

A Must Read: What kind of leather do I have?

Written by Chris Repp

Monday, 28 December 2009 16:29 - Last Updated Monday, 28 December 2009 16:52

Type of test

Type of Leather material

Under side test: flip over the material

Water test

drops of distilled water in a hidden spot

Scratch test

Mild pressure with your fingernail

Feel test

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Finished leather

Suede-like fuzzy knap

Water will bead up and roll off it.

Will not scratch with mild pressure

Silky soft to semi-stiff feel

Bicast leather or Vinyl

fabric backing, bicast a suede-like fuzzy knap

will bead up and roll off of both of these

not scratch, bicast leather will lighten when scratched

semi-stiff feel but sometimes more plastic feel

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Semi/ full aniline leather

Suede-like fuzzy knap

s will darken the leather almost immediately

Will lighten with mild pressure

Butter-soft, drag feel

Nubuck/Suede

Suede-like fuzzy knap

up for a few seconds then penetrate the leather

es not scratch but nubuck will change color

Soft and fuzzy feel

Oil/Wax Pull-Up leather

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Suede-like fuzzy knap

up for a few seconds then penetrate the leather

ng color with a nail scratch, heat or by being squeezed

Oily/waxy to the touch

Before you can care for your leather correctly, you must know what type of leather you own. Follow the tests in this table to identify your leather. Then all of the other information on cleaning and repairing your leather will make more sense.