

**The Care of Leather & Fur:
C2C Leather Webinar**

with
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LEATHER IDENTIFICATION BASICS



(2)

STRUCTURE
Collagen/protein fibers = organic material
Grain vs. Flesh sides
Fur

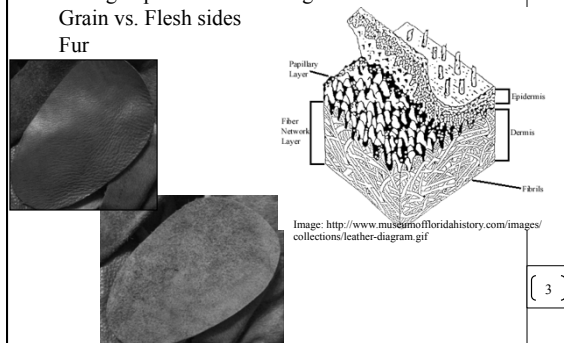


Image: <http://www.museumoffloridahistory.com/images/collections/leather-diagram.gif>

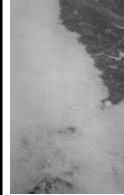
(3)

MANUFACTURE

Raw hide & parchment
Semi-tanned
Vegetable tanned
Modern tanning agents
Others: gilt & painted, japanned/lacquered, *cuir bouilli*, archaeological



Fur



Raw Hide



Semi-Tanned



Vegetable Tanned

(4)

MANUFACTURE

Differences in deterioration





(5)


LEATHER PRESERVATION BASICS





(6)



<h3>ENVIRONMENT</h3> <p>Reduce Light Exposure Keep a stable temperature and relative humidity Reduce risk of water damage Avoid pest activity</p> <p>T Around 70 RH Around 50%</p> 	(7)
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<h3>ENVIRONMENT</h3> <p>Reduce exposure to pollutants</p> <p>Solids Dust Soot Alkalis</p> 	(8)
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<h3>ENVIRONMENT</h3> <p>Reduce exposure to pollutants</p> <p>Liquids Water Beverages Spray cleaners</p> 	(9)
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<h3>ENVIRONMENT</h3> <p>Reduce exposure to pollutants</p> <p>Gases Ammonia Sulfur compounds Peroxides</p> 	(10)
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<h3>REDUCE HANDLING</h3> 	(11)
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<h3>EXHIBITION AND STORAGE MOUNTS</h3>  	(12)
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Museum storage



[13]

The need to feed is great



[14]

White Bloom on Leather

Looks like mold

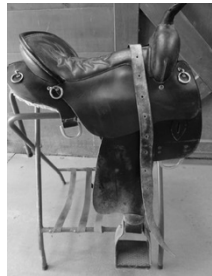
Use magnifying glasses

Lightly Touch with
a small brush

Dust? Dry mold

Smear? Active mold

Nothing? Bloom



[15]

TOP 13 REASONS WHY WE DON'T
USE LEATHER DRESSINGS AT THE
ASM

By Ellen Carrlee, Conservator

1. FATTY SPEW (or "spue") is the name given to white bloom or haze on the surface of the leather. When analyzed, this moldy-looking white or yellow substance is usually made of saturated fatty acids like stearates and oleates that come from the chemical breakdown of animal products like Neatsfoot oil. This is illustrated in Tlingit hide armor that was dressed by professionals at the National Parks Service in the late 1960s. The appearance was fine until the 1990s, when snowflake-like white spew appeared all over the surface. This occurred in spite of appropriate environmental conditions.



[16]

LEATHER CONSERVATION
CLEANING BASICS

[17]

DRY CLEANING

Vacuuming
Sponging
Brushing
Picking out pest
evidence

Nilfisk brand
variable speed
HEPA vacuum

[18]

DRY CLEANING

Vacuuming
Sponging
Brushing
Picking out pest
evidence



"Soot" Sponges



Cosmetic Sponges



(19)

DRY CLEANING

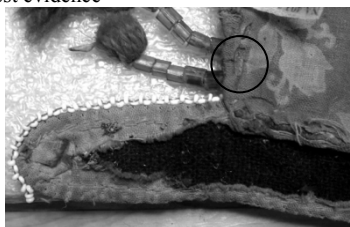
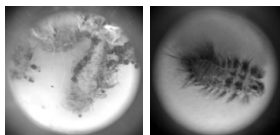
Vacuuming
Sponging
Brushing & Swabbing
Picking out pest
evidence



(20)

DRY CLEANING

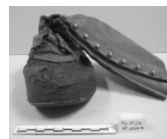
Vacuuming
Sponging
Brushing
Picking out
pest evidence



(21)

PASSIVE INTERVENTIONS

Take advantage of proper mounting to
stabilize tears/splits without using adhesives



Before Treatment



After Treatment



Storage Mount

Use soft archival foams and papers, plus cotton
twill or Teflon (plumbing "tape"), as splints

(22)

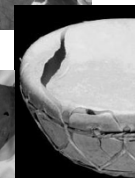
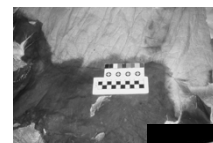
LEATHER CLEANING DON' T' s

- Don't proceed with cleaning (or any handling) without inspecting condition of the leather
- Don't brush with metal wire brushes
- Don't immerse in water
- Don't use dressings
- Don't do anything you feel uncomfortable doing
- Don't forget to document what you've done

(23)

INTERVENTIVE TREATMENTS

CONSULT A CONSERVATOR



(24)

AIC

<http://www.conservation-us.org/>

Has tips on hiring a conservator and a database to locate a conservator in your area or with a specific expertise.

