



# Leather Care Guide

## What is Patchwork Leather?

Patchwork leather (Typical Styles marked Italian Mosaic or Roman Rock) provides you with a very affordable means to own a genuine leather garment or accessory. The common misconception is that patched leather apparel uses inferior quality leather, when in fact, the leather used in construction is exactly the same as what you might expect to see in a solid leather item costing hundreds of dollars.

We also carry **Solid Leather** apparel and accessories at slightly higher pricing and these are noted in the product descriptions that they are "Solid".

## How it's made

The first step in the "tanning" method is to apply a protective treatment to the hides (whole pelts from cattle) or skins (the pelts of younger or smaller animals). They are then put through a chemical process to keep them from getting dry and brittle. Once this is done, the tanners work with the leather to adjust the thickness and color as well as apply treatments to produce sheen or dullness. The end product is sent to manufacturers, who cut and sew the leather into apparel and accessories. Once the solid leather jackets are created using the hide or pelt, the remaining pieces are then purchased by our leather manufacturers where they are recut, shaped and chemically treated to produce a uniform appearance for all of the different cuts now called "Patches". These patches are then masterfully sewn together to create some of the fine apparel offered on this site. Because the leftover hides or pelts are so inexpensive, you save hundreds of dollars on patched apparel made from the same leather.

It is not uncommon for some of the end stitches to become loose. Simply snip the stitch that is not attached with scissors and carefully cinge the end with a small flame.

Sometimes there will be a patch or two with approx 1cm of unstitched patching. This helps the leather to easily expand at stress points without popping any stitched seems and is un-noticeable unless diligently inspected. (It's like a built in pressure release valve for the apparel)

The chemical treatment processing in tanning does leave leather with a distinct aroma. Some people really like that "new leather" smell and others don't. When your leather goods are first unpacked they will have a stronger smell from having been in compact storage conditions after manufacturing. The longer an item is left out to "breathe" the less noticeable any aroma is.

## Appearance and Texture

When most people see leather, their first reaction is to touch it. The way leather feels is called its hand. In general, the softer the hand, the higher the cost. The raw material, which is a determined by genetics, greatly influences the quality of leather. Every hide and skin has sections that are naturally wrinkled, softer or thinner in certain areas. Environmental factors, including climate and food supply, also affect the final product. Since leather is a natural material, it is never uniform. Its small surface imperfections create a unique beauty that can never be duplicated.



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## Leather Facts

- Leather is tear resistant.
- Leather protects from heat, cold and wind; and it repels moisture.
- Leather items are available in a variety of weights and made with different linings for comfort in warm and cold weather.
- Leather apparel stretches and molds to your body, yet at the same time retains its shape.
- Leather breathes -- that's what keeps it soft and supple.
- Leather is an agricultural by-product of the food industry. We purchase the hides and transform them into beautiful leather apparel and accessories.

## Protection and Care

- Use a high-quality water and stain repellent product, like a Leather and Suede Protector found in local department stores, to help prevent water stains and soiling. Check the ingredients to make sure the protectant is free of silicone and wax, ingredients that break down the natural oils in leather. Apply immediately after receiving your new leather item, and every two or three months if used regularly.
- Avoid using cleaning fluid, shoe cream, saddle soap and mink oil. These products contain ingredients that may damage leather.
- We recommend that you test any protection and cleaning products on a hidden area of the leather.
- Don't keep heavy objects, such as key chains, in your pockets. Doing so will stretch the leather.
- Avoid applying hair sprays and perfumes while wearing leather.
- Don't attach pins, adhesive badges or tape to leather.
- Repair hems with a small amount of rubber cement.

## Cleaning

- Gently blot liquid stains with a clean cloth.
- Winter salt stains your leather, wipe with a clean, damp cloth and dry naturally.
- Visit a professional leather cleaner for heavier or hard to remove stains. (Normal dry cleaning methods will remove essential oils, causing the leather to crack, fade and shrink. A cleaner who specializes in leather care will use a different method to clean and condition the leather. Even this special process may cause slight variations in color, texture and shape).



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## Care When Wet

- If your leather becomes wet, allow it to dry at room temperature. (Never put leather in the dryer.) Then apply Leather and Suede Protector. (If suede, buff with a soft towel to restore the nap).
- If your garment has faux fur trim and the fur gets wet, dry it with a hair dryer set on the lowest temperature. Shake fur during the drying process, and periodically during wear to maintain loft and maximize appearance.

## Storage

- Store your leather coat or jacket on a wide wooden, plastic or padded hanger to help maintain its shape.
- Store leather in a well-ventilated, cool, dry place. Avoid hot areas, such as attics; or damp areas, such as cellars.
- Cover your leather with breathable cloth, like cotton sheets, when storing. Plastic bags or coverings will cause excessive drying.
- Wrinkles and creases in leather should hang out. If ironing is necessary, place heavy brown paper over the leather and use a cool to medium iron. Take care not to overheat the leather, which will cause excessive shine.
- Avoid exposing leather to direct sunlight or heat for prolonged periods of time.

