LEATHERCRAFT

The Definition of a Leather *SWATCH*

A Swatch is a representative sampling taken from one hide. A hide averages 50 square feet so it is only a small representation of the leather. Although this sample represents the color, texture and feel of the leather, chances are it will not be an exact match to the piece of furniture you end up receiving. Imagine if you were to take a small piece of wood flooring as a representation of the floor. This sample would in no way tell how large the wood grain is throughout the floor or if the stain applied to the floor would look the same as the sample. Because a swatch is such a small portion of the entire hide, many of the hide's unique characteristics are not depicted. This may come in the form of "nature's signatures", leather color variation, grain and texture variations, and dye lot deviation.

When choosing leather you must take into consideration that this is a natural material and may have "nature's signatures" incorporated into its natural beauty. These signatures may come in the form of healed scars, insect bites, neck and belly wrinkles. Just like your own skin, everyone has different complexions, scars and blemishes that create an individualized unique beauty.

Color variation occurs in top grain pure anilines and Nubuk leathers. These leathers are dyed for color only and due to the cell structure of the natural cow hide the dye is absorbed differently throughout the hide. Thus creating darker or lighter areas, much like wood varies when stained. This explains why the arm of a sofa may have a different shade than the cushions or the back of the sofa. They were simply cut from different parts of the hide. Plus, a sofa will take 4 - 5 hides. This is NOT a defect; this is evidence that you are using natural top grain leather.

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