



2

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Making Leather today is not simply about the aesthetics or the design of the article

- It's about the factory that it was made in
- It's about the vision of the management
- Its about the substances and processes used to make the leather

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3

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Today we have to make leather in a responsible, sustainable and environmentally friendly way

- Our buyers, the brands demand it
- Legislation demands it
- There is no place to hide
- Compliance is the only way forward

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4

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Leave aside the moral aspect, there is no alternative to a responsible approach

- With the speed and power of social media
- With pressure from interest groups
- When you look at the danger to doing business as now being faced by other regions and other countries

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5

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

- A tanner today must have responsible quality suppliers who will give honest answers
- The Chemical industry is already helping on many fronts
 - Ensuring that chemicals conform with RSL / legislation
 - Reducing the environmental impact of our products
 - Reduction and elimination of VOC's
 - Use of safer chemistry

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6

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Work on the sustainability of our product ranges is already underway

- Use of plant based raw materials – rather than petroleum based
- Development of alternative tanning methods
- Alternative finishing systems – lower energy / less coats
- Lighter weight leathers
- Re assessment of older technology – does it meet today's needs

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7

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Any tanner today who wants to supply a major company or brand has to know

- About his energy usage and the type
- How much water is used and how much is recycled
- Does he have a policy in place for care of the workforce
- What is the volume of waste and how much can it be reduced
- Recycle and reuse where ever possible

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8

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Leather today is still very much a luxury article

- Hides and skins are today – scarce / expensive / low selection

So to make a profit you need to:

- Add Fashion content
- Upgrade

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9

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Upgrading for soft and natural leathers

- Pre base fillers applied by roller or hand
- Cationic systems
- Beauty Maker systems
- Mirage

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10

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Other current Fashion Trends which can upgrade

- American Style leathers
- Patent leathers
 - Solvent or Water
- Metallic effects
- Combinations

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11

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

- Supplying leather today is a partnership
 - The chemical supplier
 - The tanner
 - The brand or customer
- Improved Environmental performance is a necessity
 - Wherever is the starting point
 - Does it have to cost more?

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12

Latest Developments in Leather Finishing Technology

Thank You

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