

HIDE TANNING FORMULA™

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

FOLLOW STEPS CAREFULLY FOR BEST RESULTS

1. For best results, start with fresh, green skin. Carefully scrape or cut off all meat and fat until skin is very clean. If applicable, skin out ears and paws, split tail. If skin has been dried, you should first soak in plain cold water, **just long enough to soften** (For red or grey fox hides use salt water, 1/2 lb. salt/gal. at room temperature.)
2. **TO TAN HAIR-ON:** Salt flesh side well with TABLE SALT. Work PLENTY OF SALT into entire hide including ears, paws, etc. Fold salted hide skin on skin, roll up and leave 24 hrs. Then scrape off old salt and repeat with clean salt for another 24 hrs. Then scrape off salt again and go to Step 4.
3. **TO TAN HAIR-OFF:** (e.g. buckskin, elkskin) Immerse hide in clean water, at room temperature. NO SALT. Change water daily until hair loosens(usually 4-6 days for deer or elk). Pull or scrape off hair and continue soaking until all hair is removed. Rinse well in clean water and go to Step 4.
4. Prepare a salt bath by mixing 1/2 lb. of table salt per gal. of hot water. (For hair-off tanning only, e.g. buckskin/elkskin, add 1 capful of Clorox per 5 gal. of salt bath). Mix salt bath thoroughly and let cool. Then immerse hide 8-10 hrs. (except for red or grey fox 1/2 hr.), or until completely flexible. Remove, rinse in clean water, and drain.
5. Using a sharp knife, thin skin as much as possible, removing any remaining membrane. A wire wheel can be used if skin is allowed to almost dry first.
6. After skin is thinned, wash in warm water with liquid dish soap(e.g. Dawn) to remove salt and grease. Very greasy skins such as raccoon, beaver and bear should be washed twice with dish soap to remove all grease. Then hang to drain.
7. Warm HIDE TANNING FORMULA (HTF) by sitting bottle in pot of hot tap water for 30 min. The skin should be at room temperature, semi-dry, but still moist and flexible. Shake warm HTF well and apply an even layer to the flesh side. Apply with paint brush, or by hand wearing rubber gloves. Massage firmly into all areas of the skin.
8. Fold the hide flesh side unto itself and leave overnight (12-16 hrs.). If it is a cased hide, just turn it fur out and hang at room temperature, away from direct heat. This will allow the fur to dry while the hide is tanning. After this 12-16 hr. tanning time, open the flesh side to the air (or if a cased pelt, turn the flesh side out again) and let dry slowly over 2-3 days. As it dries, periodically pull and stretch the hide until it is completely dry and soft. This softening process is called "breaking" the hide, and it is important to start the breaking process while the hide is still moist and flexible. Pulling the skin side back and forth over the edge of a board or tight rope works well for softening. If the skin is stiff in a few spots, dampen those areas with warm water, reapply warm HTF and repeat. If the HTF gets on the fur, just sponge area clean with warm water, let the fur dry, then brush up.
9. **OPTIONAL:** When the hide is fully tanned and dry it can be thinned further with a wire wheel or coarse sandpaper, if a higher degree of suppleness is desired. Also, a liquid leather care product (e.g. mink oil) may be applied to make the hide more soft and supple.