

Full Grain Leather versus Top Grain Leather. What are the Differences?

Why should it matter whether you decide upon a top grain leather versus a full grain leather? Leather is leather, right? *Wrong.*

Choosing full grain leather is the smart, long-term solution if comfort, quality and durability are important. Consider the following features and benefits of using full grain quality leather.

Spinneybeck Full Grain Leather: Features and Benefits.

Product Feature	Benefit
Natural breathability	Comfort: It wicks away moisture and body heat. Adjusts to your body temperature.
Natural strength	Durability: It is more pliable and resistant to wear than top grain leather.
Natural full grain surface	Beauty: light natural finish will not crack or peel. Develops a beautiful protective patina over time.



What makes top grain leather an inferior product?

Please look at the magnified, unretouched photo on this page. The bottom triangle is a sample of a typical top grain leather. It resembles a vinyl material because the pores of the altered and heavily pigmented surface have been obliterated. Note the raised droplets of pigment indicating a heavy surface application producing the appearance and texture of a synthetic material, thus making this top grain leather look and feel like a latex-painted wall surface.

Unlike full grain leather, a top grain product begins with an inferior raw material. Its grain surface is removed and an artificial grain pattern applied.

Top grain leather has to be heavily pigmented and heavily altered in order to compensate for imperfections and lack of natural fiber structure. Eventually this weak leather may stretch and form a "puddle" on a cushion.

Full grain leather, a naturally superior material

The upper triangle of tan leather is a sample of full grain, Spinneybeck leather. Notice the tiny pinholes dotting the surface—these are the hide's open hair follicles. The presence of these hair follicles indicates a high quality surface which has not been altered to conceal flaws. This full grain surface *breathes*. It keeps you comfortable because it can adjust to your body temperature. Full grain leather is the highest quality, most beautiful and most comfortable leather available.