



Traditional tranning

The leather sector is one of the important branches of traditional tanning, it contributes greatly to enrich the economic and social fabric of the city of Fez for a long time. It includes tanning, shoe making and leather goods activities. The majority of production units are located in the medina of Fez.

The leather industry depends mainly on tanning as an essential activity that allows the treatment of different skins.

Leather tanning is based on vegetable raw materials specific to skin types. The tanning of goat skin (goat) depends mainly on the traditional tamarisk gall (paraphenylenediamine) and pomegranate peels as a dye to obtain the ziwani skin (bright yellow color). While mimosa is used to tan the skins of cows and sheep.

Technically, the tanning process goes through ten steps:

1. To loosen them, raw skins are placed in small basins known as "Mjayer", where the water is mixed with lime. This soaking takes about thirty days for cowhides, twenty days for goat skins and 10 days for sheep skins.
2. The skins are transferred from the basins to the wash to clean them with water.
3. The skins are placed in 'Kassryate' pits and soaked in a bath of pigeon droppings for 24 hours in summer and 3 days in winter to soften them.
4. The skins are put back into the wash basins with water to get rid of impurities that may have clung to them during the previous stage
5. The skins are returned to the same 'Kassryate' pits, where they are mixed with bran for one day in summer and five days in winter .
6. The skins are placed for an additional four days in a tannin bath. Some products are added if necessary to dye the skins.
7. The skins are put to dry under the sun.





8. The dried skins are sprayed with water and covered overnight with plastic bags
9. The skins are treated in a net called " Ftih " to soften them
10. The final step in this process is to treat the skins using a craft tool called " Sadrya ".
Tanned skin is known as " Btana " if it is sheep, " Ziwani " if it belongs to goats and "
Naal " and " Mestoukia " if it is cows.