



Skinning and drying instructions

Salt – ONLY use Namibian Sea Salt, or other salts we may sell, but NEVER Botswana inland salt as this causes stiffness and lack of stretch to the skins. If you are salting smaller animals or cat full mounts etc, crush the salt to a fine consistency, ensuring it is put into paws/hooves/ears/lips etc.

- 1) Fresh skins to be taken off the animal as soon as possible. Whether it is the middle of the night or day. Skins must be washed to remove all blood etc, as well as checked for residual fat and flesh. With larger species, with thick skins, score the flesh side as deep as 1cm every 3cm apart to ensure good penetration of salt.
- 2) Brine solution = 60 lts water to 50ml of Leather Care (Cernol Chemicals – Chemspec Algclear). Add salt for a porridge consistency. Leave in there for at least 24 hours. If further skins are put into the same Brine Mix add 3 to 20 ml of Leather Care depending on the species. (Duiker – 3ml and Buffalo – 20ml)
- 3) Remove skin from the Brine solution, and again, check for fat and meat. These skins must be squeezed so as to remove excess solution and you can even allow for them to be hung for a short time before putting the skin into the salt stack.
- 4) Put down a layer of salt on a surface that can drain. Put skin down (fur side down) and cover skin with a generous layer of salt (5cm), making sure that the salt is put into creases and edges.
- 5) Skins to be pulled out of the salt after 7 to 14 days depending on the size/species of the animal. On the first day, turn the skins making sure the drier skins are above the wet ones always.
- 6) When the skins are removed from the stack, they should appear firm but bendable. This is where the weather will play a part e.g. in wetter conditions will take a bit longer, for the skins, in the salt.
- 7) Brush off all the salt with a yard broom and then allow the skins to hang and shade dry until they are dry enough to be folded. *(Always hang the skins on wood and not metal)* They can continue to dry, in the shade, until they are difficult to open. They must then be put in an elevated and shaded area.
- 8) Used Carbaryl 85wp or “Shumba” on the FUR side of the skins only. Never on the flesh side or skulls. (They will stain yellow)
- 9) Please do not use Permanent Markers on the outside of tusks – only on the inside. Permanent means permanent!!