

SHOPPING LEATHER

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www.bossleather.ca

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Shopping Leather Sofas, with Confidence that will take knowledge

"I was bold in the pursuit of knowledge, never fearing to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led, and bearding every authority which stood in their way."

Thomas Jefferson

GET FAMILIAR WITH THE TERMS

EACH INDUSTRY HAS IT OWN UNIQUE LANGUAGE

This Industry is a great one but it has its challenges as do others but one of them is teaching shoppers the correct terms and what they mean.

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KNOW WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

In todays climate time is a luxury we must take stock in. Saving you time and money is why we are writing this article.

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ITS WHATS INSIDE THAT COUNTS

Some Leather Sofas look spectacular but do not last, some leather sofas simply have to much to hide

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BUYING TIPS AND WHAT ONE SHOULD ASK

Leather sofas are easy to purchase once you are armed with the right questions

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The Beauty of leather can not be imitated



Eight way Hand tie



Leather selection

Shopping leather Sofas with confidence getting what you want is always a plus



Industry Has Its Own unique language “Glossary Terms”

The leather Sofa you want is not so far off and not so difficult to find once you arm yourself with direction. Knowledge is key in the shopping arena. Picture your sofa as the prize and you the gladiator is fighting for what is rightfully yours. First find out what it is you are looking for, what type of leather and Where your leather Sofa Goes is Important

Glossary

aniline (an-a-lin) dyed:

the process of coloring leathers throughout with transparent dyes.

This leather is the type that insures a long life and assures colour stay true for sofas life

antiqued:

the light application of one color over another, (usually a darker color over a lighter color) to create highlights.

corrected grain leather:

leather whose natural surface texture has been altered.

This is a process that creates a unique look and does not effect life span

drum-dyed:

a dyeing process in which leather is immersed in dye and tumbled in a rotating drum, allowing maximum dye penetration.

all aniline leather is drum dyed

dyeing:

the application of color, either by spraying, hand-rubbing or immersion.

ask weather or not the dyeing process was done with all natural dyes.

embossing:

a process in which design is added to leathers surface by pressure to alter or enhance the surface, resulting in uniform imitation grain or unique patterns.

embossed leathers should be used only on front faces or panels that are not seating surfaces. the leather is weakened through this process.

finishing:

any post tanning treatment, such as: dyeing, rolling, pressing, spraying, lacquering, antiquing, waxing, buffing, embossing, glazing, waterproofing or flameproofing.

Finishing is very important process to take note, some of these processes add beauty and look they in some cases add strength or weekness . the ones to avoid are glazing ,waxing and buffing.

full grain:

a term which indicates that leather possesses its original, natural grain; leather which has not been altered.

grain:

the distinctive pore and wrinkle pattern of a hide; may be either natural or embossed.

This is top layer of the leather and is the layer that is the most durable you want full grain.

hand:

a term used to describe the softness or feel of a leather.

Hand is a term used in describing the feel soft hand usually supple, ruff hand need no explanation. this is a subjective term and only you know the feel that appeals to you.

hides:

skins of animals, usually cattle, sheep or water buffalo.

Most quality leather sofas are done in cow hide or calf skin these are the most used and the most reliable.

leather:

a generic term for all hides and skins which have been tanned and finished.

patina (pa-tee-na):

a lustre that develops with time and use.

this is usually a result of time with the leather sofa all leather sofas can develop this patina.



sewing is an art in its self

Do not Get Confused just use these terms to find out what is your best Leather Sofa for you.
aniline, full grain, cow skin leather is what you would require 90% of the time

“Picture your sofa as the prize and you the gladiator is fighting for what is rightfully yours”.

RALPH RICCIARDI BOSS LEATHER

premium select:

a term describing hides with very few scars or blemishes, usually less than 5% of all hides.

Having scars or imperfections are a good thing this adds authenticity to your leather piece.

sanding:

refers to the removal of grain, scars and blemishes from a hide's surface.

Some times referred to as corrected leather this is process to make the sofa look perfect no scars no blemishes this is a personal preference and does not weaken leather.

semi-aniline (an-a-lin):

leathers which have been aniline dyed then top coated with matching pigments to even out the color (also called "aniline plus").

this is still an impressive finish but lesser value than aniline and will cut lifespan about 5 years.

splits:

underlying layers of leather, usually used for suedes, not top grain.

splitting:

cutting a hide into two or more layers.

Avoid this leather unless price is more important to you than quality it is a stiffer less elastic and hard to dye leather AVOID AVOID. THIS LEATHER WILL CRACK

tanning:

treating raw hides to reduce their perishability.

top grain:

the top surface of the hide.

This is a general term that is used to describe the whole process.

tumbling:

a process in which hides are tumbled in a rotating drum to soften the hand or enhance the grain

The longer they are tumbled the more consistent the colour.

KNOW WHAT IS IS YOUR LOOKING FOR

What room do you want to put your new leather sofa. If it is a high traffic area then I suggest top grain aniline cow skin leather, this will be durable most resistant to scratches fading and food spills. look for baseball stitching or french stitch for maximum strength and durability.

KNOWING WHATS INSIDE COUNTS

Foam look for at least 2.2 pound density foam (ultra cell preferred) ask if fire rated and if CSA approved. the fill should be Dacron which controls body heat and adds comfort.

Zippered backs and loose seats are recommended it makes for easy refill down the road if one would require a refresh of foam and fill Hard wood frames also kiln dried are vital for a long life of service for any leather sofa. Glue dowelled and screwed should be considered when shopping for a quality Leather Sofa. This insures joints do not separate and creaking is avoided.

Drop in coils or eight way hand where available should be the base spring of choice. Comfort is always assured with these systems. A drop in coil is much like a mattress coil pre-constructed and evenly distributed coils give you wonderful support. Eight way hand tie is a very difficult thing to find each colour is tied by hand to give you the most unique feel possible.

Cut and Finish Look out for these as a sign of skill. When something is designed and cut with skill clean lines and also durability is increased because finish is directly related to pressure points in sewing.

Style are you looking for a contemporary leather sofa, a traditional leather sofa, transitional leather sofa in any case make sure the selection available is acceptable

Buying tips made easy

Kicking the Tires at the Store

Kicking the Tires at the Store

Once you've answered the lifestyle questions, pondered the advantages of buying leather furniture, and have learned some of the industry jargon, it's time to take the plunge into the galleries to find the set you've been dreaming of.

1. Take a good look around the showroom. Be sure you are armed with notebook and pen and jotting down notes as you walk along.

2. Don't forget to check frames. What good is full grain leather on a weak frame? (See a previous page) for more information on frames and what to look for)

3. Stand back 3 feet from the furniture. Do you like what you see? Are there pulls? Is the stitching even and taut?

4. Run your hands over the piece feeling the grain. Is it supple and buttery?

5. It's time to sit in or on the sofa, whichever is your preferred way of relaxing. How does it feel? Don't forget to lie down for several minutes.

6. Get the low down on the cushions and any options you may have.

Remove the cushions and take a look at the deck of the sofa or chair. When pressed, the deck should be firm.

The Sale is in the Details

Now is the time to pick the brain of the leather furniture dealer. Ask questions.

Ask about the type of leather used.

Where did it come from? Is it top grain? Impress with your knowledge. Is

it 100% full grain with no splits or

vinyl? Insist on a warranty and walk

away if none is offered. Ask about

colors and if you may take swatches home. Inquire about delivery and the cost of delivering the leather furniture you're buying. Question the sales associate in respect to return policies if something is amiss upon delivery. After the barrage of questions have been answered to your complete satisfaction,

take all the information you've gathered home. Think about it, talk about it, sleep on it. If you just can't stop thinking about the beautiful full grain texture with unique characteristics and the soft fabulous feel of the luscious leather, you know you love it. It's time for buying leather furniture.