# **Snake Oil**

Softening swab oil for tanned snakeskins. For flat skin tanning or taxidermy tanning.

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For use with Advanced Tanning Solutions' *Snake Tanning Agent*. This light weight oil is a blend of natural and synthetic polymers formulated for softening tanned snakeskins.

It permanently fixes to the leather preventing wash out and oil migration yet allows the skin to be easily rehydrated, making it a superb oil for taxidermy tanning.

#### **Directions and Recommended use:**

To avoid eye and skin irritation, splash proof goggles and rubber gloves should be worn. For best results, the oil and snakeskin should both be at room temperature, 65°F or above, when applying.

See directions for tanning the skin with *Snake Tanning Agent*. Once the tanning process is complete, drain and hang the skin, or blot on towels until it is just slightly damp.

### **Removing Scales (optional):**

If the scales are to be removed, the best time to do so is after the skin is tanned and before it is oiled. The skin is tougher at this stage to allow the scales to come off easier. Use a scraper or steel wool without soap to gently remove the scales.

#### Oiling:

Lay the snakeskin out **flesh side down** on a table or piece of cardboard *covered with saran or plastic wrap*.

Using your glove covered hands, apply a *light* layer of oil to the scale side and rub in going with the grain of the scales. Allow the oil to soak in for 2-3 hours, then go back and rub in any pooled areas.

Next flip the skin over and apply a *medium* layer of oil to the flesh side, adding extra along the belly scales. Let this soak in for 1-2 hours and if needed, apply more to any dry areas.

#### **Drying:**

Straighten the skin, as this is the position it will dry in. Leaving it on the plastic, dry it overnight. The next day, remove the plastic and turn the skin scale up. Let this dry again overnight. Then remove the plastic and allow the skin to continue drying. As it is drying, you can gently rub it over a table edge to keep the skin soft (especially for larger skins).

## **Wet Tan Options:**

After the skin has been oiled and dried for 1 week, it can be rehydrated in plain water and mounted. If the rehydrated skin is not mounted right away, roll it up and place in a heavy plastic bag and freeze for future mounting.

**First Aid:** Do not get in eyes, on skin or on clothing. Causes serious eye damage and may irritate skin causing dryness. *If in Eyes:* Rinse with water for 15 minutes. Do not apply neutralizing agents. Take victim to an ophthalmologist. *If on Skin:* Wash skin with soap and water. If skin or eye irritation persists, get medical attention. Store product closed in original container in a cool, dry area. **Keep out of the reach of children.** 

**Disclaimer:** Being that snakeskins are natural materials, susceptible to varying degrees of putrefaction, natural defects, disease, mishandling, experience of the user, and used under conditions beyond our control, as 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 and good faith and is based upon thorough testing.

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