



THEODORE ALEXANDER

LEATHER TRAITS
— & —
CHARACTERISTICS

NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Leather is a hard-wearing and versatile material that acquires new characteristics and a pleasing patina over time. This is normal and to be expected. In fact, it is these characteristics that differentiate real hide from synthetic or re-constituted coverings.

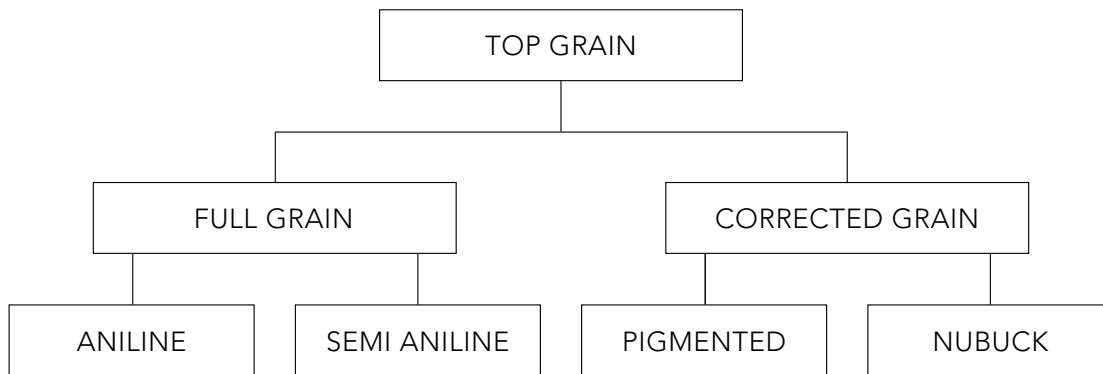
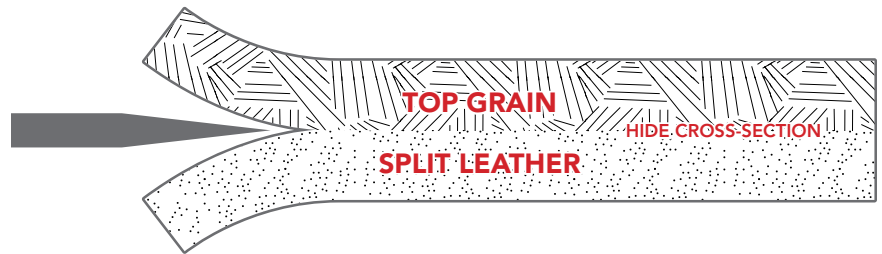
Leather shows naturally occurring marks, such as wrinkles, scars, scratches, and bites. It is important to note that these natural characteristics may be visible on all leather upholstery items.

Theodore Alexander makes it a priority to acquire the best leather in the industry. Our team hand-selects the best pieces for our products by judging the quantity and intensity of natural characteristics. This allows Theodore Alexander to minimize material waste, while still providing a beautiful finished result.

TYPES OF LEATHER

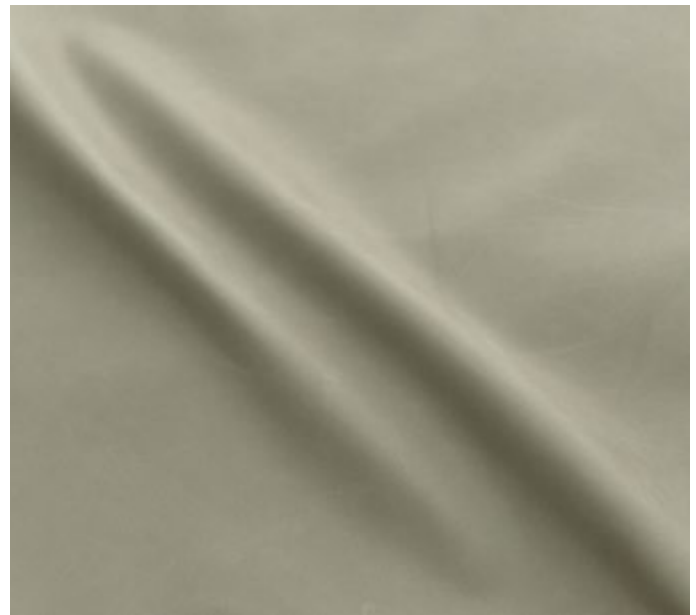
Leather is split into two layers, top grain and split grain. From the top grain portion comes Full Grain and Corrected leathers.

Top grain is the uppermost portion of the hide. To say a hide is "top grain" simply is referring to the layer of the hide from which the leather originates.



TOP GRAIN

Refers to the uppermost portion of the hide. Full grain and corrected grain leathers both come from the top grain portion of the hide. This term is often confused with Corrected Grain leather.



FULL GRAIN

Top grain leather. Refers to the leather that has not been altered by sanding or buffing. It retains the natural grain layer, original texture and markings that occur naturally on leather hides. Each hide is unique, and tells a story of each animals life.

ANILINE

Top grain leather that has been immersed in a bath of dye, fully penetrating the hide. These leathers are the most natural, and will exhibit all marking in the hides.

HAIR ON HIDE

These leathers are tanned with the hair intact. They can be dyed to achieve specific colors or patterns.

CORRECTED GRAIN PIGMENTED

Top grain leather where a heavy layer of pigment and a protective finish are applied. The leather is sometimes embossed with an artificial grain pattern. The dying process and the grain pattern provide a uniform appearance. Natural characteristics are minimized in this type of leather.

SEMI ANILINE

Top grain leather that has been immersed in a bath of dye (same as Aniline), with a small amount of pigment and protective finish added to the surface. This process increases the durability and color consistency of the hide. All natural characteristics are still visible underneath the protective coating.

NUBUCK (LEATHER SUEDE)

A corrected grain leather. The surface layer has been buffed so as to remove the top cell structure. This makes the leather very soft, almost velvet-like. Natural characteristics can be seen in this leather.

VISIBLE AND NON-VISIBLE AREAS

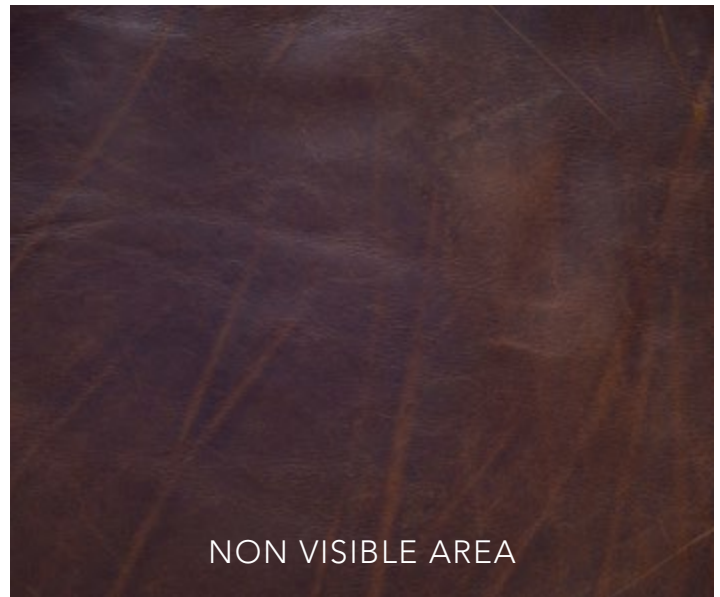
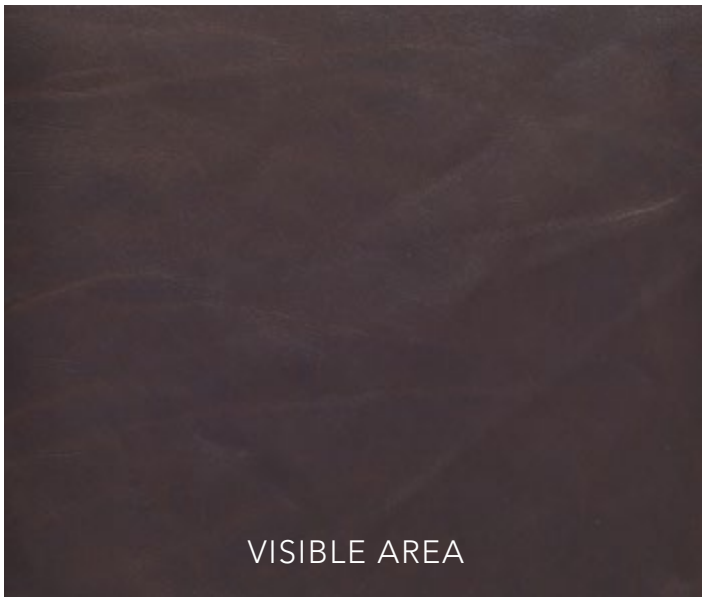
The Visible Area on a piece is determined by what can be seen in the front facing position. This includes tops of seats and arms, front of back pillow, side of arms, and front rail. Theodore Alexander will make every effort to keep consistent the characteristics of leather on this portion of the item.



Non-Visible areas can be classified as the hidden areas, or areas that are considered unobtrusive. This includes back of pillows, under seat cushions, the entire back of the piece, and the side of the cushions or pillows. Most pronounced natural markings will be located in these areas.

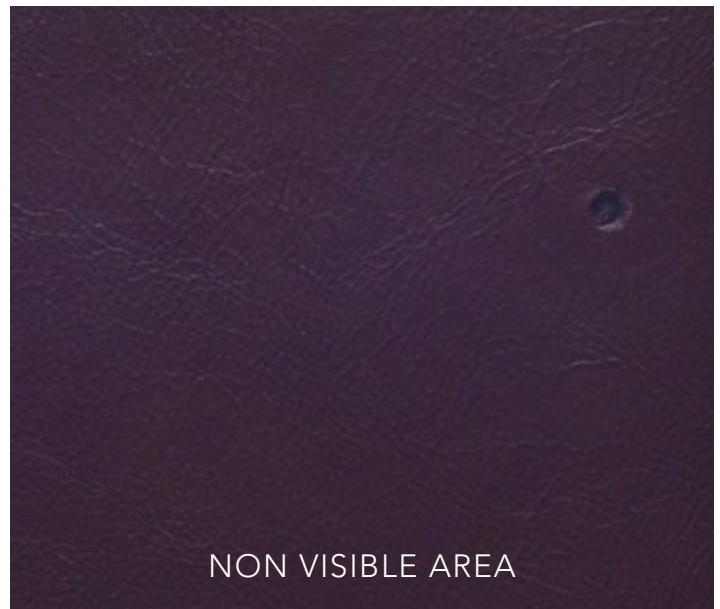
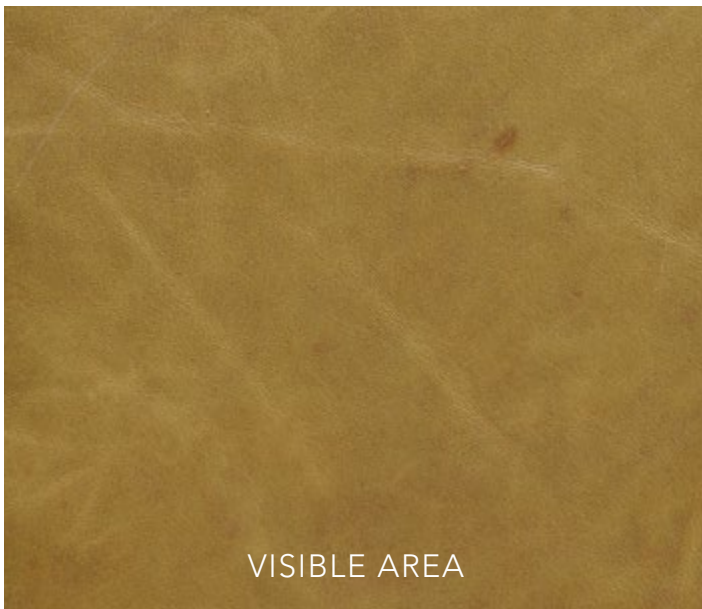


STRETCH MARKS / BELLY WRINKLES / GROWTH LINES



Stretch marks naturally occur over the lifetime of a cow. These wrinkles can be seen on almost every piece of natural leather, in both the visible and non-visible areas. Corrected and pigmented leathers minimize the appearance of stretch marks, but ultimately this is one of the most common visible traits in leather products.

INSECT BITES



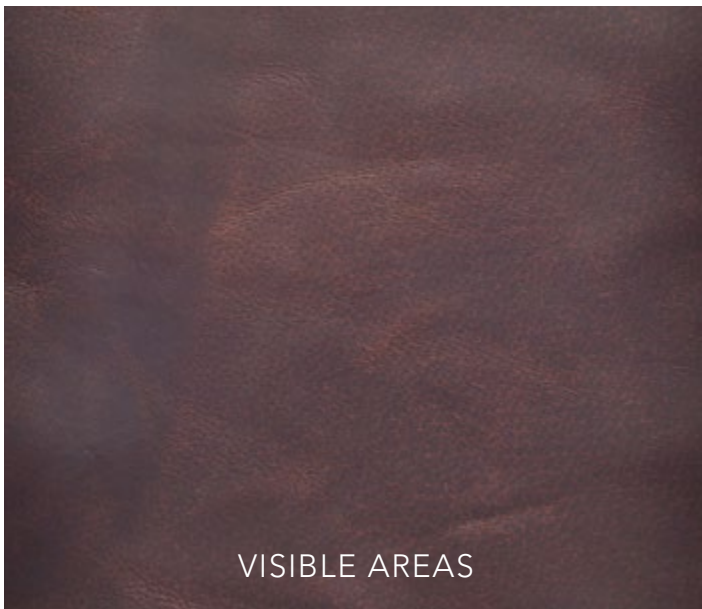
Insects naturally come in to contact with animals in their environment, leaving behind bites that scar the hides. Bug bites can be seen in both visible and non-visible areas. They appear as small round scars, or a grouping of small dots. Bug bites cannot be seen as frequently on corrected or pigmented leather types due to the color consistency of the dyed hides.

SCARS IN HIDES



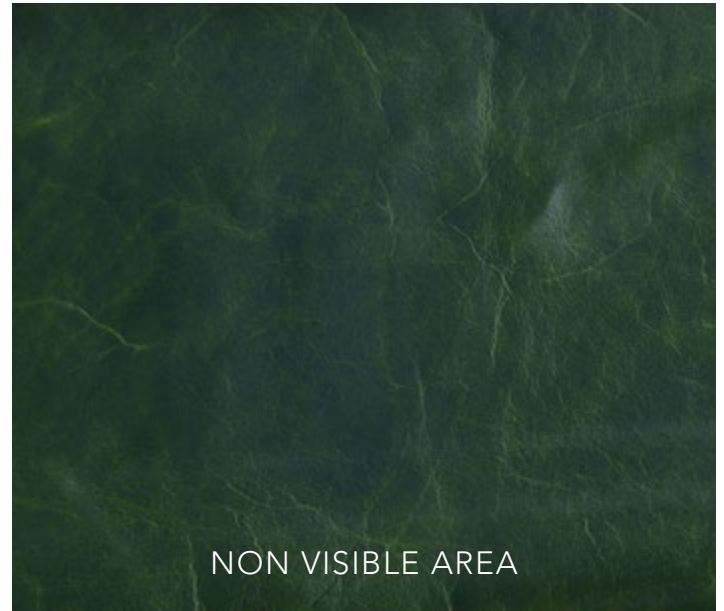
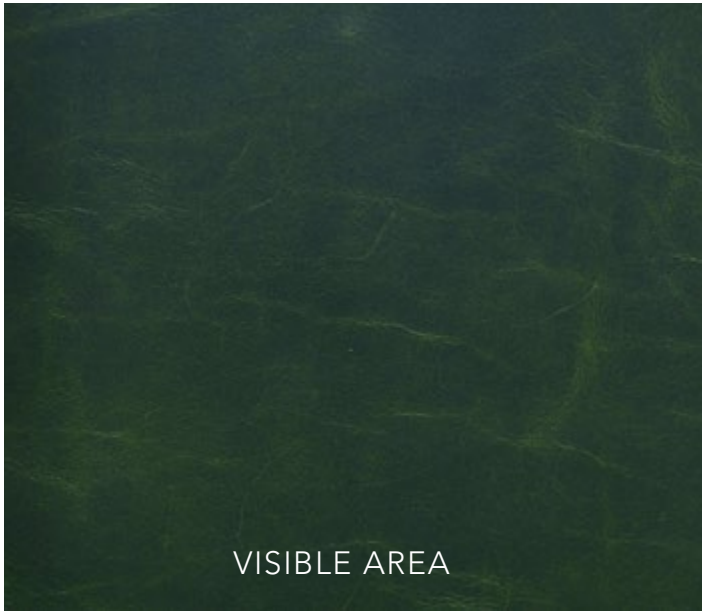
Scars in hides can be caused by numerous things, including barbed wire fences, injury, or even contact with abrasive surfaces. In the visible area, scars will not be overly emphasized. Scars in the non-visible area will range in size and severity. No “open” scars will ever be used. Scars are minimal in corrected and pigmented leathers.

SPINE MARKS



Spine marks can be identified as dark streaks. Spine marks, when on a dark colored leather, can be seen in all visible areas. In a lighter colored leather, where spine markings are more noticeable, our upholsterers take care to place in the non-visible areas. No spine marks will be visible in corrected and pigmented leathers.

VEINS



Veins are small lines that can be seen in natural leather products. They will be placed in both visible and non-visible areas of the upholstery. The severity and quantity of veins will determine where the piece will be located.

GRAIN SIZE VARIATION



The grains, or texture, in leather are unique to each hide, just like a fingerprint. Grain size will remain consistent on all visible areas of the item. Non-visible areas may have variable grain sizes.

SCRATCHES



Scratches are small scars that appear as a thin line. They can be seen on all types of leather. Due to the process of sanding the surface of the hide, Nubuck will emphasize these scratches even further. The length and depth of these scratches is taken into consideration, and only suitable hides will be selected.

FOLDS



Folds can occur during the drying process at the tanneries, or during shipping when the leather is rolled. Folds will only be used in the non-visible areas.

DEPTH OF COLOR

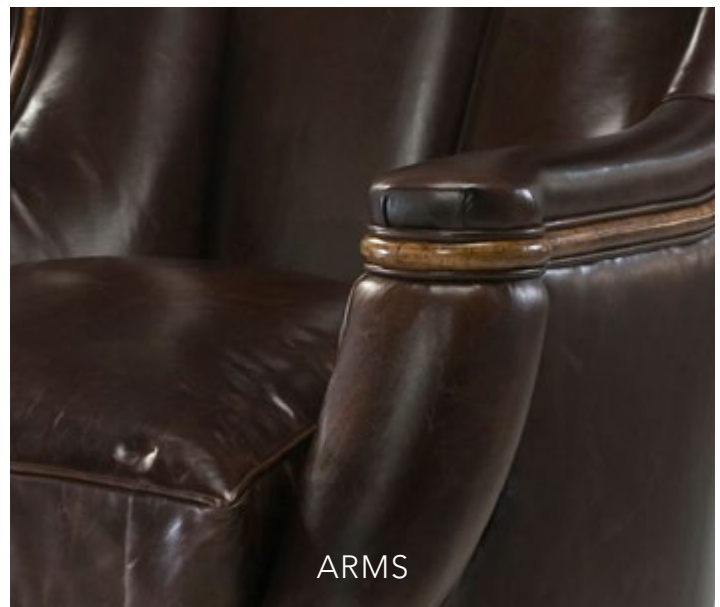


Some types of leather celebrate dark and light color features on the same surface. A wide depth of color can be seen mainly on full aniline leathers with little to no top coat treatment. Color consistency can be found in Pigmented and Corrected Grain types.

PULL UP LEATHER



Pull Up leather is treated with natural oils and waxes, instead of being coated with pigments. The oils will turn the surface of the leather darker in color. When the leather is stretched, it will become lighter, especially in the places where it is pulled tightly. Variation in color is one of the natural characteristics of pull up leather.



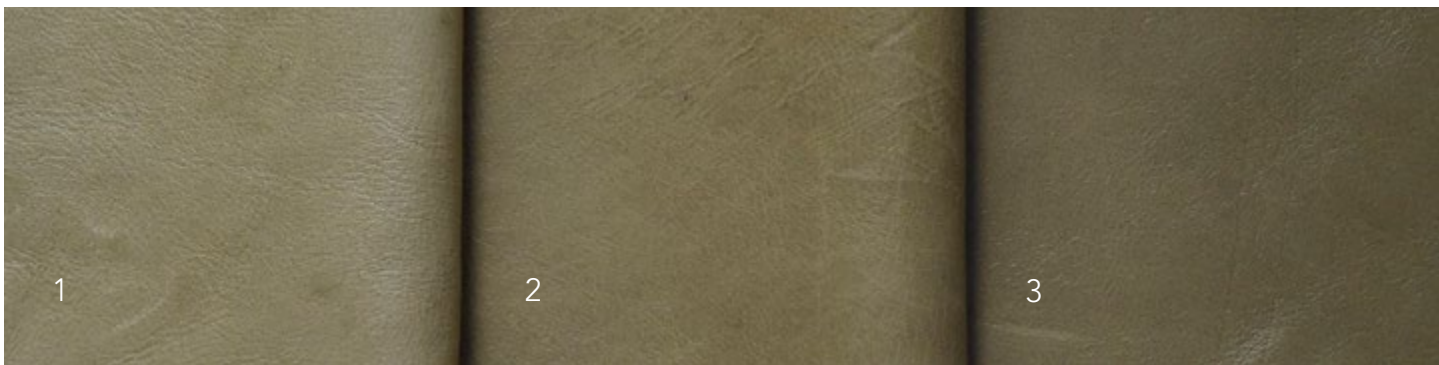
COLOR RANGES



It is to be expected that the color of dyed leather will vary from hide to hide. This is seen especially in full aniline/top grain leathers. Because leather is a natural material, no one drum of dyed leather is ever the same. For a more consistent color, corrected leathers are suggested, although variation is possible in all leather types, and from batch to batch.



Theodore Alexander will only use hides that fall within our accepted color ranges. This image shows an example of an acceptable range.



It is expected that, in the visible areas of the upholstery, only shades 1/2, or shades 2/3 will be seen. In non-visible areas, shades 1, 2, and 3 may all be present. Theodore Alexander will make every effort to not put together shades 1/3 on the visible areas of the same piece

It is important to note, that when ordering multiples, consistency in the color pairs cannot be guaranteed, just that it is within the acceptable color range for that leather. Please check with your sales representative for alternatives to leathers with color ranges.



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For more information on leather and which type is right for you,
please consult with your Theodore Alexander representative.

theodorealexander.com