

Benefits of leather



Natural and long lasting

The leather industry is creating a product that is both natural and long lasting – leather is unique in its ability to combine beauty, comfort and practicality.

Leather is a natural by-product

Modern leather manufacturing recycles over 270 million cow hides each year. These are a by-product of the food industry and without the ability of the leather industry to transform them into leather, over 7 million tonnes would go to landfill with huge environmental and biological impact. Leather makes a sustainable contribution to a society that needs to consume less, reuse more and recycle everything.

Good leather ages well and lasts

Well made leather lasts a long time and unlike most man-made, or synthetic materials it gets better with age, acquiring a depth of patina and wear pattern pattern that is individual to the user – much like a favourite pair of jeans.

As we mindfully look for ways to lower consumption, leather very much fits with the ethos of 'buy less, buy better'. Investing in quality leather products, is investing for the future.

Leather is easy to repair and maintain

The journey towards sustainability starts with products that can be repaired for longevity of use. Leather needs very little in the way of life-time maintenance and it easy to do at home, it does not draw heavily on resources for laundering and drying for example and we increasingly see the revival of artisan skills/offering repair services for treasured leather goods.



A diverse range of uses

Leather and leather by-products can be recycled

Leather trimmings from the manufacturing process can be repurposed as stuffing, (into boxing punch bags for example) or combined with other materials to make composite products such as leatherboard, which is used for insoles and heel inserts in footwear.

Leather at end of life can be ground down to use in this way too. At the very end of its life leather will biodegrade, depending on type in between 10 & 50 years. We see leather trims being creatively incorporated into wall coverings, plus more and more companies are recycling the leather component from footwear and leathergoods into something new.

Leather has many varied end uses

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Leather has a natural comfort

Leather has a 'breathability' that more easily allows body temperature to be regulated, it will naturally absorb and hold moisture away from the skin until it can evaporate to the outside.

It will also mould to the wearer – whether it's a glove, a shoe, leather jacket or wallet that's been carried in a back pocket for years, leather conforms to its wearer for a very individual comfort and fit.



Naturally beautiful

Leather is naturally beautiful

Leather has a natural beauty that, unlike many materials, improves with age. Although every hide or skin is different, leather manufacturers work to bring out its best qualities, whether that's a completely aniline or 'naked' appearance to one that is expertly finished to combine durability and easy care. For more information on the different types of leather, check out our fact sheet, [Leather Terminology](#)

The handle of leather adds luxury

Leather has long been a component of luxury goods, from covetable handbags to footwear and clothing. It has a distinctive touch and wear quality that cannot be replicated and for that reason it is often combined with hard-edged technology to provide a more luxurious and personal feel to an item that is otherwise anonymous. As with all natural materials it creates a user experience that is more emotional, less functional.

Learn more with leather naturally

Leather Naturally promotes the use of globally-manufactured sustainable leather.

Its website www.leathernaturally.org is a key resource for information about modern leather manufacturing and the part it plays in a more sustainable society.



Leather
Naturally

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www.leathernaturally.org

