

# What Tanning System do I need?

We provide two types of Tanning kit for mammal skins;

- ♦ Bath system ( for submerging skins in for Tanning) Code CP0502
- ♦ "Brush on" system ( normally for larger skins such as sheep, deer or cattle) Code CP06

## CP0502 White Tan

This system is suitable for the tanning of smaller skins such as Squirrel, Rabbit, Fox or even small deer such as Muntjac. This system makes up to a total volume of 2 gallons of usable solution per kit. To enable a skin to tan effectively, the skin needs to have enough room in the solution to move freely. As a basic guide no more than 4 Rabbit skins or 1 fox skin should be placed in the solution at one time to save "crowding" the solution. One kit will tan a total of up to 30 Rabbit Skins or 6-8 fox skins or the equivalent area. The solution can be stored in an air tight container and used at any time in the future, this product has no shelf life and its effectiveness is only governed by the quantity of skins tanned. Litmus paper is supplied with the kit for testing the strength of the solution during its use.

If larger volumes of White Tan are required, more than one kit can be purchased. Each kit should then be mixed as instructed, the solutions can then be added together to create the desired volume.

As with other products in our range, White Tan comes with a comprehensive information and instruction booklet to ensure that the best possible results can be achieved.

## CP06 K-Tan

This system is a Brush on system and can be used on all sizes of mammal skin from Rabbit skins right up to large mammals such as cattle skins.

This system has many advantages over White Tan;

- ♦ As K-Tan is a brush on system it is not necessary to have large volumes of solution prepared and stored for use on larger skins as with a bath system.
- ♦ K-Tan is a fully waterproof system. It can be used on skins that may be washed once in use, such as sheep skins.
- ♦ The K-Tan kit turns the raw hide of a skin into a irreversible commercial grade leather in 5 days

Each K-Tan kit holds enough material to tan 2 large sheep skins or the equivalent area of skin. As with White Tan, K-Tan has no shelf life once mixed and should be stored in sealed polyethylene containers for future use.

As with other products in our range, K-Tan comes with a comprehensive information and instruction booklet to ensure that the best possible results can be achieved.

# How do I get a nice soft tanned skin?

There are a number of factors that can affect how supple the finished skin can become.

- ♦ Firstly the age of the animal can affect the thickness and quality of the hide, in the same way as the age of an animal can affect the meat. Cattle kept for meat production are slaughtered at around 18 months old to produce good quality meat. The hide reaches its optimum thickness at about the same age. Older cattle produce much thicker hides, these hides require greater tan penetration. Thicker hides are more difficult to soften. The thicker the hide the stronger the leather. The principal is the same for all mammals relative to their size.
- ♦ All skins to be tanned need to be clean of all meat and fat. Skins should be washed to remove as much natural oil as possible both from the hair and the skin. This should be done with CP26 Washing Agent. Washing is an important part of the process due to the fact that most tanning systems are water based. As water and oil do not mix, The removal of as much oil and fat as possible is essential to enable good penetration of the tan. Poor tan penetration can mean improperly tanned skin, which will not absorb oil and is more difficult to soften.
- ♦ The skin needs to be oiled after tanning. Standard oils are provided with both White Tan and K-Tan. The use of Supa Soft Oil (CP84) is highly recommended. This is oil superb on all skins from the smallest to the largest, and can reduce the manual softening of a skin by up to 60%. Supa Soft should certainly be used on all medium & large mammal skins.

## CP84 Supa Soft Oil

Supa Soft Oil has been developed using modern, man made and natural oils to produce one of the leather industries finest craft tanning oils. Unlike commercial oils, Supa Soft does not require heavy machinery to drive the oil deep into the hide to produce a high quality supple leather.

Supa Soft Oil is an oil that should be used immediately after tanning with either White Tan or K-Tan. Supa Soft once warmed should be brushed on to the wet freshly tanned hide, the skin should then be folded and set aside to allow the oil to work for 24 hours or so.

Supa Soft can not be used retrospectively, the oil must be applied to the skin the day following the finalisation of the tanning process. The oil can not be absorbed by the skin in any volume once the skin has been dried.



Please contact Snowdonia Supplies for further information on these and other products in the tanning range  
Telephone 01492 640 664, email [sales@stsnorthwales.co.uk](mailto:sales@stsnorthwales.co.uk), [www.snowdoniasupplies.co.uk](http://www.snowdoniasupplies.co.uk)