



# Interesting Facts About Leather

Did You Know... ?

## Fact #1

that cattle are not harvested for leather manufacturing?

## Fact #2

that the leather industry recycles the hides, which are by-products from the meat industry, and contributes to the circular economy?

## Fact #3

that the USA in 2019 had an amount of 34.3 million cattle processed for the food industry and therefore resulted in the same number of cattle hides, whereas only 80% (27.3 million) of the cattle hides were used in domestic and global leather production, and 7 million cattle hides ended up in landfills as waste with a significant negative impact to the environment?

## Fact #4

that the modern leather manufacturing recycles over 270 million cattle hides globally from the meat and dairy industries each year?

## Fact #5

that if hides were not used for production of leather it would result in 270 million hides weighing approximately 7 million tonnes going into landfills with huge environmental and biological impact?

## Fact #6

that both genuine leather and synthetic materials undergo a chemical processing to make the final material, however, as leather is produced from organic material it has a greater capacity to biodegrade at the end of product life? As an example, Greenpeace has labelled PVC as the "single most environmentally damaging type of plastic".

## Fact #7

that the properties of leather enable it to be used for a vast range of segments such as footwear, apparel, belt, labels, laces, interior, and automobile?

## Fact #8

that leather is a stronger and more durable material than many synthetic materials, as the natural cattlehide has a unique 3D fiber structure, giving it special physical strengths while synthetic fibers are linear structured that can result in poorer physical strength properties?

## Fact #9

that you may use a conventional plastic bag for about 20 minutes, but its lifespan can be 1,000 years or more ending up in a landfill or in the ocean, whereas leather ages with beauty and has the ability to be restored, recycled or repurposed for future generations?

## Fact #10

that over 300 million tons of plastic are produced every year and approximately 8 million tons end up in our oceans each year, which is one garbage truck of plastic every minute, threatening marine species and contributing to climate change, and only 9 percent of all plastic waste generated has been recycled?

## Fact #11

that a finished leather is biodegradable and may decompose in less than 50 years?

## Fact #12

that synthetic materials derived from petrochemicals can take 10 times longer to decompose than genuine leather?

## Fact #13

that modern leather manufacturing is highly transparent, given that more and more tanneries nowadays comply with different audit standards, including The Leather Working Group's (LWG) environmental protocols? The Leather Working Group is a non-profit organization and has more than 1,000 members from across the supply chain representing retailers, brands, leather manufacturers, chemical suppliers and other associations within and related to the leather industry.



### Fact #14

that environmental regulatory organizations including governments, 3rd parties and customer audits, e.g. ISO, ECO2L, SATRA, Higg FEM, ZDHC and ICEC, are auditing and certifying the compliance of tanneries to various programs and protocols?

### Fact #15

that the leather industry is continuously enhancing the traceability and transparency of the whole supply chain, from cattle raising, harvesting, to leather manufacturing?

### Fact #16

that the leather industry contributes to improve employment in both developed and especially in less developed countries?

### Fact #17

that one of the prerequisites of the leather industry is the welfare of animals which the industries raw materials are derived from and the International Council of Tanners has developed a policy statement to include:

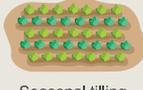
- Healthy and controlled breeding conditions
- Safe conditions during transport
- Harvest conditions that minimize pain and distress
- Protection of animals on farms

### Fact #18

that a leather material is based 75-90% on a renewable raw material source (depending on the article), and synthetic counterpart materials can be more than 90 % non-renewable fossil based petrochemicals?

### Fact #19

Did You Know the Difference of Regenerative Agriculture and Conventional Farming?

<b>Regenerative Agriculture</b>					
	<b>Soil Health</b>	<b>Water Management</b>	<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Crop Rotation</b>	<b>Livestock Integration</b>
<b>Conventional Farming</b>					

### Fact #20

Did you know that 24 international leather organizations, including Leather Naturally and Leather Working Group, signed the “Leather Manifesto” to call on COP27 to prioritize natural materials?

### Fact #21

Did you know that tree-planting is no solution without animals?

- \* Though tree planting is being considered a solution to combat climate change but it alone may not be enough for restoring degraded ecosystems.
- \* Animals play a crucial role in ecosystem restoration by performing tasks such as pollination, seed dispersal, and soil fertilization.
- \* Incorporating animal habitat restoration alongside tree planting efforts can have a more comprehensive impact on ecosystem restoration and provide economic benefits through sustainable agriculture practices.