

Understanding the Different types of Leather used for leather gloves

Leather terms

Back Leather – Leather made from the back of the animal (See illustration below)

Belly Leather – Leather made from the belly of the animal (see illustration below)

Buckskin – Leather made from the hide of a deer or a buck. There is “genuine Buckskin” which is the outer hide of the deer or buck and “Split buckskin” which is the undercut of the deer or buck hide.

Butt Leather – Leather made from the rump or hind end of the animal (See Illustration below)

Cowhide – Leather made from the hide of a cow. The advantage of this leather is that it is comfortable, durable, breathable and it has excellent abrasion.

Deerskin – Leather made from the hide of deer

Goat Skin – Leather made from the hide of a goat. Strong, durable and soft leather with great abrasion.

Grain Leather – The exterior surface of the hide, where the animal hair was. This leather is normally smooth and resistant (See illustration below).

Pigskin – Leather made from the hide of a pig. This is a very soft leather that withstands moisture more than other types of leather. It also has extreme breathability

Shoulder leather – Leather from the shoulder of the animal (see illustration below)

Side Leather – Leather from the side of the animal (see illustration below)

Split Leather – This leather is the hide that is “underneath” the grain, or top, leather. In terms of quality, the side split is best, followed by the shoulder split with the belly split being the most inferior (See illustration below).



