FOR BRANDS APPROVING LEATHER SAMPLES

Leather Patina Sample Test Sheet

Will this leather age into a rich patina, or stay flat and coated? Run these five quick tests on every swatch before you approve bulk. One sheet per leather.

1. Swatch details

Supplier / swatch code	_____
Animal	☐ Cowhide ☐ Goatskin ☐ Lambskin ☐ Buffalo ☐ Other
Grain (as stated by supplier)	☐ Full grain ☐ Top grain ☐ Corrected ☐ Not stated
Tannage	☐ Vegetable ☐ Chrome ☐ Combination ☐ Not stated
Surface	☐ Aniline ☐ Semi-aniline ☐ Pull-up ☐ Pigmented
Thickness (mm) / colour	_____
Price per sq ft quoted	_____

2. The five patina tests

Test	How to do it	Patina leather shows…	Pass?
Thumb press	Press your thumb on the grain for 10 seconds, then rub lightly.	The spot turns a shade deeper and slowly fades.	☐ Yes ☐ No
Water drop	One drop of water on a hidden corner. Wait 30 seconds.	The drop soaks in and darkens the spot, then dries out.	☐ Yes ☐ No
Light test	Cover half the swatch. Leave it in indirect daylight for 3 to 5 days.	A visible line between the covered and open halves.	☐ Yes ☐ No
Bend / pull-up	Fold the swatch grain side out and stretch it gently.	The colour lightens at the fold and returns when flat.	☐ Yes ☐ No
Nail scratch	Light fingernail scratch, then rub it with a clean finger.	The mark fades or blends; nothing flakes off.	☐ Yes ☐ No

4–5 yes

Strong patina leather. Good for heritage wallets, belts and bags.

2–3 yes

Mild patina (often semi-aniline). Fine for jackets that must stay soft.

0–1 yes

Coated or pigmented. It will not patinate; it may crack or peel with age.

3. Write it into your spec

Factories default to the cheapest consistent leather. If you want patina, the words must be on the tech pack. Tick what you have written down.

Spec line	Wording to use	Done
Grain	"Full grain, no buffing or correction"	☐
Tannage	"Vegetable tanned" (strongest change) or "chrome tanned, pull-up / semi-aniline" (soft, milder change)	☐
Surface	"Aniline, no pigment" or "semi-aniline, light top coat only"	☐
Animal, thickness	e.g. "Cowhide, 1.4–1.6 mm" (state your own)	☐
Reference	"Bulk to match approved swatch code ____; keep a cut on file"	☐
Variation clause	"Natural shade variation and marks accepted; not a defect"	☐

4. Brief your QC and warehouse team

Veg-tan and aniline leather absorb hand moisture and skin oil. Spots from bare-hand handling are the start of patina, not a defect. Share this with whoever inspects your goods.

Accept (natural patina / character)	Reject or query (damage)
• Light spots from handling that fade in days • Shade differences between panels of one hide • Natural marks, healed scars, visible grain • Colour lightening at folds on pull-up leather	• Cracking or a dry, pale surface • Peeling or flaking top layer • Mould spots or a musty smell • Colour rubbing off onto cloth or hands

Inspect with cotton gloves, store in cotton bags (not plastic), and add a short care card in each box.

5. Decision

Tests passed (of 5)	_____
Approved for	☐ Wallets / belts ☐ Bags ☐ Jackets ☐ Not approved
Approved by / date	_____

Need patina-friendly leather for your next order? Request a quote from Imran Partners and we will source it from verified manufacturers in Pakistan. Planning a first run? Read how MOQ and sampling work.