

CARING FOR YOUR LEATHER FURNITURE

GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Leather upholstered furniture should require little or no care under most normal household conditions. It is the most durable and strongest material used for the upholstery of furniture. Although leather is the most durable upholstery material available, leathers will stain or change in character from food and liquid spills, or from body oils. In order to keep your Century leather product looking beautiful, please refer to cleaning instructions found under each specific leather classification.

No matter how much care is taken with your fine home furnishings, a certain amount of degradation will occur from environmental or mechanical conditions existing within your home. The following are some examples and what can be done to minimize the damage.

DIRECT SUNLIGHT

Ultra-violet rays in sunlight will eventually result in fading for most fabrics, and leathers. Some leathers perform better than others in direct sunlight. Ask your dealer for guidance.

ABRASIVES AND CLEANING SOLUTIONS

Saddle soap, oils, detergents, furniture polish, abrasive cleaning solvents or ammonia should never be used to clean upholstery leather. The majority of spills on your leather upholstery require only gentle wiping. Always remember that vigorous rubbing can damage the surface.

HEAT SOURCES

It is not recommended to place your leather furniture near strong heat sources such as a fireplace, radiators, or direct sunlight. Such heat can dry out the natural oils in leather and cause stiffness and cracking.

LEATHER DISCLAIMER

Leather is a natural product produced as a byproduct 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 full top grain leather.

Some natural markings may be less evident in leathers that have had the top grain altered via sanding processes and then covered up with pigments. These leathers tend to be more uniform in color and texture but sacrifice the natural softness and raw beauty of the product.

Most high quality leathers are only stained with translucent dyes that allow all the natural beauty of the leather to show including the markings mentioned above. In addition to these distinct characteristics, the leather may also vary (some-times excessively) in dye lot coloration, much like the staining of wood products. Some leathers such as "pull-ups" (leather with waxes and oils pressed into the surface) are created to enhance this dye variation and will become extreme as the leather is pulled over upholstered frames.

Natural markings and dye lot variations are in no way considered defects. It is the policy of Century Furniture to accept no returns on product for any reason where the cause is due to the nature of this product.

LEATHER CLASSIFICATIONS

“PIGMENTED/EMBOSSSED” CORRECTED LEATHERS

The hide selection for this type of leather includes those which have extreme amounts of scars and markings. First, the surface of the leather is heavily sanded to remove the excess scars, insect bites, or other noticeable imperfections. As with all Century leathers, Corrected Top Grains are aniline drum-dyed. In addition to the aniline dye, they receive an opaque protective top coat of solid color. 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.

These leathers are considered to be the most serviceable of all leathers and are usually the least expensive, but they sacrifice the “hand” due to the sanding, embossing, and pigmentation.

How To Clean – (Cleaning Code P - Protected) *CLEANING IS RECOMMENDED BY USING A DAMP SPONGE AND THE SUDS FROM A MILD SOAPY SOLUTION. RINSE WELL WITH A CLEAN SPONGE AND PAT DRY WITH A TOWEL. NO OTHER CLEANING METHOD IS RECOMMENDED.*

“ANILINE PLUS” LEATHERS

This full top grain leather requires more, select hides due to the fact that there will be no sanding or embossing to this product. As with all full top grain leathers, the pattern and texture will vary across the hide. These leathers are aniline dyed throughout and a light opaque, protective top coat is then applied to the surface, to even out the color.

These leathers, like Corrected Top Grain leathers, are considered to be extremely serviceable. Yet, their texture is more pleasing than the corrected grain leathers because the surface remains natural.

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“PURE ANILINE” LEATHERS

The velvety hand of the pure aniline full top grain leather is the trademark of this category of leather. It is the leather industry's equivalent to fine art or a rare diamond. Pure Aniline leather satisfies the most sophisticated consumer who will settle for nothing less than the best. Little is done to this hide other than to tumble it gently in an aniline dye drum. Pure aniline leather is the softest in the world, and of such superior quality that less than 5% of all hides available are suited for this category. Pure Aniline is full top grain, meaning that no corrections or alterations have been made to the top surface layer. You can see the hide's natural markings, a testament to its purity.

How To Clean – (Cleaning Code A - Aniline) *CLEANING IS RECOMMENDED BY USING DISTILLED WATER AND SUDS FROM NEUTROGENA® SOAP ON A DAMPENED SPONGE, FEATHERING THE MOISTENED AREAS. RINSING IS NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE NEITHER NEUTROGENA® NOR DISTILLED WATER CONTAIN ANY SOLIDS. PATTING WITH A WHITE, CLEAN, DRY TOWEL TO REMOVE EXCESS MOISTURE IS RECOMMENDED. OVER THE YEARS THIS LEATHER MAY DEVELOP A CHARACTER AND SHEEN OF ITS OWN FROM BODY OILS AND USE, RETURNING MANY PLEASANT MEMORIES.*

LEATHER SPECIAL EFFECTS

“PULL-UP” LEATHERS

This is a pure aniline, full top grain leather. After the aniline dyeing process has been completed, the hides are impregnated with oils or wax to give the leather a soft, natural hand. The oils and waxes give the leather a characteristic called "Pull-Up." The unique tanning process of pull-up leathers causes the color in the leather to dissipate and become less intense when the leather is stretched, enhancing the natural markings.

All leathers will fade under direct sunlight. However, these leathers are most susceptible to fading at a quicker rate. It will also stain if food or liquids are not wiped off immediately. Natural body oils will also shade the leather slightly, but this shading will blend in with the oils of the leather, giving it a greatly desired patina.

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“NUBUCK” LEATHERS

Nubuck is a top grain pure aniline leather. It is drum-dyed and polished to remove a slight hair layer of the skin. This process produces a subtle nap, or track, creating a suede-like appearance but is more elegant than suede.

How To Clean – (Cleaning Code N - Nubuck) *CLEANING IS RECOMMENDED BY USING A SUEDE BRUSH, DRY POWDER STAIN REMOVER, OR LEATHER MASTERS® NUBUCK CLEANER.*