

## Leather Upholstery in Mercedes-Benz: Select Materials, Precision Handwork



Mercedes-Benz



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Durable, easy to clean, smells fragrant, elegant ... The customers value these qualities in leather just as much as the inspiring variety of combinations possible. The following E-Newsletter provides you with information about the specific merits of the four leather qualities used by Mercedes-Benz – leather, nappa leather, PASSION leather and natural leather. An overview of the leather qualities available in the various classes is also attached.

### There is a lot that speaks for leather



Leather gives the interior a refined touch

Leather keeps its attractive appearance for years – depending on how it is treated. The material arouses emotions and provides, apart from its robust, extremely hard-wearing texture, further convincing arguments:

- It breathes: good moisture transport, high air permeability. This depends on the intensity with which the particular leather is worked.
- Practical: easy to clean.
- Sensual experience: leather as a natural product has a pleasing feel.
- Makes ecological sense: occurs as a by-product of meat production.

### Tanning and finishing: traditional handcrafts



Highest precision and care: the gauging of a cowhide

In the manufacturing process, there are two main processes that determine decisively the appearance, the feel and the and the comfort qualities:

- Tanning: in this century-old process, the hide is softened and processed using environmentally friendly additives. This enables the collagen (proteins) in the hide to be cured by the tanning agents. And that makes the leather durable.
- Finishing: This final surface treatment defines the pattern desired of the leather. By priming, dyeing, dressing and embossing, the leather is given – depending on what is required – a glossy or matt finish and a smooth or grained texture. The finishing also improves the durability of the material.



Skilful: dexterity is required in the manufacture of leather

Leather upholstery – that also means painstaking, exact handcraft. Several details worth knowing:

- It takes two to six weeks from the raw hide till the final leather is produced. About 150 different steps are performed in this time.
- Up to five square metres of leather are required to cover a seat: that is a complete cowhide.
- The covering of a *designo* dashboard takes about eight hours to complete.

### Mercedes-Benz leather: high standard of quality



Robust and at the same time easy to clean – Mercedes-Benz leather

The long-lasting and hard-wearing Mercedes-Benz leather is available in all classes. The careful and involved treatment makes Mercedes-Benz leather above-average abrasion-resistant and lightfast. Further features:

- Easy to clean – at the same time, impressive in its naturalness.
- Not easily damaged also due to its high elasticity.
- Mercedes-Benz leather comes largely from bulls kept in an environment specially suited to the animals. The hide has an especially strong texture.

### Nappa leather: makes an especially soft impression



Pliable nappa leather fulfils the highest demands

Nappa leather is appealing because of its naturalness and smooth surface. Smaller natural features such as tiny scars are evidence for the genuineness and exclusivity of leather as a natural material. The treatment principle of the soft nappa leather is the same as that for normal leather. The difference lies in the omission of the embossing (with which non-uniformities in the hide surface can be hidden). The leather comes exclusively from bulls, primary in south Germany:

- Demanding: only few hides fulfil the requirements for an almost fault-free, even and strong hide texture.
- Manufacturing character: in the highest precision handcraft, the leather is sown with decorative twin seams to increase the quality impression.
- Confirmation: the *designo* collection, that can be selected separately, uses nappa leather as its standard quality. Exception: the S-Class (see the following section).

### S-Class: innovative also due to the new, highest-quality leather offerings

New, even higher-class leathers are responsible for the atmosphere in the new S-Class: PASSION leather, *designo* aniline leather and *designo* natural leather. The fine, even surface quality is brought out in a fascinating way.

### PASSION leather: extremely careful pre-selection of the raw material is necessary



The selection criteria for PASSION leather are extremely exacting

PASSION leather receives little dressing, the natural hide texture is visible. Only the best raw material from bulls kept in stalls comes in question here. An extremely careful preselection is required. The use of a new, very thinly applied surface treatment can bring out its merits in an outstanding way:

- Impressive natural effect: fine-grained and open-pored.
- Very good moisture transport and heat balance.
- Ideal combination of suitability for daily use and pleasant feel.
- PASSION leather corresponds qualitatively to the *designo* aniline leather for the S-Class.
- Important: aniline leather is a term that has been introduced internationally to describe a leather that has a special unprocessed quality. The original „aniline“ has not been used to dye leather for many years now.

**designo natural leather: a new dimension**



Sensual experience from soft cow leather

The *designo* collection has been designed exclusively for die S-Class and is a new leather quality, the *designo* natural leather. It opens up a really new dimension in terms of aesthetics and quality of comfort:

- No finishing, only dyed, extraordinarily soft cow leather.
- The material „lives“: Discreet colour changes in the course of time emphasise its unique, individual character.
- The most exclusive leather variant on the market, unique selling feature for the S-Class against the competition.

**Even more leather: Exclusive means increased extent in the use of leather**



Exclusive: Additional interior items can be covered with leather

From the quality „nappa leather“ upwards, the customer can order additional items in leather (shown by the „Exclusive“ tag):

- Dashboard, centre console, door facings etc. are also covered.
- Inside roof liner in Alcantara (depends on the class the car belongs to).
- For critical places which receive a lot of sunlight, the leather is pre-treated – experts talk of „pre-shrinking“.

With the Exclusive PASSION leather: additional items are not covered in PASSION but in nappa. Nappa is the more suitable material for places subjected to heavier wear. Controls and instruments (sunlight) and doors (ingress of rainwater) thus profit from greater long-term stability.

**Conclusions: Leather is part of the Mercedes-Benz automobile „feel good“ culture**



Individual, high-class: The range of leather fittings from Mercedes-Benz

The choice of leather quality, colours and design is unsurpassed in the competition. The customer can then introduce his personal style in a unique way. The new S-Class underlines its exceptional position in the upper range also by the range of new, top-class types of leather. It is a general truism: leather was always a sign in automobile construction of good taste and aesthetics. And apart from the emotional aspects, leather also offers convincing practical advantages.

**The leather qualities and their availability in the various classes**

	A	B	C	E	CLS	S	CL	CLK	SL	SLK	M	R
<b>Leather</b>												
Leather	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X*	X**
Nappa leather				X	X					X		
Exclusive Nappa leather					X		X		X			
PASSION leather						X						
Exclusive PASSION leather						X						
<i>designo</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
<i>designo</i> Exclusive				X	X				X			
<i>designo</i> aniline leather						X						
<i>designo</i> Exclusive aniline leather						X						
<i>designo</i> natural leather						X						
<i>designo</i> Exclusive natural leather						X						

\* As part of the interior furnishing package

\*\* As part of the styling package