

Leather can be placed into 1 of 3 main categories:

- **Aniline**
- **Semi Aniline**
- **Pigmented** (protected)

**Aniline Leather** or to give it the proper term (aniline dyed leather) has a very natural feel to it and an irregular grain pattern, the colour will also appear non uniform which is due to some parts of the leather accepting dye more readily than others. It will also absorb liquids and spills very quickly, which makes it very difficult to clean and maintain. It is important to apply a good [protection cream](#) on a regular basis to help stop dirt and grease getting into the leather. Aniline leather is normally made from top grain quality leather and is not a good choice for households that have small children as it stains very easily.

**Pigmented or Protected Leather** also known as finished leather has a plastic feel to it and the grain pattern is usually very uniform. Protected leather is sometimes aniline dyed (but not always) and a colour is then put over the surface with a clear polyurethane coating (thickness not exceeding 0.15mm) over the top to seal it in. It is not very absorbent making it very easy to clean and maintain. Which again: makes it a practical choice for households with small children. Nearly all leather used in the motor industry today is protected leather. Even though the leather has a protective coating, a regular cleaning schedule should be maintained. Leather furniture should be on average, maintenance cleaned every 3 months and fully cleaned every 12 months using a [good leather cleaner](#) followed by a [good leather protector](#), and leather furniture will last for years.

**Semi Aniline** is the hardest one to explain! It lies somewhere between aniline dyed leather and protected leather. It can offer the soft feel of aniline leather at one end of the category where it has a very thin layer of protection and at

the other end it can have pigment and a protective covering applied to it, but not quite as thick as that on protected leather. Semi aniline leather is quite easy to clean and maintain but as with all leathers, a regular cleaning program must be maintained.

Under these headings, there are quite a few other types of leather, but we will continue with those in the next article.

If you have any further queries regarding leather care the please send me an email to [admin@tlc-leathercare.co.uk](mailto:admin@tlc-leathercare.co.uk) and I will do my best to help with the solution.

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