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## **Townsend Leather®**

*Striving to make a positive environmental impact.*

Townsend Leather is passionate about creating a positive environmental impact and aims to use the most efficient and environmentally friendly materials and methods in all aspects of our process and organization.

It is important to us, to craft products that create a positive environmental impact by being re-useable, repairable, long lasting, and low-VOC. Our products are each made to the highest of quality and environmental standards with attention and care.

### **Some Key "Green" Points by Townsend Leather®**

- All Townsend hides are re-claimed from the waste stream, a by-product of the meat industry
- We use only fresh, humanely-cared-for and environmentally sound hides
- Our process creates a leather which is free of dangerous Chromes
- We adhere to and surpass all environmental standards and regulations
- We use safe water-based finishes
- Leather is post-consumer recyclable
- We continually investment in energy efficient equipment and methods
- We instill a culture of environmentally focused employees, to ensure all Townsend products are as efficient, safe, and environmentally friendly as possible
- Townsend's leather is long-lasting, durable, and easily repaired
- We offer expertise and maintenance products and services to extend the useful life and sustainability of your leather

Our leather is produced from bull and steer hides that are sourced and tanned in Europe under very strict European environmental standards. Townsend Leather sources raw material from organizations that utilize picket fence, free range, humanely cared for animals. No animal in Townsend's sourcing is killed for the hide, every hide that Townsend uses is a by-product of meat production. Townsend removes this material from the waste stream, and transforms it into a reusable, repairable, highest-of-quality, long-lasting beautiful product. The tanning process is strictly regulated in Europe to assure minimal impact on the environment.

Our raw material starts in Europe under tight scrutiny and regulations, and is manufactured and finished in the USA. Being a USA manufacturer we are held to, and surpass, the strictest of environmental standards. Through routine reporting to the EPA and the DEC, we have continually shown our process and products are as environmentally friendly as possible. We have also always maintained the highest of internal standards. In 2018 we further deepen our environmental-impact-investment by dramatically upgrading our own on-site waste water treatment plant, where our output is highly scrutinized and passes every time with pH neutral water.

Townsend's leathers are all low-VOC products with water based chemicals and coloring. Our products have been tested and far surpass the minimum standards.

The dyeing and finishing processes that transform the unadorned tanned hide from the equivalent of greige goods into the beautiful colors and textures of Townsend Leather are closely regulated in the US.

Townsend uses vegetable based re-tanning agents and water-based finishing systems in its entire leather making process. Effluent waters are monitored and pre-treated before they leave our facility to remove any compounds that do not meet state and federal standards, and then receive additional purification in our brand-new state-of -the-art wastewater treatment facility engineered to meet the needs of the leather industry, assuring complete environmental compliance.

Townsend Leather is engineered to be a durable, long-lasting product that does not require replacement or reprocessing in order to retain its beauty and serviceability. Unlike most other fabrics and textiles, Townsend's leather may be easily repaired and restored to its original condition when worn or damaged, thereby further extending its useful life - replacement, and therefore new manufacturing, is often not required.

Townsend Leather can even, in some cases, help provide *points* toward a building's LEED certification and rating. With the right LEED AP or LEED Green Associate heading up a job, they could justify leather as a green product and apply points toward their project by 'using renewable materials' and possibly other criteria as well. LEED certification points rely on how well the LEED AP can justify the statements, and Townsend Leather, as a USGBC Member, is very willing to work closely with the LEED AP to help provide specific answers and input. **Townsend Leather is a USGBC Member:** <http://www.townsendleather.com/2014/lifestyle/townsend-proud-member-usgbc>

Leather is mankind's oldest textile and is naturally durable. Leather can handle wear and tear that would easily destroy other materials. It is estimated that leather lasts an average of 4 times longer than fabric coverings; the endurance of leather is unmatched. Many leathers will develop a beautiful patina over time, making leather-upholstered pieces "heirlooms" that are cherished and passed down from generation to generation.

**By utilizing the waste by-product created by another industry as a raw material, by using the latest technology to exceed all federal, state and local standards for environmental protection, by providing after-marketing support solutions for maintenance and restoration, and by manufacturing a durable, long-lasting product of the highest quality, Townsend Leather continues to demonstrate its commitment to improving and preserving our planet.**

**Additional information:**

- Townsend and The Environment:
  - <http://www.townsendleather.com/the-townsend-story/townsend-the-environment>
- Townsend Leather is a Proud USGBC Member:
  - <http://www.townsendleather.com/2014/lifestyle/townsend-proud-member-usgbc>
- Townsend's Leather Lasts a Lifetime:
  - <http://www.townsendleather.com/2014/lifestyle/for-the-love-of-leather-reason-1-lasts>
- Townsend's Leather is Natural:
  - <http://www.townsendleather.com/2014/lifestyle/its-natural>
- Townsend's Leather is Durable:
  - <http://www.townsendleather.com/2014/lifestyle/durability>
- Townsend's Leather is Environmental:
  - <http://www.townsendleather.com/2014/lifestyle/its-environmental>
- Townsend's Leather is Easy to Repair
  - <http://www.townsendleather.com/2014/lifestyle/easy-to-repair>