

TANNING PROCESS

Harder leather
harness, kip, bridle, sole

Veg tanning

Put skin after draining in tanning pits from low conc to high conc - wattle bark extract - move every 24 hours to higher conc (to avoid "burning") for 6 days then let lie in pit for ~3 weeks

Cut piece of hide and add phenolphthalein which will go red if not tanned properly all the way through

Then start the fat LICKERING and wax process to produce the type of leather wanted

Raw hide which is flayed – Green and Salted hide

SOAKING

Dry skin – Soaking to make supple and washed

UNHAIRING and LIMING

Add sodium sulphide and lime adjust pH to 12, skin swells and hair falls off Inner side and fat is removed and the hide is split for veg tanning

DELIMING

Wash and delime, add ammonium sulphate 6% - 2% 2% 2% and wash

VATING

Add enzymes to soften leather

PICKLING

Add sulphuric acid 1.5% and salt 3-5%, adjust pH to 2.8

Softer and more resistant to heat

Chrome tanning

In that water add Chromium sulphate tanning salt for 12 hours - THIS THE WET BLUE

The hide is then split, shaved for thickness,

RETANNING

Fat liquor, retanning agent and dyes added, depending on final product

FINISHING

The type of finish is either aniline or pigmented