

A close-up photograph of leatherworking tools. A wooden-handled tool with a metal tip is positioned diagonally across the upper left. Below it, a metal tool with a cylindrical head and a long handle lies horizontally. The background is a piece of brown leather with some stitching visible.

BY

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BRADINGTON-YOUNG  
ALL ABOUT LEATHER

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# Leather Education

## Leather is...

- One of the leading investments in the furniture industry today.
- More expensive than fabric but averages 4 times the durability of fabric, if cared for properly.
- A natural product, therefore, has “beauty marks” (more commonly mistaken as “flaws” to the end consumer) and color variations.
- Appealing to all senses.
- Much like our skin, it breathes and adjusts to temperatures quickly.
- Charming and enduring with a prestigious aroma.
- Finished with an endless color palette.
- Adaptable to any interior environment.

Leather is appealing to all senses and most of all self-image. Although leather is more expensive than fabric, it averages four times the durability of fabric. Leather improves with age, it is timeless. Leather is one of the leading investments in the furniture industry today. Since it is a natural product with limited resources, the value is better now than it ever will be.

Leather, with its endless color palette, is adaptable to any interior environment and is a charming addition to any room. Along with its prestigious aroma, leather has individuality, which means no two hides are exactly the same. With this in mind, leather furniture is actually custom made for each consumer.

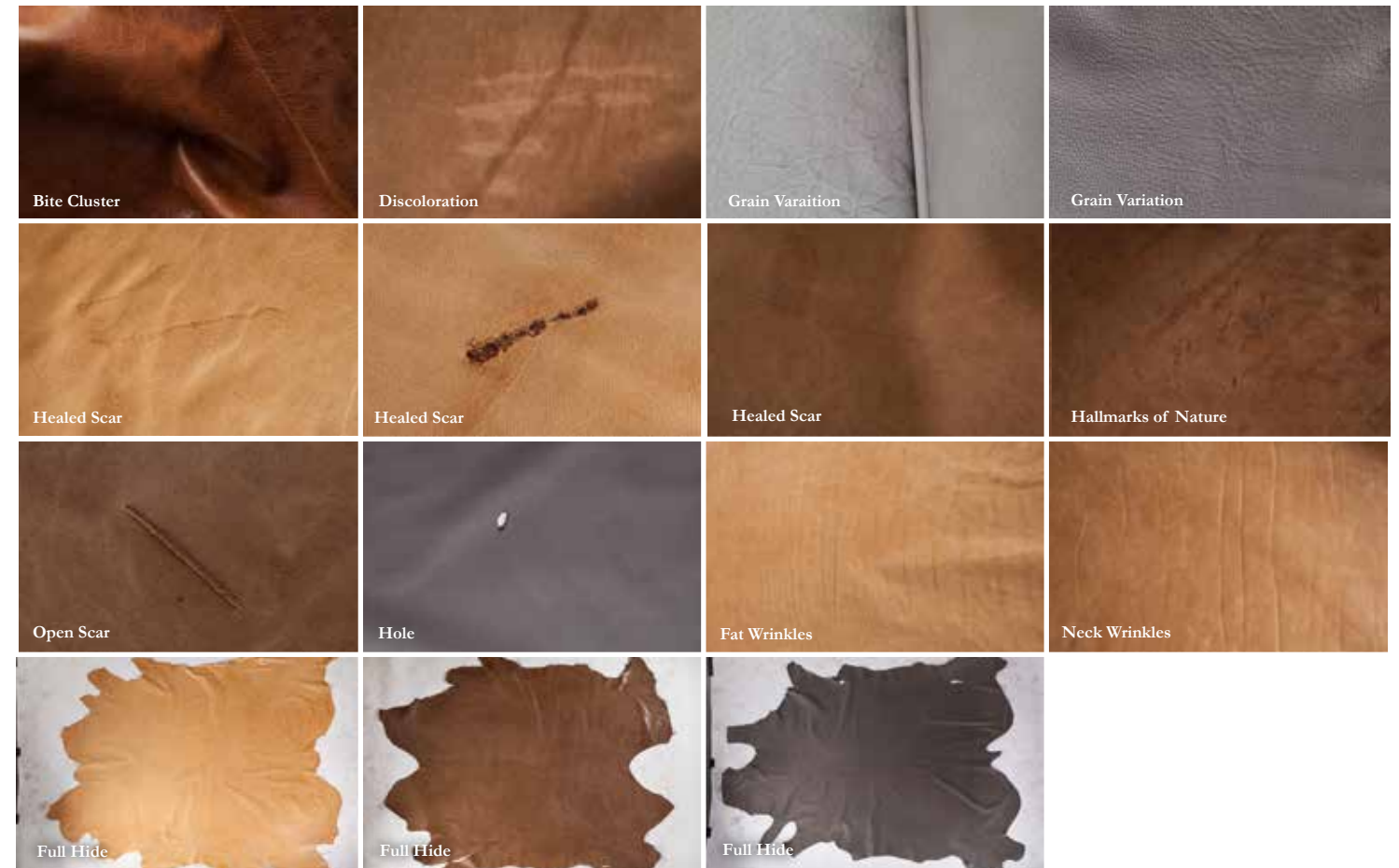
Leather is much like our skin, it breathes and adjusts to temperatures very quickly. Being a natural product, leather contains “beauty marks”, which are more commonly mistaken as “flaws” by the end consumer. Color

variations, along with these “beauty marks”, are leathers’ “hallmarks of the trail” and should be viewed as “nature’s signatures”. These characteristics are the strength to each hide’s individuality.

Although leather is charming and enduring, there are certain care restrictions that must be followed to make sure the leather lasts as long as possible. Direct Sunlight should be avoided for all leather furniture.

It is so important that each consumer properly chooses the leather which best fits their lifestyle. Heavy use, children, inside pets etc. should be taken into consideration when a leather is chosen. Once the proper choice has been made, the color, look, effect, and hand are all special options that can fit any room setting.

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## HALLMARK LEATHERS

Leather is a naturally beautiful product which has distinguishing characteristics. Like any natural product, leather is not perfect. Leather will have markings which distinguish each hide and should not be considered “defects”. These markings should be viewed as character or our term “hallmarks of the trail” versus “defects”.

Natural markings will include insect bites, resulting in tiny scars on the hides; scratches, generally the result of barbed wire fencing; manure/urine burns; neck burns, generally the

result of scratching on the rails of fencing; open wound healed scars, the result of repaired tears in the hides; and brands, symbolism seared into the cattle’s hide to indicate ownership.

Our extensive line of leathers includes leathers that are considered “Hallmark Leathers”. These leathers will include some or all of the above mentioned natural markings. All Natural markings should be accepted and appreciated when choosing one of our leathers labeled as “Hallmark”.

## LEATHER TYPES

At Bradington-Young, we understand your desire to make informed decisions about seating for your home that will suit your lifestyle. Here are some key definitions that will help you speak the language of leather and make the right choice.

### NUBUCK

From formal and refined to rugged and casual, Nubuck leathers have the most varied and unique textures of all leather types. Characterized by a tactile 'nap' that you can physically brush with your hand, Nubuck leathers have a velvety, suede-style appearance that creates their distinguishing texture. Transparent dyes provide rich saturations of color which vary beautifully creating unique furniture treasures. Due to their unique texture, Nubuck leathers are the most susceptible to body oils as they will stain and bind the nap. Nubuck leathers will also fade and discolor in response to exposure to sunlight and temperature extremes.

### ANILINE

Aniline leathers, the most luxurious of all leather types, offer rich colorations, natural markings and unique grain patterns. Because they are organic in nature, they are more sensitive to sunlight and temperature extremes. While it is tempting to put these stunning products front and center in your home, understand that these natural leathers will evolve over time much like your favorite pair of leather shoes.

### ANILINE PLUS

Aniline-plus leathers are quite simply Aniline leathers plus a slight protective coating. This protective coating may include light pigmentation and/or a clear top coat. Offering similar feels to those of aniline leathers with the added benefit of a protective coating, these leathers are more child and pet friendly than their Aniline counterparts. They may, however, still fade or discolor when exposed to sunlight and temperature extremes.

### FINISHED

Finished leathers are practical for active households with children and pets. Finished leathers are more resistant to fading and discoloration when exposed to light, heat, moisture, dust and body oils. These types of leathers also offer the most overall color consistency. Compared to other leather types, finished leathers generally require much lower maintenance, as spills and stains should clean easily unless they penetrate the surface coating of the leather.

## LEATHER TYPE APPLICATIONS

These are a few general guidelines for selecting leathers that are most appropriate for your customer's individual lifestyle and for placement of leather furniture within their homes.



**FINISHED and ANILINE PLUS**  
Great for family rooms, kids & pets



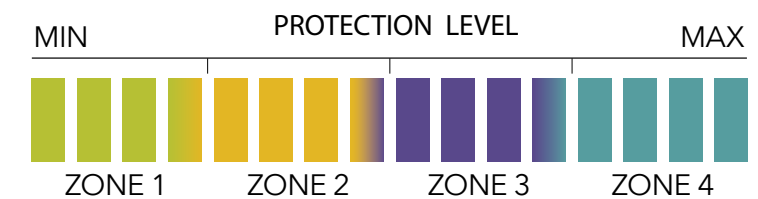
**NUBUCK, ANILINE and ANILINE PLUS**  
Susceptible to high & low temperatures



**NUBUCK, ANILINE and ANILINE PLUS**  
Susceptible to sunlight



**FINISHED**  
Most spills and stains clean easily



## LEATHER CHARACTERISTICS

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All leathers perform best when preventative maintenance is practiced. Each leather type has its own characteristics. Take into account the characteristics of each when selecting leather furniture.

### FINISHED LEATHERS

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Finished leathers are practical for active households. These types of leathers are finished to provide resistance to staining and offer overall color consistency within a hide. These leathers are less affected by the harmful rays of the sun. Compared to other leather types, Finished Leathers generally require much lower maintenance.

#### CHARACTERISTICS:

**Hand:** Variable. **Cleanability:** Excellent.

### ANILINE-PLUS LEATHERS

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Aniline-plus leathers are quite simply aniline leathers PLUS a slight protective coating. This protective coating can be light pigmentation, staining, or a protective top-coat. These leathers offer the hand of an aniline while adding a slight coat of protection. These leathers are more affected by the harmful rays of the sun simply because they are not as heavily protected as finished leathers.

#### CHARACTERISTICS:

**Hand:** Excellent. **Cleanability:** Moderate.

### ANILINE LEATHERS

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Aniline leathers are the closest to a pure and natural form. These leathers are tanned and colored with transparent dyes exclusively. The transparent dyeing process allows you to see the rich color hues unique to each hide and shows off each hide's one of a kind grain

pattern. The rarest of Aniline leathers reflect the unaltered full top grain of the surface and have a remarkable skin-like feeling. Aniline leathers can also be made to highlight effects such as wax or oil pull-up, pebble grains, sauvages or distressing.

#### CHARACTERISTICS:

**Hand:** Excellent. **Cleanability:** Moderate.

**Sun-Sensitive:** Yes.

### NUBUCK LEATHERS

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Nubuck leathers have the most varied and unique textures of all leathers. As soon as you sit down and feel the surface, you will know why people love Nubuck. These leathers are also dyed with transparent dyes, but the surface grain is machined with fine brushes to create the texture and famous Nubuck effect. It is almost like having a velvet leather. This effect gives the leather color depth and shading not found in any other type. Nubuck leathers can be made to create many different looks, from the most formal

and refined to rugged casual

#### CHARACTERISTICS:

**Hand:** Excellent. **Cleanability:** Low.

**Sun-Sensitive:** Yes.

## LEATHER CARE

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Try to maintain at least two feet between your furniture and heating sources. Avoid placing furniture in direct sunlight. All materials will fade over time when placed in direct sunlight. Take extra precautions to safeguard Aniline and Nubuck leathers from sunlight. Like all items in your house, leather will accumulate dust. Vacuum or Swiffer on a weekly basis to keep the dust particles from settling into the grain of the leather. All leathers perform better when preventative maintenance is practiced.

## Caring for Aniline & Nubuck Leathers

### SPOTS AND SPILLS

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Wipe up excess IMMEDIATELY with a clean absorbent cloth and let dry naturally. NEVER use a hair dryer, etc. to dry soiled area.

### BUTTER, OIL OR GREASE

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Absorb excess butter, oil, or grease with a clean, dry cloth. The spot should dissipate into the leather over time. Do NOT apply water or try to wash such stains

### DO NOT USE

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Saddle soap, cleaning solvents, furniture polish, oils, varnish, abrasive cleaners, detergents, ammonia water, or any other type of chemical solutions.

## Caring for Finished Leathers

### SPOTS AND SPILLS

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NEVER let a spill dry. Absorb excess IMMEDIATELY with a soft cloth or sponge. If

additional attention is needed, the spot can be rubbed gently with a soft, damp cloth or sponge soaked in luke-warm Ivory soap water. Then dry with a woolen cloth. Wait until it is completely dry before using. AVOID excess rubbing. Keep a distance of 2 feet away from heaters. A healthy humidity is good for leather too. Dust should be removed regularly with a vacuum or swiffer.

### DO NOT USE

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Aggressive substances such as stain removers, cleaning solvents, turpentine, shoe polish, saddle soap, furniture polish, oils, varnish, abrasive cleaners, detergents, ammonia water or any other type of chemical solution on your leather.



*All leathers perform best when preventative maintenance is practiced.*

*Register to receive a complimentary leather care kit at <https://www.bradington-young.com/limitedwarranty.inc> - limit one per household.*

## LEATHER PLACEMENT



### A AREAS

The most visible areas on the piece and areas that are most likely to come in contact with the user (seat and back cushions, arm tops, etc.)

- Premium portions of the hides are used
- Small scars that are completely healed over will be used in these areas
- Neck and flank wrinkles are acceptable

### B AREAS

The areas that are seen but not normally touched by the user (outarms, outbacks, etc.)

- Moderate portions of the hides are used
- Larger healed over scars will be used
- Neck and flank wrinkles more prevalent
- Small, finished over brands are acceptable

### C AREAS

The areas not normally seen or touched by the user (cushion reverses etc.)

- Lower selection portions of the hides are used
- Large rough areas and imperfections are acceptable
- Heavy shade and grain variations are acceptable

*Aniline (A) and Nubuck (N) leathers will exhibit more natural markings, shade and grain variations than finished (F) leathers.*

**Please Note:** *The above guidelines do not apply to Married Cover Leathers. These leathers arrive to our factories pre-cut so we are unable to control the placement of natural markings*

## LEATHER TERMS

### ANILINE DYED

Aniline dye is the type of dye which gives the initial color to each drum load of hides. Aniline dyeing is the process of putting hides into a drum and allowing the dye to soak completely throughout the hide. Thus the phrase “aniline dyed all the way through” came to be. For example, a more common way to achieve the “aniline dyeing” process is to place a white t-shirt into the washing machine with Rit dye. After the cycle is complete, the t-shirt will have been “aniline dyed all the way through” as the inside of the t-shirt will be the same color as the surface.

### PULL UP

A pull-up leather is one that produces a brilliant burst of color once pulled tight. Pull-ups are full-aniline leathers that have an oil and/or wax application. When the leather is pulled, the oil and/or wax separates causing the color to become lighter.

### PATINA

The luster or shine that develops on the leather with time and use.

### HAND (FEEL)

A term used to describe the softness or feel of any type of leather.

### SAUVAGE

A two-tone or mottled effect that adds depth and character to a leather. Sauvage looks are created by tumbling the hides during dyeing, a roller coat called a kela, or by a spray coat of pigment.

### HAND-ANTIQUED (HAND-RUB / HAND-WIPE)

The hand application of a darker color over a lighter color to create a dramatic highlight in certain areas of the hide. The “inconsistency” of the wipe makes each hide unique. Too much similarity causes the product to appear “machine-antiqued”.

### MILLING

A process in which hides are tumbled in a rotating drum to soften the hand and enhance, “plump-up”, the grain.

### TOP COAT

Synthetic transparent polyurethane resins applied as a protective coating to produce either a high gloss or more matte finish.

### YIELD

The amount of usable leather after all waste has been discarded. Yield is calculated as a percentage: net sq. footage vs. actual sq. footage used.

### WIPE-OFF (BY HAND)

This effect is created by applying two layers of color on the surface of the hides and then partially hand removing (wiping) the top color in a random process to allow the two colors to blend. This gives the leather an old antiqued look that can only be achieved in this manner.

## MANAGING EXPECTATIONS AFTER PURCHASE

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Once you have made your Bradington-Young purchase, we want to make sure that you are aware of how to properly care for your furniture, as well as situations that arise with upholstered furniture, whether in fabric or leather.



### COMFORT WRINKLES

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As you begin to sit in your new Bradington-Young furniture, it will quickly become the best seat in the house. You may begin to notice “wrinkles” in your fabric or leather seat cushions and/or back cushions. This is a natural part of the upholstery maturing process. Like bed pillows, furniture cushions must be hand fluffed and/or turned frequently to maintain a soft, well-filled appearance.

All leathers will stretch and form comfort creases as a result of being sat on. This effect is referred to as “Puddling”. The amount of puddling (stretching) directly relates to the amount of compression. Larger leather panels, versus seamed panels, density of the foam, type of

suspension (8-way hand tied, webbing, or no sag springs) and the amount of weight placed on the seat cushion are all factors that contribute directly to the amount of puddling. Puddling is not a fault with the leather, rather it is a good indication of quality manufacturing.

Longer cushions (bench seats) will develop comfort wrinkles much more quickly than smaller ones. The larger expanse a leather or fabric covers, the less support there is to support it, allowing more deflection of the cover.

All materials used in the manufacturing process at Bradington-Young are tested to meet our high-quality standards.

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## UPHOLSTERY PILLING

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A pill is a small ball of fibers that form on the face of a piece of fabric. Loose fibers have a natural tendency to move to the surface of a piece of fabric where they are subject to friction. This can cause the fibers to twist together into small balls. This is referred to as pilling. It is important to note that pilling is not a fabric defect or fault. It can be compared to the shredding experienced when new carpet is placed in the home. Sometimes, consumers are concerned that pilling means the fabric is wearing away and disintegrating and this is not the case. Pilling is a normal occurrence caused by wear and does not effect the durability of the fabric.

### SOURCES OF FURNITURE HARM

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**HARSH CHEMICALS:** NEVER use harsh cleaning chemicals (bleach, solvents, oils etc) on your furniture. We partnered with Uniter to offer cleaning kits (1 free kit to each consumer that registers their first B-Y purchase...limit 1 free kit per home). We also sell the kits once the free kit has been used. Also, be aware that using hand sanitizers and then immediately touching your leather furniture can break down the top coat of the leather and eventually begin wearing the color away. Hand sanitizers are alcohol based and alcohol is not leather’s friend.

**SHARP OBJECTS:** Be careful with jewelry, silverware and sharp items (such as a pencil, pen, knife...etc.) as these items could potentially damage your furniture. Be aware of items in your pockets!

**SITTING ON BACKS/ARMS:** Be careful when sitting on the backs and/or arms of your

furniture as this can cause wear as well as cause collapsing over time.

### TEMPERATURES AND/OR HEAT





**SOURCES:** Leather maintains room temperature until it comes in contact with skin. It then adjusts to that temperature. Since leather breathes, it will not become hot/sticky like so many have misunderstood. Be careful when placing leather furniture near heat vents as this can damage the leather as well. While it is very important to watch heat sources where leather is concerned, it is just as important to watch cold sources. A perfect leather temperature is 72 degrees. Once leathers that contain oils and waxes dip well below that temperature, the leather may “spew”. This term refers to the oils/waxes coming to the surface of the leather to form a whitish film. This is not a defect but rather a natural reaction to oils/waxes becoming cold.

**MEDICATIONS:** Certain medication, such as chemo, blood pressure, cholesterol and others, can react with the top-coat of leathers. Please be mindful that when these medications secrete through the pores, it can cause the top-coat to breakdown allowing the finish to come off of the leather.

**HAND SANITIZER:** Alcohol based hand sanitizers are extremely harmful to leather. Using these and other alcohol based items will break down the top coat (protective coat) of the leather.

**HAIR PRODUCTS:** Hair products such as hairspray, mousse etc. can also stain leather and eventually begin breaking down the top-coat of the leather. Most likely, the evidence will be obvious on the headrest of a recliner, sofa etc.



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