

Statement on the Sustainability of Leather

At Call Systems Technology (CST), we believe that sustainability is about making smart choices with the resources we have. If sustainable means converting materials that would otherwise be thrown away into products we use daily, keeping things for a long time, repairing them when needed, passing them on to others, and recycling them as many times as possible, then our Vegetable Tanned Shoulder leather is most certainly sustainable.

Here's how our leather meets those criteria:

- 1. By-product Utilisation:** Vegetable-tanned leather is made from a raw material that is a by-product of the animal meat and milk industries. The hides used in leather production come from animals primarily raised for food consumption. This process leverages resources that would otherwise be discarded, making leather an excellent example of up-cycling. This process leverages resources that would otherwise be discarded to landfill, making leather an excellent example of up-cycling.
- 2. Waste Reduction:** The leather industry helps prevent an estimated 7.3 million tons of waste each year by up-cycling by-products of the food industry. This significantly reduces the environmental burden of waste disposal and contributes to more efficient resource use.
- 3. Longevity and Durability:** Leather is known for its durability and long lifespan. With proper care, leather products can last a lifetime. This long-lasting nature of leather aligns perfectly with sustainability principles by promoting the use of items over an extended period, reducing the need for frequent replacements.
- 4. Repairability:** Leather goods can be easily repaired, which further extends their usability. This reduces the need for new products and lowers overall consumption and resource use.
- 5. Reusability and Recycling:** Leather products can be passed on for continued use, ensuring that the material remains in circulation instead of being discarded. Additionally, leather can be recycled multiple times, maximising its lifecycle and contributing to a circular economy.
- 6. Natural Material:** Vegetable Tanned leather is a natural material, unlike many synthetic alternatives derived from petrochemicals. This means leather has a smaller ecological footprint in terms of fossil fuel extraction and processing. The tanning process uses natural tannins extracted from plant materials like tree barks, leaves, and fruits. This contrasts with the use of toxic chemicals in chrome tanning, which can be harmful to the environment and workers.
- 7. Energy Efficiency in Production:** Advancements in leather processing have made it more energy-efficient, with many tanneries adopting sustainable practices like water recycling and waste minimisation. The absence of harmful chemicals in the process reduces the risk of water pollution. Wastewater from vegetable tanning is less toxic and easier to treat than from chrome tanning.

At CST, we are committed to sustainability and recognise leather as a material that embodies these values. By choosing leather, we are making a conscious effort to support environmental sustainability through waste reduction, product longevity, resource efficiency, and economic support.

Comparison with Other Leathers:

Chrome-Tanned Leather: Uses toxic chemicals (chromium salts) and produces hazardous waste. Faster and cheaper but less environmentally friendly.

Synthetic Leathers (Vegan Leather): Often made from plastics like polyurethane (PU) or polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which are not biodegradable and can release harmful microplastics.