



Sustainable, Metal-Free, Environmentally Compelling Technology

Fresco Pelli and Comipel, steeped in the best traditions of the leather industry, with hundreds of years of experience between them, have developed a unique, patent-pending tanning process that is based on a rapidly decomposing organic chemical. This proprietary, metal-free process, based on a multi-step procedure that utilizes non-contaminants, is both non-polluting and sustainable. It produces a finished product that is not only equal to metal-based tanning procedures, but actually far surpasses them.

An important corollary to the Me-Free procedure is that its raw material is of EU origin allowing it to provide traceability all the way back to the slaughterhouse, and in many cases the farm itself.

When we say that Me-Free is “clean technology”, we mean globally-clean technology. And when we say that Me-Free is metal-free, we do mean comprehensively metal-free: all metals combined are below 1,000ppm, as validated and verified by an unimpeachable, independent analysis.

Me-Free is the alternative that is better than the original.

- Being metal free, the tanning residue is easy to dispose of and has a low impact on the environment
- The Me-Free substances used are all biodegradable. The Me-Free organic compounds used in the process are completely fixed in the skin, reducing the waste of chemicals and practically eliminating the presence of tanning agents in the waste waters
- Virtually all of the water used in the Me-Free tanning process (98%) is recycled into clean water
- Me-Free uses water at higher temperature when degreasing the skins. It thus reduces the quantity of non-ionic soaps and water used in this phase of the process by 50%
- In parallel, the warmer water used by the Me-Free process allows for solvent-free degreasing. Thus, reducing to 0 the impact of solvents during this part of the tanning process
- After incineration, Me-Free’s tanned leather leaves a residue of 0.8% of its initial weight. Comparatively, the same quantity of leather that underwent a chrome tanning process will leave a residue 15 times greater than that
- The Me-Free process requires 20% less water with respect to a normal chrome tanning process (because of the nature of our process, less water is used both in the beam-house and in the tanning stage). For one example, on a production of 1,000,000 skins, we estimate a saving of 45,000 cubic meters (which, by one measure of comparison, corresponds to the yearly consumption of more than 650 people)
- The Me-Free process takes less time than traditional tanning thus yielding an across the board cost reduction (including, *e.g.*, about a 15% to 20% reduction in electricity consumption)