettes, or when exposed to excessive heat or light.