



## Not All Manufacturers Grade Leather Gloves the Same

There is no standard rating system on cuts or grades for leather gloves, like there is for cut resistance, but there are common types and categories. What does this mean? A manufacturer calling their glove a select leather may not have the same quality and thickness of another manufacturer. That's why you have to be careful when comparing.

Here are some standard terms used in leather glove descriptions:

### CUTS OF LEATHER

**Grain:** The smooth outside top layer of the hide.

**Split:** The rougher inside layer of the hide when the top layer is removed.

**Cowhide:** Most commonly used leather due to availability. The most heat resistant leather, also higher puncture resistance than others.

**Pigskin:** Greatest breathability due to its porous texture. Remains pliable after exposure to wet conditions, and when laundered will return to its natural texture more than other leathers.

**Goatskin:** One of the softest leathers due to its natural lanolin which provides waterproof and tactile sensitive properties, also one of the more abrasion resistant.

**Deerskin:** The most luxurious leather available for comfort and sensitivity with longer wear, excellent when lined for a cold weather glove.

**Elkskin:** Like deerskin, soft and supple, even when hot and wet, allowing excellent freedom of movement. More durable than deerskin.

**Bison:** This leather is tougher than cowhide and offers better tear and abrasion resistance. Bison is more form fitting than deerskin, and more resistant to heat and flames than elkskin.

## **LEATHER CATEGORIES**

**Premium:** The highest quality and most durable leather available, provides the most uniform leather with few imperfections. Most commonly cut from the side area or rib section of the hide:

**Select:** Leather of consistent quality and thickness with slightly less durability than premium. Typically cut from the shoulder area of the hide where texture differences are more visible.

**Standard:** Provides the best value leather for the price with adequate quality and durability. Generally cut from the shoulder area or belly of the hide.

**Economy:** The least expensive option with inconsistencies in leather appearance and texture. Most commonly cut from the belly section of the hide and is common for scrap pieces to be sewn together.

Leather is the one category of gloves where quality can be different from batch to batch (and sometimes from left to right hand!). This is why you never see a leather glove with a cut rating, unless it is a Kevlar lined product. You could perform an ANSI cut test on a specific side split leather work glove and get a specific cut rating and it could be considerably different with the next glove batch you test.

Just remember, when comparing leather gloves from one manufacturer to another, the descriptions may be the same but there may be some differences in the quality of the gloves. Many times the pricing of the product gives some indication of the quality even if they sound the same in description. We hope that these terms help clear some of those questions.

05/05/16