

# Ray's Leather Repair and Restoration

## What type of leather should I buy?

Choosing the leather to best meet your needs is quite simple if you can be informed of the different characteristics each one has. Depending on the environment such as humidity, sunlight, dirt, body moisture, pets and how much traffic it will receive. There is a type of leather for your specific needs.



### Aniline / Unprotected Leather

Aniline, Nude or Natural leather is a non-protected hide. It has been colored with transparent dyes exposing all of its natural grain and unique characteristics. Though this leather is soft and inviting it has minimal surface protection. It can show the effects of body oils, light wear, and distinctive fading from UV exposure.



### Nubuck Leather

This leather is aniline leather that has been sanded to give it a fine velvety surface. It should not be confused with suede which is the flesh side of the leather. Also a non-protected hide, though re-lifting the nap can be easily accomplished and protective treatment applied to minimize wear.



### Semi-Aniline Leather

This leather is covered with a lightly pigmented coating on which transparent and brilliant colors are over sprayed to reconstruct the natural appearance of the leather. Since the coating is thin, it offers minimal protection. (Commonly mistaken as a fully protected leather) A warm damp cloth dabbed lightly on leather, if you notice it slowly absorbing, you have semi-aniline! Dark right away = unprotected aniline. No absorption = protected.



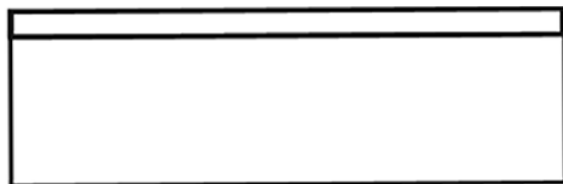
### Pull-Up / Aniline Leather

This leather is waxed or oiled aniline, distressed and commonly exposes natural "range marks" or imperfections in the hide. Bug bites, brands, and barb wire scorings "LIFE ON THE RANGE" as we say! The term "pull-up" is to explain the misplacing of the wax or oil on the hide. It would seem to scratch very easily, but in most cases can be rubbed back in. Keep in mind the higher the grade, less imperfections you will see.



### Pigmented / Protected Leather

This is the most common finishing technique. The finish is a base coat of pigmented colors covered by a protective topcoat. The natural color of the leather is completely covered, creating a uniform color. An embossed pattern is imprinted into the hide hiding imperfections creating a uniformed look. This is the most durable or "trouble free" leather to buy!



### Split Hides / Bonded / Bicast Leather

This are the least expensive finishing process. All upholstery grade hides are cut/split into 2 pieces. The top piece (top grade/hair side) the bottom piece (split hide/flesh side). Splits are extremely weak. Bonded leathers are small fibers of leather shavings pressed and glued together around a fiber/fabric mesh. Bicast leathers are split hides with a thick pressed urethane coating. All of these leathers tear and peel easily with a little wear & are a lot more expensive to repair.