



Preparation Agreement and Shipping Instructions

A beautiful end result starts with good preparation

Successful tanning is dependent on various factors; animal health, age, insect damage, excess cuts and holes, hide preparation, etc.

We will do all we can on our end to care for and preserve your hide, but all tanning work is done at the owner's own risk.

Do not wash the skin before preserving it. Adding moisture will encourage the growth of bacteria and slow the curing process. Allow the skin to drain and cool, and remove excess organic matter. Remove the tail, hooves and shank bones if the butcher left these on. Trim around any areas with excessive manure or vegetable matter clumps. **Please do not send us hides covered in burdock.** Prepare your sheepskins much the same way as if you were sending wool to the mill.

Using a dull tool, remove excess muscle tissue and fat from the skin by pulling or gently scraping. Remove all flesh and fat thicker than 1/8 inch. Any thicker and the salt will not be able to penetrate and the hide could spoil.

Salt, salt, salt. Salt will inhibit the growth of bacteria. You may purchase large bags of feed salt from your local feed supply store. Place hide, skin side up, on a pallet, and tilt the pallet by placing a block under one side, to allow excess moisture to drain. Be sure to avoid any metal, as metal will leave permanent black marks on the hide. Rub at least 5 pounds of salt into the hide, making sure to spread salt all the way to the edges. Any part of the hide not properly salted will experience wool slippage and rot. A shed or garage is ideal, to keep the hide out of the sun and inclement weather until properly cured.

Depending on weather conditions and humidity, salt curing a hide can take several weeks. If your salted hide pools moisture, clear the existing salt, and salt again with fresh, dry salt. The hide should be somewhat stiff before packaging to ship to the tannery.

If you are unable to salt the hide immediately, you can store the hide in the freezer before scraping and salting. *Note:* Do not fold and place sheepskins directly into the freezer after harvest. Wool is an insulator, and the hide will not cool properly, leaving it vulnerable to deterioration and wool slippage.

Shipping Fold your hide in half, skin side in, front leg to front leg, back leg to back leg. Fold in half again, place in a plastic bag, then into a cardboard box for shipping. Fill out our Shipping Invoice Form and put it in the box with your hides.

Ship to: Driftless Tannery, 109 River Street, Argyle, WI, 53504

*****All tanning services are at the owner's risk.** Driftless Tannery assumes no responsibility, guarantee or liability to the results of hides sent to us for processing. If a hide has deep or excessive cuts or holes, the hide may be a partial or complete loss. If Driftless Tannery deems a sheepskin a loss, client will be contacted before disposal of hide. \$30 deposit fee is non-refundable. All shipping fees are the owner's responsibility. There is a \$30 surcharge per hide if hides arrive uncured or are covered in an excessive amount of fat, meat, or vegetation and a \$50 surcharge for burrs***