

How to make leather

You will need:

- A hide from an animal such as a cow or bull or The skin from a smaller animal such as a sheep, goat or calf
- A lime pit
- A revolving wooden drum
- A knife.
- A container with liquid extracts in - this will depend on what the leather requires but may contain oak bark, leaves or alum.

Instructions:

- 1) First, store the hides in a chilled room packed with ice. Make sure they are cured with salt so they are preserved. We don't want them going mouldy now!
- 2) Now, soak the hide in a lime pit - this will loosen the hair and burn off the dermis.
Safety note: ensure you have a long pole with a hook available in case someone falls in and you have to rescue them. It will not be good for them to be in there too long.
- 3) Next, place the hide into a wooden drum containing water and acid. This will remove the salt and soften the hide.
- 4) After that, remove any leftover hair and flesh from the animal with a knife.
- 5) Once step 4 is complete the hide must be soaked in differing liquid extracts depending on the type of leather required. You must need to use ingredients such as: oak bark, leaves or alum.
Please be aware this step could take as long as a month to complete.
- 6) The hides now need to be dried and conditioned.
- 7) Finally, the hides need to be split using a knife by hand. The thickness needs to be reduced from 4-5mm down to 2mm.

Once you have finished this step you should have your very own piece of leather.