

**Simran International
Export (India) Pvt Ltd**



A GUIDETO LEATHER TANNING

A responsible and sustainable way

A GUIDE TO LEATHER TANNING

The information provided in this Guide is an explanation of Leather Tanning in a simplistic manner. The information can be verified & authenticated by any global 3rd party associated with Leather Tanning.

Simran is #wherebetterleatherbegins

Foreword

The process of preparing any natural hide/skin from Raw stage to Finished leather is “**Tanning**”.

Any processing house & unit engaged in the activity of “Tanning” is known as a “**Tannery**”.

A Tannery is an equivalent to a “Dyeing Mill” as used for textiles.

The ingredients (dyes, syntans, fat liquors, pigments, dye solutions, vegetable syntans e.t.c.) used for the process of tanning are called “**Tanning agents**”.

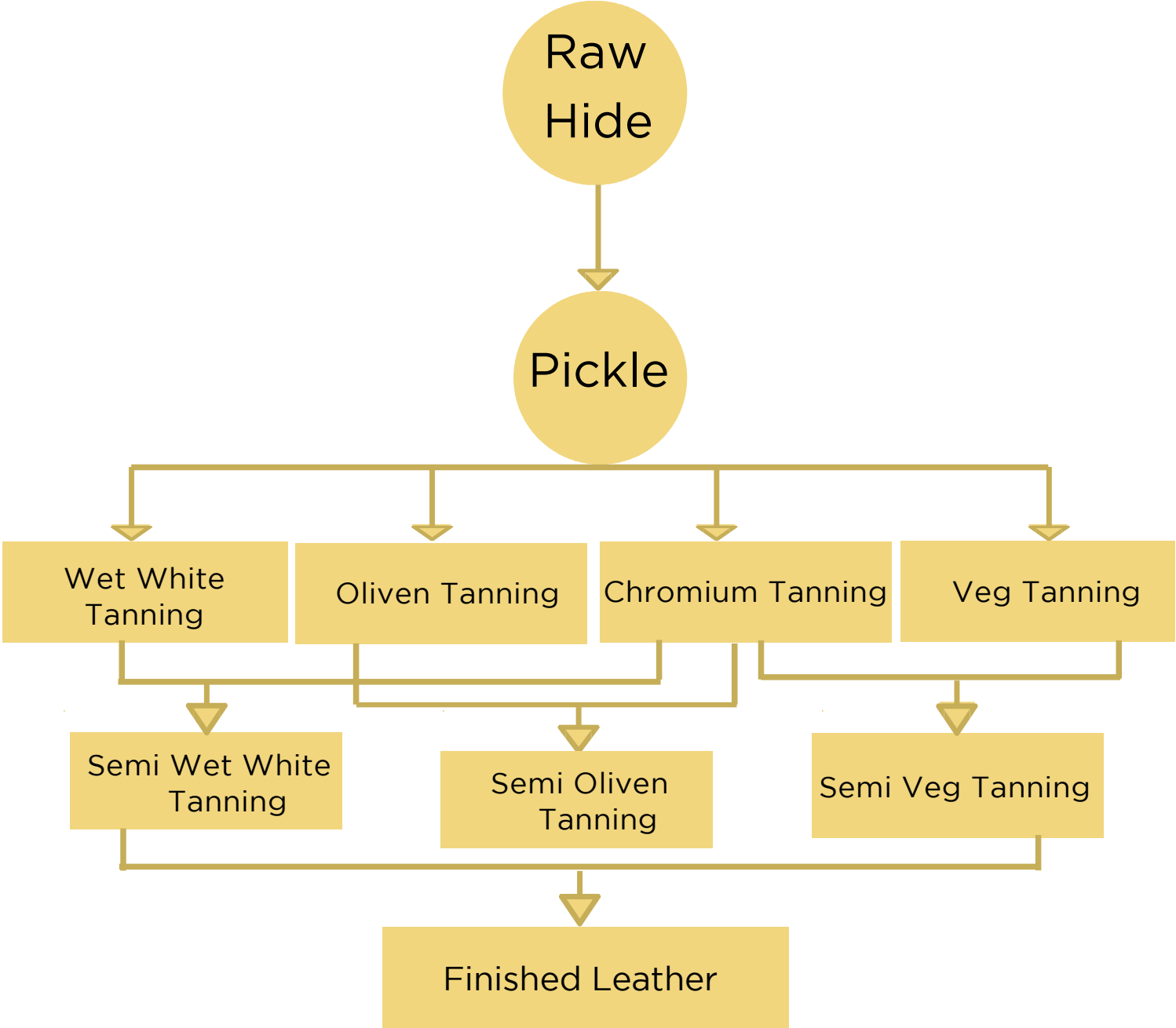
On completion of the tanning process every raw hide & skin is termed as **LEATHER**.

There are multiple methods of tanning yet currently there are 7 methods being used often. Each & every process is LWG® Gold standard approved, Organic, Hygienic, environmentally safe & would abide by the RSL 2022 Standards.

For any Leather to be labeled **SUSTAINBLE**, the tannery has to abide by the 3 core parameters which are the fundamental factors in the equation of Sustainability.

- a. LWG ® Gold- This certification ensures the tannery is neither polluting the environment nor using harsh chemicals unsafe for Humans. This would also ensure that European Standard of REACH is followed.
- b. Ethical Sourcing- The raw hides & skins tanned are a direct By-Product of the meat industry and sourced from countries which adhere to the Global Animal & Husbandry Legislatures thus making them Traceable.
- c. SA8000- The tannery and the final manufacturer is Socially compliant

Types of Leather Tanning



Pickle Stage-

The hide & skins received from the Meat Producer are in Raw form. To preserve the natural grain from natural decomposition, Natural Salt & Lime are applied to preserve it. This stage is called PICKLE.

This is where the tanning begins.

The final product is the driving factor as to which tanning process is to be used for further processing.

1. Vegetable Tanning- Also known as VEG TANNED. In this process the Pickle hides & skins are tanned using Vegetable extracts. These would include Chestnut, Quebracowood, Tara Pods, Catechu, Chinese Gallnut, Turkish Gallnut etc.

It's a False presumption where Veg tanned leathers are considered Organic over & above the other leathers. The leather would pass the standards of OekoTex ® leather Standards & RSL 2022

2. Chromium Tanning-

Chromium is another tanning agent via which the skins can be processed. In simple terms, this process can be equated as “preparing the pasta by boiling it in water with salt & sugar”.

Chromium is an additive to water for preparing the skins to reach the next stage of “wet blue” following which the hides & skins are ready for dyeing process.

“Chromium tanned leathers” are often confused & mixed with with “Chromium VI”. In chemistry both are totally different. Both have their different codes of branch chain amino acids.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromium#:~:text=Chromium%20is%20a%20chemical%20element,hard%2C%20and%20brittle%20transition%20metal>.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hexavalent_chromium

All Chromium tanned leathers would pass the standard of OekoTex ® Leather Standard and RSL 2022

Chromium is present in drinking water & even in natural rivers. Further this tanning agent is man-made manufactured by leading sustainable companies like BASF (Germany).

Chrome VI is a transformed Hexavalent form of Chrome which is harmful. Milk kept & treated improperly oxidizes and turns to curd. Similarly, Chrome, ill-treated, would lead to Chromium VI.

3. Oliven Tanning-

A recent developed formulation where leather is tanned with extracts of Olive Oil. This is as natural as any other form. The Leather will pass the standards of Oekotex ® Leather standard and RSL 2022

4. Wet White Tanning-

A formulation that exists from 2017 where the hides & skins are tanned with Syntenic Tannins, Aluminum & Zirconium. This is a preferred method for making Pastel shades. The leather is pass the standards of Oekotex ® leather standard and RSL 2022

5. Semi Oliven, Semi Veg & Semi Wet White-

Every tanning method has its benefits and limitations. To take the best features of all, "SEMI _____" is more widely used. This form of hybrid treatment ensures that the brand gets the best features of all the tanning processes without its limitations.

The leather will pass the standards of OekoTex ® leather standard & RSL 2022.