



CTL LEATHER INC

Leather 101 - Brazilian Raw



LEATHER 101

Neck holes can be received in 2 ways, sewn shut and open hole (The Brazilian cow is shaped like “a camel” with a hump and the neck hole is naturally occurring)

Many tanneries today, now receive the hides sewn up from the meat packer. They either leave it as is (sewn) or they remove the stitch and you receive hides with a neck hole.

We have been receiving the stitched neck and many MFG’s like this, as it enables them to place the patterns closer to this

area (sewn) vrs a large hole. It sometimes increases the yield. This is not a defect, but how the hides are shipped due to the cow being this way from Brazil.

Small holes that can occur with any cow hide be it Brazilian or European, North American or other.

Brands marks in the Butt area will be present, 2 and sometimes 3.

Fence wounds, possible tick marks, scars are also a common factor.

Leather is a natural product and any naturally occurring characteristics are a factor of the cow's life, where and how it was raised including climate, free range or penned in, etc.

Leather is a natural product produced as a by-product of animal hides (mostly cows, steer, and water buffalo). Due to the life- style of the animals, leather will always have natural markings such as brands, insect bites, scars, fat wrinkles, stretch marks, abrasions, and burns. These natural markings are not considered defects but rather are indications of true leather.

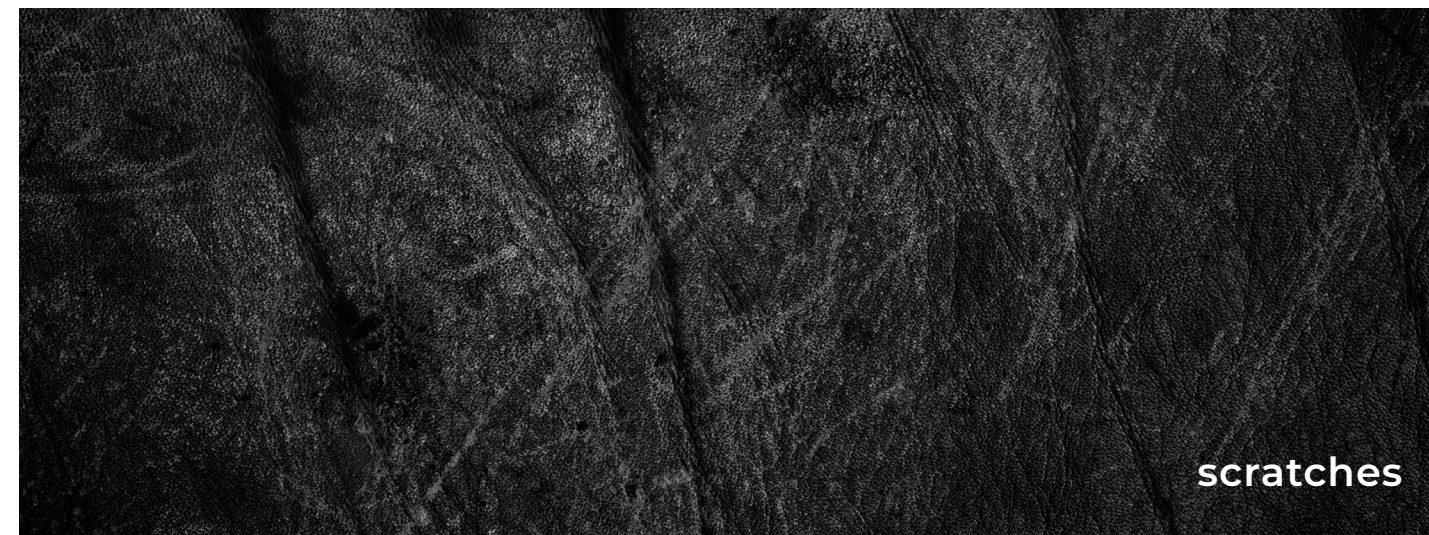
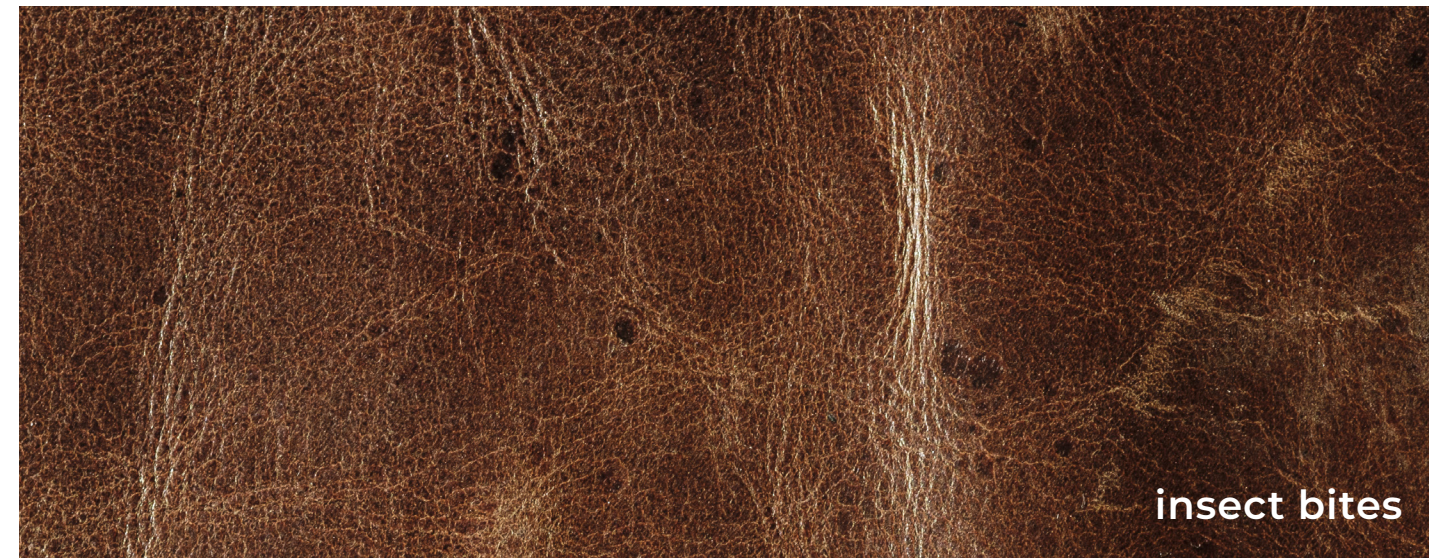
The hide selection for this type of leather includes those which have extreme amounts of scars and

markings due to where the cow has been raised (South America).

The surface of the leather is heavily sanded to remove some of the excess scars, insect bites, or other noticeable imperfections.

Corrected Top Grains receive an opaque protective top coat of solid color referred to as pigment. This gives the hide an even, consistent coloration throughout. Any shade imaginable can be achieved with this finish application.

After coloration is complete, the tannery then embosses a grain pattern onto the hide to create a uniform appearance.



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NATURAL DEFECTS FOUND ON LEATHER

Neck hole is common for Brazilian Raw material, as this particular cow has a HUMP on his neck, consequently this is the structure of the cow. Sometimes these holes are sewn shut. Because the hides are very large from this area, this should not affect the yield when cutting.

Scars and scratches in the butt are could be caused by barbed wire fences, or other surfaces.

Small tics or holes can be found around the

top section (neck portion) depending on the certain climate/country material comes from. This could be caused by rash, bug bites, etc...

Branded area (Butt), this is where the brands typically are, but it depends from what country the material comes from, there could be some central brands and can vary from 2-4 brands per hide, depending on material being purchased.



Brand Marks

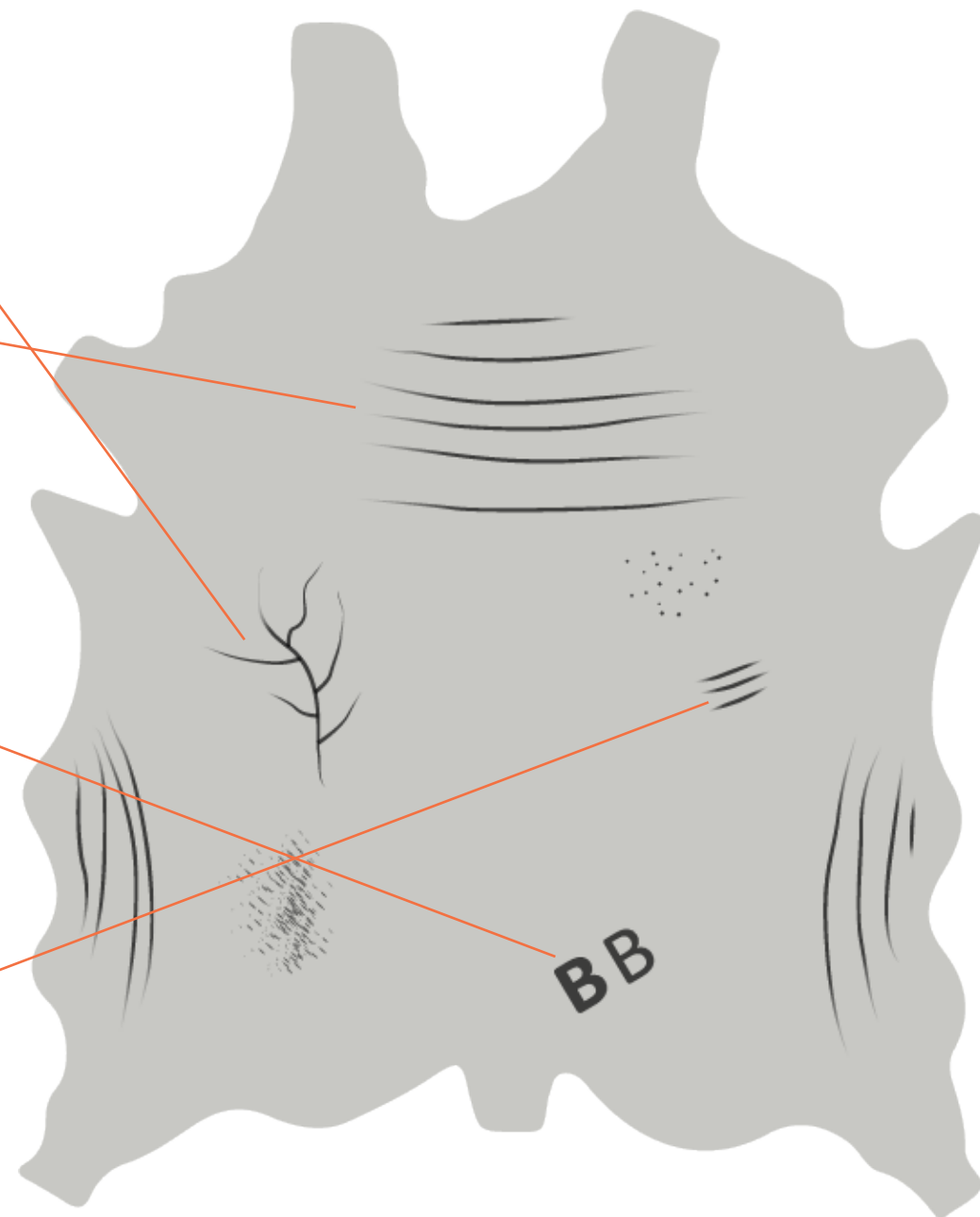
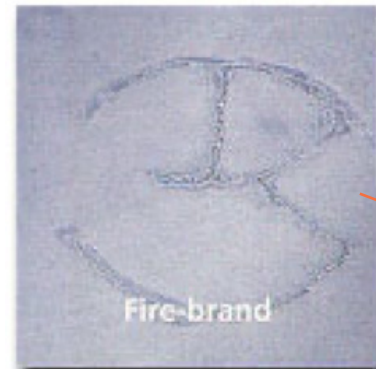
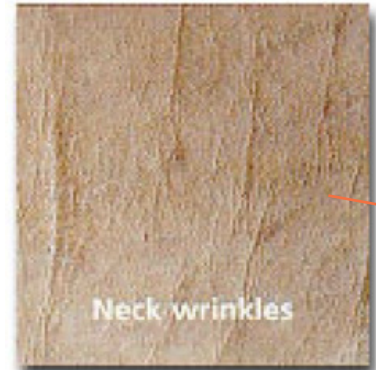
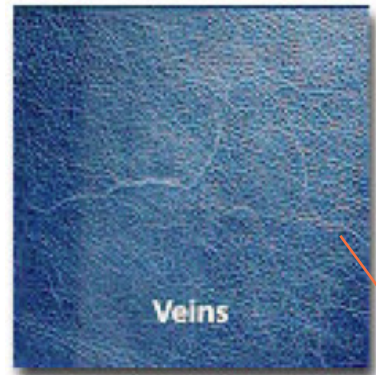


Scars



Tic holes

LEATHERS NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS



Defects caused to hides during the life of an animal defects caused during like include:

1) Scars, resulting from scratches or cuts. (When the cut is healing, the fibres grow densely packed together, and the healed skin is often hard, raised, and lacking hair follicles.

2) Branding, Scar damage is also caused by branding the animal for ownership purposes, usually in the butt area, which is the best part of the hide.

3) Infestations, such as ticks, warble flies and mange. (Ticks pierce the skin to suck blood, leaving holes that look either like pin pricks or minor scars in the grain of the leather. This defect occurs mainly in the belly areas of the skin. Sarcastic mange mites enter the epidermis and tunnel around, causing cells to multiply and the hair to fall out. The grain surface becomes

roughened, and the animal generally compounds the damage by rubbing to relieve the itchy, causing further markings on the hide.

4) Veininess, in which branching lines of blood vessels can be seen on the flesh side. (If, because of poor curing or old age, for example, the structure around them becomes loose, the skin is said to be veiny, and the branching pattern of the veins usually shows through on the grain side. Veininess can actually at times be attractive in some skins, such as VELLUM.

5) Damage from heat, which may occur on hides and skins in tropical areas, such as South American Hides. Sun Damage that occurs to a hide or skin when it becomes heated above a certain critical temperature, from the heat and dry climate to tropical rains, the skin may have some nuances due to the ups and downs/inconsistent climates/temperatures.