

# MākerCulture

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## Reclaimed Leather Notes

Here's why reclaimed leather is seen as a sustainable option:

**Minimizes Waste:** Reclaimed leather is made by recycling leather scraps or repurposing old leather products. This helps divert waste from landfills, giving new life to materials that would otherwise be discarded.

**Maximizes Material Use:** Reclaimed leather makes efficient use of the leather that has already been produced. This approach aligns with principles of the circular economy, where materials are kept in use for as long as possible.

**Avoids the Tanning Process:** Since reclaimed leather is made from already processed leather, it avoids the need for additional tanning, which may be resource-intensive and involve harmful chemicals.

**Less Energy and Water Use:** The production of reclaimed leather typically requires less energy and water than producing new leather, as it skips the initial stages of leather processing.

**Natural Decomposition:** Reclaimed leather retains the biodegradable properties of natural leather.

**Upcycled Products:** Reclaimed leather is often used in upcycled products and can impart the unique patina and aesthetic value that developed in the original product over time.

**Bonded Leather:** While reclaimed leather is eco-friendly, it's important to consider the process of reclamation. Some reclaimed leather, known as bonded leather, may be mixed with synthetic binders, which could reduce its biodegradability and eco-friendliness. However, even so, bonded leather generally remains a more sustainable option than newly produced leather or synthetic alternatives. Increasingly, biodegradable binders are being used making bonded leather more eco-friendly.

