

## VEINS have always been an issue with leather.

However, you may not have always seen them. Before the year 2000, industry practices and the general health of the cattle industry looked a lot different than they do today.

Since the outbreak of cattle diseases such as Mad Cow and Foot & Mouth in the early 2000's, the leather industry has changed. There was a time when we at Townsend Leather prided ourselves on being able to provide "vein-free" leather. However, these hides no longer exist; no one can provide them anymore, even the experts at Townsend Leather. This is due mostly to positive changes being made in the hide and slaughtering processes - changes that are beneficial for health and the environment, but unfortunately not positive to the visibility of veins.

Sanitation practices, like using non-cold water, and other changes in the blood drainage practices, make handling the hides and meat much more sanitary and safe, but these practices cause veins to expand and widen and therefore collapse, which causes visible valleys in the finished hides.

In addition, the newer practice of beamhouses and tanneries working with fresh and non-salted hides is much better for the environment and help make the overall leather industry greener, but this practice also causes veins to become more visible.

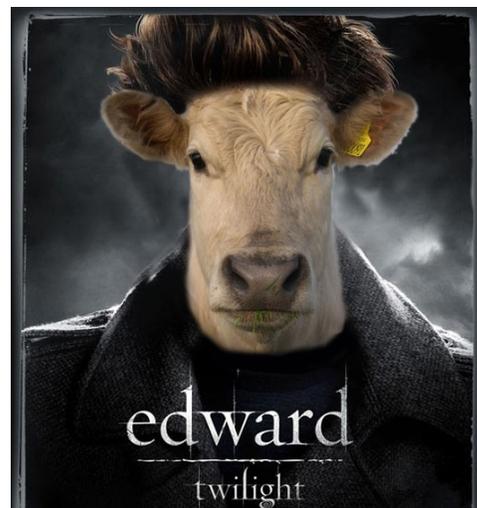
This entire issue is an industry-wide change and challenge. All hide suppliers in Europe use the same practices. And therefore, anywhere you look for high quality leather, you will see signs of veins.

This is the reason why sourcing hides appropriate for Nubuck, a full aniline leather, has been so difficult, not just for us but for everyone in the industry.

We at Townsend Leather are taking steps to ensure the minimization of visible veins by doing things like keeping our hides' moisture content optimal, offering thicker hides, offering prints/embossings on Nubuck to help mask the veins, committing to the very best possible sourcing strategies and hide selection, and offering panels and cut pieces.

But the most important thing we want to do is to educate so you can feel comfortable discussing this with your customers when the situation arises. And since this is an industry-wide concern, we want to help you understand these challenges as well as ensure you that we are continuously researching this issue and finding every solution we can to alleviate it.

For more information, you can contact Townsend Leather at [info@townsendleather.com](mailto:info@townsendleather.com)



*"He's as interested in veins as you are!"*

The animals' habits, health, and environment can also impact the visibility of veins in a finished hide.