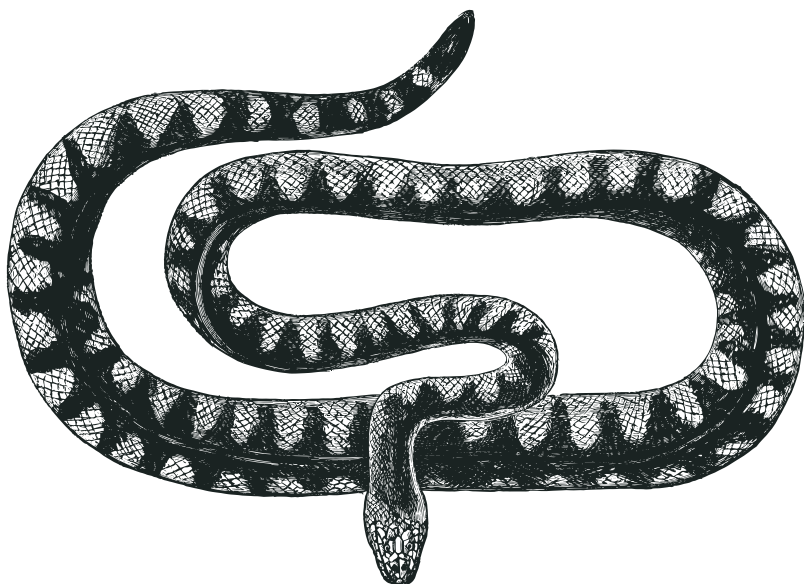


Tan-a-Snake™

FULL AT-HOME TANNING METHOD FOR SNAKESKINS



Developed by the industry pioneer
& Taxidermy Hall-of-Famer
DALE KNOBLOCH

Dale Knobloch

This guide was created by *Advanced Tanning Solutions*
for use with our **Tan-A-Snake Kit**.



Tan-a-Snake™

FULL AT-HOME TANNING METHOD FOR SNAKESKINS

Tan-a-Snake produces a true tanned leather which is bright, soft and has good stretch. It is an easy-to-use tan for snakeskins that will yield professional results in less than 1 week. Skins will dry flat without pinning or stapling!

Developed by the hair-on tanning and taxidermy industry pioneer, Dale Knobloch. This is a balanced, self-fixing snake tan that does not require pickling. **Tan-a-Snake** is based on a saturated solution which is pre-adjusted for proper pH and formulated to work in a wide pH range.

To fully understand the process, read the complete directions prior to starting.

For a full video on this process using **Tan-a-Snake** visit:
advancedtanningsolutions.com



Package contents include:

- Snake Tan
- Snake Oil
- Snakeskin Fleshing Tool
- Non-latex rubber gloves

You will need:

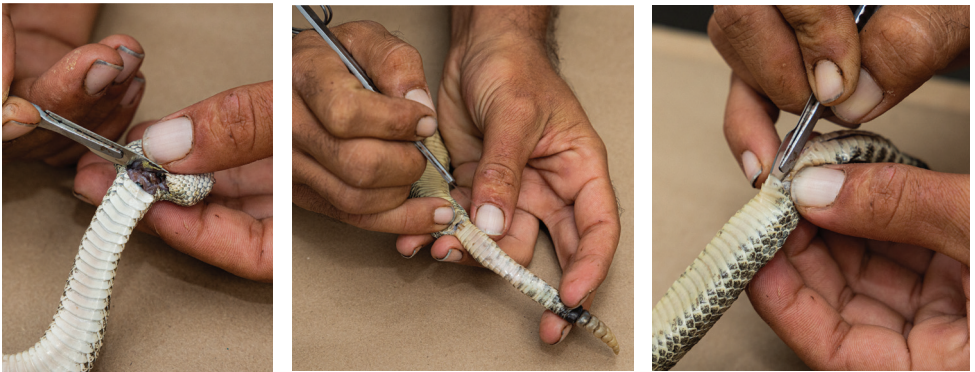
- Table Salt
- Hot Water
- Glass or Plastic Container

Directions: Wear splash proof goggles/safety glasses and rubber gloves to avoid any eye or skin irritation. This 2-step system will tan a snakeskin up to 12 feet in length or multiple smaller snakeskins.

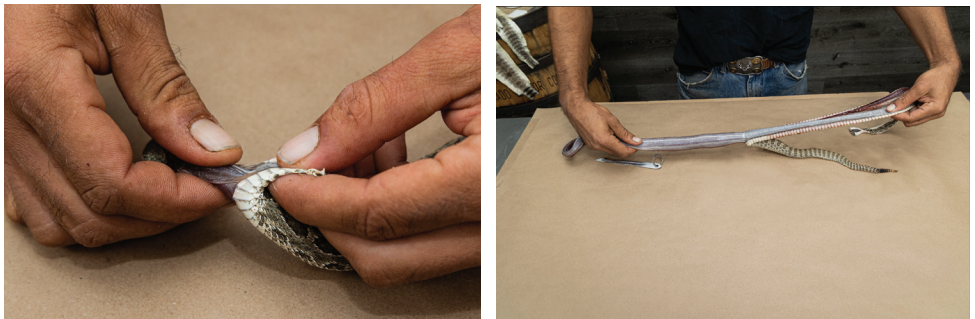
Step 1 - Skinning

There are 2 methods used to skin snakes depending upon how the skin will be used, *flat skinning* and *tubed skinning* for taxidermy. We discuss flat skinning here, so see our website for instructions on tube skinning a snake.

Flat Skinning: This method is used when the skin is to be displayed or used for craft purposes. Remove the head and properly discard - be cautious with venomous snakes as the head still maintains nerve action. Using a sharp knife, make a straight incision from the head of the snake down the belly to the vent.



Starting at the head area, gently peel the skin away from the meat all the way down to the tail - the skin will come off easily, however, go slow to avoid tearing.



Use the sharp knife to carefully cut the connective tissue and remove the skin from the tail area. For rattlesnakes, the skin can be tanned with or without the rattle on.



Once the skin is off, lay it out flat and make small cuts around the 2 “musk glands” on each side of the skin near the tail area. These glands have foul odors, are greasy and not tannable.



Step 2 - Fleshing

In general, snakes only require a minimal amount of fleshing and they do not need to be thinned like a mammal hide. Lay the skin out flesh side up on a piece of cardboard or hard surface. Using the enclosed **Snakeskin Fleshing Tool**, gently scrape the thin membrane working in the direction of the scales from head to tail and from the middle of the skin towards the outside edges. A well fleshed skin will keep it soft and supple after being tanned.

Use the rounded edge of the scraper to remove any residual flesh especially along the belly area and base of tail, being careful not to tear the skin. The flat side of the tool works well to remove membrane down the middle.



TANNING LATER

If the fleshed skin will not be tanned right away, it can be frozen until ready for tanning. The snakeskin can also be salted and dried for later, but keep in mind that fresh or frozen skins tan the best.

Starting from the tail, roll the skin up and place it in a zip sealed plastic bag. Flatten to remove the air and prevent freezer burn prior to freezing. If the skin will be tanned at a much later date, you can also freeze it in water to help keep it fresher longer.

Step 3 - Rehydration Bath

If the skins were previous frozen or salted and dried, thaw/relax them in fresh room temperature water only for 1-2 hours prior to placing in the salt bath below.

Soaking the skins in a salt bath prior to tanning will draw out the non-tannable proteins from the skin to increase the efficiency of the tan. In a plastic, rubber or glass container (not metal), create a salt bath by mixing 1 *heaping tablespoon* of table or canning salt for each 16 oz of HOT tap water. Mix just enough solution to completely cover the skin(s) allowing them to move freely. Stir to dissolve the salt and cool the bath to room temperature prior to submerging the snakeskin(s).

WARNING: Do not place snakeskins in hot water, or the skin can become permanently damaged.

Soak the snakeskin(s) in the salt bath for 3-4 hours. Remove and rinse the skin(s) in cool fresh water.



Step 4 - Tanning

Discard the salt bath and in the same container, add the recommended amount of **Snake Tan** from the chart below, to enough HOT water to completely cover the skin(s) again allowing them to move freely in the solution. The key is to use the amount of tan based on the size of the skin and be sure to not add more water than is needed. Mix thoroughly to dissolve the tan and let the solution cool to room temperature before submerging the skin(s).

The chart on the following page is the recommend amount of tan for each snakeskin and is calculated based on the length and corresponding width. If treating multiple snakeskins, for example, a 36" skin which will use 3 tablespoons of tan, and a 48" skin which will use 5 tablespoons, you will use 8 tablespoons total in your bath for both skins.

Snakeskin Size/Length in Inches	Amount of Snake Tan
Up to 36"	3 tablespoons
37 - 48"	5 tablespoons
49 - 60"	6 tablespoons
61 - 72"	8 tablespoons
73 - 84"	10 tablespoons
85 - 96"	12 tablespoons
97 - 108"	14 tablespoons
109 - 120"	17 tablespoons
121 - 132"	19 tablespoons
133 - 144" (up to 12 feet)	22 tablespoons (the full jar amount)



Soak in the tan bath for 14-16 hours, stirring occasionally. Larger snakes will require 2-4 more hours. Remove and drain the skins on paper towels or cardboard until damp - do not rinse.



REMOVING SCALES [optional]

The scales on tanned snakeskins will generally stay on, however, for skins being used for projects such as hat bands, belts, wallets, etc. the scales can be removed. If you choose to remove the scales, the best time to do so is after the skin is tanned and before it is oiled. This is when the skin is tougher allowing the scales to come off easier. It also allows the oil to penetrate better.

Lay the skin out flat, scale side up and using the **Snakeskin Fleshing Tool** gently scrape the scales in a sideways motion to remove them. Being careful not to rub too hard and damage the skin. If the snake was getting ready to shed, the scales will come off easily.

A soft grade of steel wool (without soap or surfactant), can also be used to gently remove stubborn scales.



Step 5 - Oiling

Lay the damp skin out scale side up on a piece of plastic with cardboard underneath. Wearing rubber gloves, apply a *light* coat of **Snake Oil** to the scale side. Rub the oil in with your fingers working in the direction of the scales and let this sit for 30 minutes.



Turn the skin over and apply a *medium* coat of **Snake Oil** to the flesh side, again working the oil into all areas with your fingers. Let the oil soak in for 2-3 hours, then proceed to drying.



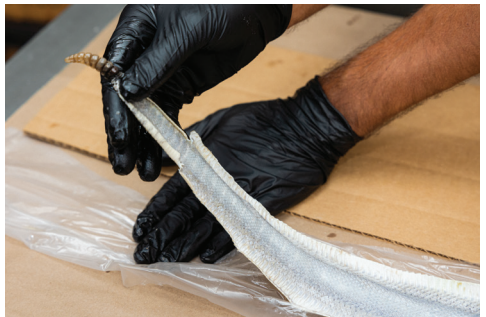
Notes on Oiling:

Be sure the skin is damp and not dried out when oiling so the oil will fully penetrate. **Snake Oil** only needs to be applied once - if too much is applied, the skin will be oily, while too little will not properly soften it.

Step 6 - Drying

Lay the oiled skin scale side up on clean cardboard or another hard surface - flatten and straighten the skin pulling out the belly scales, as **this is the position it will dry in**. Allow the skin to dry flat overnight. The next day, turn the skin over with the flesh side up and dry overnight again.

Note: The tanned skin does not need to be pinned as it will dry flat. If desired, it can be stretched as it dries.



APPLYING A FINISH [optional]

To help protect and give the dried skin an added sheen, a light coat of polyurethane can be sprayed on the scale side. Use a matte or glossy finish depending on the desired look.



Skins tanned with **Tan-a-Snake** will be soft and stretchy with a bright, clean look to them.



You did it!

Congratulations on completing the tanning of your snakeskin!

Want to share a photo of your finished skin?

Send it to: info@advancedtanningsolutions.com. Check out our website for additional information on working with snakeskins and to see photos of tanned skins and projects from our customers.



@tanning.your.hide



First Aid: Avoid inhaling dust and contact with eyes and skin. Causes eye irritation and may irritate skin causing dryness. If irritation occurs, rinse eyes with water for several minutes and wash skin with soap and water. Store product closed in original container in a cool, dry area. Keep out of the reach of children.

Disclaimer: Being that hides are natural materials, susceptible to varying degrees of putrefaction, natural defects, disease, mishandling, experience of the user, and are used under conditions beyond our control, as the seller, we make no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied as to the use of this product. All information contained here is accurate to the best of our knowledge in good faith and is based upon thorough testing.

Developed by Dale Knobloch
Made in the USA by Advanced Tanning Solutions, LLC
PO Box 7533, Golden, CO 80403
303.642.3060
Info@advancedtanningsolutions.com

