



MuSkin is a 100% vegetable eco-layer that may be alternative to animal leather. It comes from the *Phellinus ellipsoideus*, a kind of big parasitic fungus that grows in the wild and attacks the trees in the subtropical forests.

MuSkin's soft surface has a "touch" very similar to a suede-like leather products and its consistence, or texture, goes from soft to slightly harder as cork.

The total absence of toxic substances makes **MuSkin** ideal for the use in close-to-skin applications and thanks to its very natural origin and to the presence of endemic penicillins, it can limit bacteria proliferation.

Muskin has the capacity to absorb moisture and then to release it in a short time, just like a fabric. It is not waterproof in its natural form, but it can be treated with eco wax.

To make the selection easier we divided the material into three sizes: small, medium, large and into two grade quality specifications: first and second choice.

The second choice may have visible defects like holes or a scratched surface.

Every piece is a unique product from our Earth.

We suggest to couple or laminate **MuSkin** with other backing materials, for instance a fabric or paper to increase its mechanical strength.

The production capacity is, at this moment, of 40-50 sq.meters/month.

This obviously means that the target of **Muskin** is for special edition products.

- UNIQUE MATERIAL FROM THE NATURE
- ANIMAL FREE AND CRUELTY FREE
- OIL FREE
- ETHICAL
- HARD OR SOFT TOUCH AVAILABLE



Life Materials

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE
www.lifematerials.eu

This is a FAQ about MuSkin. It derives from experiences from costumers, artisans and manufacturers. Many other processes need to be tested and the FAQ is a work in progress, it will be updated time to time. If you need more help, ask directly to LifeMaterials' email: store@lifematerials.eu. They could support you in the treatments!

Q: *MusKin is a fabric? A leather? Could you provide it by meters?*

A: First of all: MuSkin is *NOT* a fabric nor a leather. It's offered in pieces of various dimensions that may vary time to time and that are merely indicative (see dimensions at the bottom of this FAQ). We don't offer it by length, only by pieces

Q: *Can I use it like animal leather?*

A: Well, it depends: MuSkin can be used like animal leather in the sense that can be an extremely valid substitute to animal leather in almost any product. In some cases it is even better: it is more transpirant, it has a strong charge of Penicillin antibiotics so it is particularly suitable for skin contact and prevents the formation of molds. Moreover it does not contain any oil-derived or chemical substances. Cons? Yes, see next question.

Q: *You stated that MuSkin can be used like animal leather, but is it strong enough?*

A: Simply: No. Muskin has not the same mechanical strength as animal leather has. It tends to tear apart on tearing and it suffers on abrasion.

However these two weaknesses can be successfully resolved by coupling it with other backing materials (such as fabrics, canvas, Vlieseline, cardboard and so on) and by natural treatments like the Carnauba oil.

Q: *How much is it durable over time?*

A: Regarding the durability of MuSkin: as for the bags samples we have (made by some specialized artisans in 2008), after 10 years we did not notice any surface alteration of the material. So, as far as we know, MuSkin is a quite durable material over time.

Q: *Ok, so I need to laminate it, how?*

A: We successfully used to couple MuSkin with various fabrics and also with Vlieseline with 120 °C heat and compression for about 15~20 sec. The above treatment also compacts the structure of MuSkin and helps on minimizing its thickness. All the treatments used for animal leather work on MuSkin too. We use to laminate MuSkin with Lyocell (a fabric realized from wasted cellulose) and we can offer such lamination as a service.

Q: *Can MuSkin be washed and how?*

A: Like suede, when wet, MuSkin becomes more fragile and can suffer tearing more than in dry state. So we advise to clean it just like suede. However when dried, MuSkin (it dries like a fabric) regains its properties completely. It can be treated with water-repellent and hydrophobic products used for leather as well.

Q: *MuSkin would fit my needs but its thickness is huge, how do I resolve this?*

A: If your goal is to thinner it, we suggest to use heat and compression as above. Alternatively it can be splitted (with machines used also for animal leather). We experienced a splitting up to 1,5mm and we can offer this as a service.

Q: *Can I dye it?*

A: We did not try yet because we love its natural colour. BUT, since MuSkin is a very porous material, it should absorb colours very well. Dyeing techniques and colours suitable for leather can be used with MuSkin. At the moment we do not know techniques to discolour it, so the dyeing is limited to darker colours. It is up to you to experiment!

MuSkin's indicative sizes(*):

SMALL: 10-15 cm x 15-22 cm x 0,5-1,0 cm

MEDIUM: 13-20 cm x 23-30 cm x 0,5-1,0 cm

LARGE: 17-25 cm x 30-45 cm x 0,5-1,0 cm

XL: 20-25 cm x 46-60 cm x 0,5-1,0 cm

(*) *Product's dimensions are merely indicative, the products properties may vary for each piece*



Life Materials

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE
www.lifematerials.eu