

# BENEFITS OF LEATHER

LEATHER



NATURALLY

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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.



REDUCES WASTE



LONG LASTING

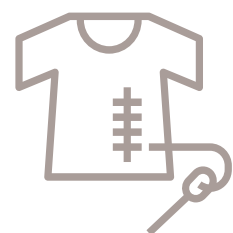
## Good leather ages well and lasts

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 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 is 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.



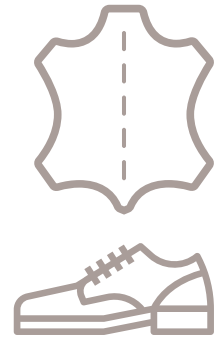
EASY TO REPAIR

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## 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.



RECYCLABLE



VERSATILE

## Leather has many varied end uses

The skills of the leather makers take the **same basic raw material** and turn it into a many different 'fabrics' with different qualities and benefits. Leather can be **engineered** to be durable enough for furniture yet soft enough for comfort footwear.

It will make the finest dress gloves or **protective**, abrasion resistant motorcycling gloves. Leather makes the most **supple** of jackets or the **firmest** of walking boots.

## 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**.



COMFORTABLE

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## 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](#)



**BEAUTIFUL**



**LUXURIOUS**

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## 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.

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## LEARN MORE WITH LEATHER NATURALLY

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

Its website [www.leathernaturally.org](http://www.leathernaturally.org) is a key resource for information about modern leather manufacturing and the part it plays in a more sustainable society.

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