

## NUBUCK

### NOT A TRUE SUEDE

“Suede” is the term used for leathers that are finished by buffing the flesh side of the hide (opposite the grain side) to produce a nap. The term refers to the napping process, and is unrelated to the type of skin used.

Nubuck, unlike true suede leathers, begins with top grain leather, usually full aniline. The grain side is given a slight nap effect by removing (buffing) the top hair cell layer. Nubuck is also sometimes referred to as “Nabuck” or “grain sueded.”



### GENERAL WEAR

All napped leathers, especially those with relatively short naps, will tend to become “smoothed” in areas that receive greatest wear. These flat and shiny areas can appear especially on cushions of seating pieces and on arms.

Smooth areas on nubuck can generally be restored to an improved appearance by the use of a suede brush or very fine sandpaper. Of course, the periodic use of a suede brush is a good preventive maintenance technique for wear-prone areas.

### CLEANING CONCERNS

Nubuck is typically a very absorbent type of leather. It can very easily lose color when spot cleaned or, like full aniline, the shade can darken where cleaners are applied. All maintenance chemicals and procedures should be very carefully pre-tested.

### NUBUCK CARE TIPS:

1. Keep it clean. Vacuum and dust often using a crevice tool in seams.
2. Although leather is resistant to fading, direct, prolonged exposure to the sun will cause any material to fade.
3. Keep your leather furniture away from radiators and other intense heat generators. Leather will dry out if exposed to prolonged or excessive heat.
4. If spills do occur, attend to them quickly, blotting the stain rather than wiping.
5. Do not leave newspapers on leather furniture. The ink in the newsprint will rub onto the leather.
6. Never use harsh cleaners, solvents or saddle soap.
7. Take extra care with sharp instruments and animal claws. Leather is much stronger than upholstery but will puncture

with force, causing need for a difficult repair.

## **PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS**

Nubuck and other absorbent leathers benefit significantly from the application of protective treatments that provide a barrier to spills and stains. The best of these treatments are based on fluoropolymer active ingredients, which protect against both oil-based and water-based stains.

## **ON THE BRIGHT SIDE**

With proper care, nubuck can last for years. Vacuuming, as well as rotating and flipping

cushions (where applicable), can help extend the life to these fabrics.

The Fiber-Seal Fabric Care System can benefit these fabrics by reducing absorbency, helping to resist permanent staining, and ultimately increasing the useful life of the fabric.

**AS WITH ALL FABRICS AND FINISHES,  
ALWAYS TEST CHEMICALS AND/OR  
PROCEDURES FIRST IN AN  
INCONSPICUOUS AREA OF THE  
FABRIC.**