Since leather quality depends almost entirely on the hide’s original condition, Maharam’s approach centers on superior raw materials. Maharam leather originates in Western Europe, where factors including climate, excellent grazing and veterinarian practices, and the absence of branding and barbed-wire fencing contribute to a premium product. Maharam minimally treats its leather so that this exceptional quality can be plainly seen and felt. Eschewing heavy topcoats and other treatments, our leather undergoes as little finishing as possible and may display subtle markings that occurred during the life of the animal, such as traces of backbones, wrinkles, pores, insect bites, scars, and scratches. Maharam preserves these natural features as they distinguish leather from manmade, synthetic materials and imbue each hide with a unique beauty and character.

Insect bites that occurred during the life of the animal may be visible. These will be more prominent in hides that have been dyed versus hides that have been dyed and pigmented.

Light scars and scratches may be visible. These will be more prominent in hides that have been dyed versus hides that have been dyed and pigmented.

The grain of the hide is tighter at the backbone (down the center) and looser on the flanges of the hide. This natural variation may impact dye saturation from hide to hide; for example, the backbone may appear lighter or darker depending on the color imparted.

Like graining in a piece of timber, growth marks are an indication of the age of the animal. Pronounced growth marks, also called “fat lines”, will be more evident in the belly region, while more subtle lines will appear along the backbone.