

MuSkin { PETA-APPROVED } VEGAN }

MuSkin is a 100% vegetable eco-layer that may be alternative to animal leather. It comes from the *Phellinus Ellipsoideus*, a large parasitic fungus that grows in the wild and attacks the trees in the subtropical forests.

MuSkin's soft surface has a "touch" very similar to a suede-like leather products and its consistence, or texture, goes from soft to slightly harder as cork.

The total absence of toxic substances makes MuSkin ideal for the use in close-to-skin applications and thanks to its very natural origin and to the presence of endemic penicillins, it can limit bacteria proliferation.

MuSkin has the capacity to absorb moisture

and then to release it in a short time, just like a fabric. It is not waterproof in its natural form, but it can be treated with eco wax.

Laminating or coupling MuSkin with other backing materials (fabrics or paper) is advisable, as this will increase its mechanical strength.

To make the selection easier we divided the material into three sizes: small, medium, large and into two grade quality specifications: first and second choice.

The second choice may have visible defects like holes or a scratched surface.

Every piece is a unique product from our Earth.



MuSkin FAQ

This is a FAQ about MuSkin. It derives from experiences from costumers, artisans and manufacturers. Many other processes need to be tested and the FAQ is a work in progress, it will be updated time to time. If you need more help, ask directly to LifeMaterials' email:

store@lifematerials.eu

They could support you in the treatments!

Q: MuSkin is a fabric? A leather? Could you provide it by meters?

A: First of all: MuSkin is **NOT** a fabric nor a leather. It's offered in pieces of various dimensions that may vary time to time and that are merely indicative. We don't offer it by length, only by pieces.

MuSkin's indicative sizes:

SMALL: 10~15 cm x 15~22 cm

MEDIUM: 13~20 cm x 23~30 cm

LARGE: 17~25 cm x 30~45 cm

Product's dimensions are merely indicative, the products properties may vary for each piece.

Q: Can I use it like animal leather?

A: Well, it depends: MuSkin can be used like animal leather in the sense that can be an extremely valid substitute to animal leather in almost any product. In some cases it is even better: it is more transpirant, it has a strong charge of Penicillin antibiotics so it is particularly suitable for skin contact and prevents the formation of molds. Moreover it does not contain any oil-derived or chemical substances. Cons? Yes, see next question.

Q: You stated that MuSkin can be used like animal leather, but is it strong enough?

A: Simply: No. Muskin has not the same mechanical strength as animal leather has. It tends to tear apart on tearing and it suffers

on abrasion. However these two weaknesses can be successfully resolved by coupling it with other backing materials (such as fabrics, canvas, Vlieseline, cardboard and so on) and by natural treatments like the Carnauba oil.



Q: How much is it durable over time?

A: Regarding the durability of MuSkin: as for the bags samples we have (made by some specialized artisans in 2008), after 10 years we did not notice any surface alteration of the material. So, as far as we know, MuSkin is a quite durable material over time.

Q: Ok, so I need to laminate it, how?

A: We successfully used to couple MuSkin with various fabrics and also with Vlieseline with 120 °C heat and compression for about 15~20 sec. The above treatment also compacts the structure of MuSkin and helps on minimizing its thickness. All the treatments used for animal leather work on MuSkin too. We use to laminate MuSkin with Lyocell (a fabric realized from wasted cellulose) and we can offer such lamination as a service.

Q: Can MuSkin be washed and how?

A: Like suede, when wet, MuSkin becomes more fragile and can suffer tearing more than in dry state. So we advise to clean it just like

suede. However when dried, MuSkin (it dries like a fabric) regains its properties completely. It can be treated with waterrepellent and hydrophobic products used for leather as well.



Q: MuSkin would fit my needs but its thickness is huge, how do I resolve this?

A: If your goal is to thinner it, we suggest to use heat and compression as above. Alternatively it can be splitted (with machines used also for animal leather). Anyway, we don't recommend slicing MuSkin, as this could weaken it. Instead we recommend ironing or plating, as this gives a consistent thickness reduction (that remains steady in time).

Q: Can I dye it?

A: We did not tried yet because we love its natural colour. BUT, since MuSkin is a very porous material, it should absorb colours very well. Dyeing techniques and colours suitable for leather can be used with MuSkin. At the moment we do not know techniques to discolour it, so the dyeing is limited to darker colours. It is up to you to experiment!

Q: Is there a quality control? A grading system? Tolerance? How can you set up a qualitative supply?

A: MuSkin is completely natural and 100% made of mushroom therefore its quality and

consistency/texture can vary from piece to piece.

We can't set a standard or guarantee that every piece is the same. Although we always check every single MuSkin and label as "second choice" those that have some kind of defect like scratches or holes.

Q: Which quantities can you guarantee? Is there a monthly supply?

A: There is no standard monthly supply, as this depends on the quantities of mushroom we find. MuSkin comes from a parasite mushroom that can not be cultivated, it is collected in the woods. It also comes in different shapes and sizes. Availability also changes during the year. If you need large quantities just let us know size an number of pieces you need and we will estimate if we can cover your needs.



Products that some of our clients have manufactured with MuSkin:



MuSkin ankle boots (Drew Veloric)



MuSkin sneakers (Kristel Peters)

