

Leather



We expect all our suppliers to adhere to our [Ethical Trade Requirements](#). Over and above this we have a number of commitments which we are working collaboratively with our suppliers to achieve. This statement outlines our commitment concerning leather.

Target

By 2025, all leather used across our business and in the products we sell will come from certified recycled sources or from Leather Working Group bronze, silver or gold rated tanneries. Suppliers must provide evidence of working towards a leather supply chain traceable to slaughterhouse and addressing key deforestation risks*

Deadline

2025

What is leather?

Leather is the hide or skin of an animal that has been treated in order to avoid decomposition – this process is referred to as tanning. The hair or wool of the animal may, or may not, have been removed and the skin may have been split into layers before or after tanning. For the purposes of this statement, when we refer to leather, we are referring to skins derived from domestic livestock, primarily but not exclusively cattle.

What's the problem with leather?

The production of meat and leather contributes significantly to global deforestation. According to [WWF](#), cattle ranching and soybean farming are driving approximately two-thirds of deforestation in the tropical forests of South America.

Furthermore, leather tanneries are a major cause of environmental pollution particularly in the developing world. Poor tannery management and the use of hazardous chemicals in the tanning process is widely recognised as posing a significant risk to human and ecological health.

What is Selfridges' position on leather?

We are committed to addressing the impact of commodities that are known to be a significant driver of global deforestation and working with our partners and suppliers to encourage transparency and a transition to more sustainable agricultural and production practices.

In the lead-up to our target deadline of 2025 when the following criteria will become mandatory, we encourage our partners and suppliers to:

- Have a publicly available responsible sourcing policy which includes leather and a publicly available, clear and communicable strategy for achieving transparency to slaughterhouse and addressing key deforestation risks.
- Replace virgin leather with recycled content.
- Source from Leather Working Group audited tanneries which have been gold, silver or bronze rated.
- Collaborate with the multi-stakeholder working groups and certifications that address traceability within leather supply chains, including:
 - [The Leather Working Group - traceability protocol](#)
 - [ICEC - traceability certification](#)
 - [Textile Exchange - Responsible Leather Initiative](#)
 - [The Brazilian Leather project](#)

*In exceptional circumstances we will review and consider other third-party certification programmes and/or internal supplier global traceability programmes which are third-party audited and meet the same standards as our criteria or higher.