

Quality Assurance Testing

Townsend Leather routinely tests the durability of each batch of leather with these six tests. Although the testing takes time and is expensive, it assures that all Townsend leathers will meet or exceed industry standards and customer expectations.

Light Resistance - A laboratory device is used to test the ability of the leather to resist fading. Of course, no leather should be exposed to direct sunlight for an extended period of time.

Dry and Wet Crocking - Furniture-quality leather should be able to stand up to normal use without crocking. The crocking properties are tested in a machine in which a piece of felt is rubbed back and forth against the leather many times. The leather and the felt are then checked to ensure that the felt has not been discolored and the leather not damaged. This method of checking dry and wet crocking is internationally recognized.

Finish Adhesion and Flexibility - This test mechanically flexes the leather thousands of times to check for cracking and splitting. The test is comparable to the years of wear and tear the leather will endure while in service. The adhesion of the finish to the leather is measured by means of a piece of metal which is stuck to the leather and then pulled loose. The force necessary to pull the metal loose measures the adhesion of the finish.

Tear Strength - The natural fiber structure of the leather makes it highly tear resistant. This strength is checked in order to make sure that the leather can stand the kinds of stress in the seams, for example, that it will be subjected to through years of use.

Flammability - It is very important to produce upholstery materials that are fire retardant. Townsend Leather tests all its leathers to make sure they meet industry standards.

Abrasion - The leather is tested for wear through a machine process that replicates the rubbing that occurs over many years of use.

