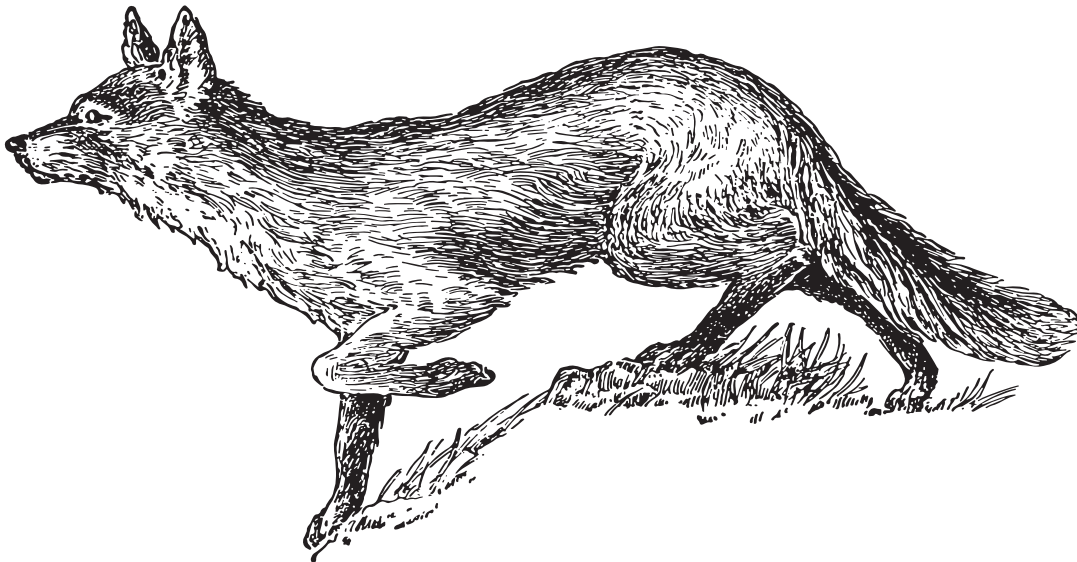


# Tan-a-Fur Skin™

FULL AT-HOME TANNING METHOD FOR SMALLER MAMMAL FUR SKINS



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

*Dale Knobloch*

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





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Developed by the industry pioneer, Dale Knobloch, who was the first to formulate the original self-tan for the taxidermy and fur dressing industry in the 1980s. **Tan-a-Fur Skin** is an all-inclusive deluxe tanning kit containing Dale's newly formulated products to tan your fur skin from start to finish.

These products are used by professional tanneries and will produce a soft, supple, stretchy leather.

**Tan-a-Fur Skin** is formulated specifically for tanning fur and thin-skinned mammals. The kit will tan a life size mountain lion, small bear, or several small to medium fur skins. See our **Tan-a-Hide** kit for tanning large mammals such as deer, antelope, elk and moose.

For a full video on this process using **Tan-a-Fur Skin** visit: [advancedtanningsolutions.com](http://advancedtanningsolutions.com)

## Package contents include:

- Fleshing/Shaving Tool
- Degreaser
- Pickle Tan
- Fur Oil
- Pumice Stone
- Silk Powder
- Dust Mask
- Non-latex disposable gloves (2)

## What you will need - the amount will depend upon the size of the hide(s):

- Table Salt
- Household Bleach
- Baking Soda
- Large Plastic Bucket/Container
- Hot Water

**Directions:** *To understand the full process, read the complete directions prior to starting.* Plan for a multi-step process requiring 2-3 days. Wear splash proof goggles/safety glasses and rubber gloves to avoid any eye or skin irritation. This kit contains enough product to make 7.5 gallons of mixed tan. The amount of tan bath you prepare will depend upon the size of the skin(s) being treated.

## Step 1 - Prepare/Flesh the Skin



The skin should be taken care of as soon as it is removed from the animal. You will have the best results with a properly cared for skin from the start. If the skin can't be fleshed right away, it should be folded hair side to hair side and frozen.

Use the enclosed **Fleshing/Shaving Tool**, to remove any large areas of flesh, fat and membrane. Be sure to address the small folds and crevasse areas. If the intent is to tan the skin with the full head, legs and tail, remove the skull, split open the lips and nostrils, turn the ears inside out and remove the tail and foot bones.



## Step 2 - Salting

Salting is important to help remove the residual blood, body fluids and non-tannable proteins. Lay the skin flesh side up and apply a heavy layer of fine salt (table or canning salt, DO NOT use rock salt) and thoroughly rub into all areas. Leave the salted skin lying flesh side up for a minimum of 12 hours. The next day, shake off the absorbed salt and reapply a layer of new salt. Let this sit again for a minimum of 12 hours.



Be sure to get salt into all areas of the skin including (if applicable) the face, tail and legs.

## Step 3 - Rehydration Bath

Salt draws moisture from the skin, so after salting, it needs to be rehydrated. In a glass, plastic, or rubber container (not metal) large enough to hold the skin, create a salt bath by mixing the following amounts for EACH gallon of HOT water:

¾ cup of salt  
1 teaspoon of **Degreaser**  
½ teaspoon of household bleach

Mix enough solution to cover the skin completely allowing it to move freely. Stir to dissolve the salt and let the bath cool to room temperature before adding the salted skin. *Do not place a skin in hot water, as this can loosen the fur and cause bacteria growth.*



Soak the salted skin in the salt bath until it is pliable, usually 12-24 hours, then remove and drain.

## Step 4 - Pickling Bath



Wearing the enclosed dust mask, discard the rehydration bath and in the same size container, mix: ½ cup of **Pickle Tan** to EACH gallon of HOT water. Stir to dissolve the tan, then add ¾ cup of salt and 1 teaspoon of **Degreaser** PER gallon and dissolve. Let the solution cool.



Soak the skin in the pickle solution for 24 hours, agitating every 4 - 6 hours. If the skin has a bluish color, it may not be thoroughly pickled, place it back into the solution until it looks white all the way through. Remove and drain.

When removing skins from the baths, gently squeeze out excess moisture, so as not to pull on the fur. Hang the skins until they are just damp.

**IMPORTANT: Do not discard the pickle bath as it will be used again to tan the skin in step 6.**

## Step 5 - Shaving

After the rehydration and pickle bath, the next step is to shave the skin. *This is an important step*, as having a thin skin will help the tan to penetrate better, provide more stretch and softness and reduce shrinkage.

To thin, lay the skin flesh side up on a hard surface such as a board, or for larger skins use a log or fleshing beam. Using the same **Fleshing/Shaving Tool**, starting at the head and neck area, scrape the thicker areas of the skin working away from yourself. If the tool glides across the skin, it is too wet, allow it to dry longer. Shave as thin as possible, being sure not to shave to the point where the hair follicles are coming through.



For smaller skins such as squirrel, rabbit, or rodents, that are already thin, use the **Pumice Stone** to gently remove and peel excess flesh.

## DEGREASING – IF NEEDED

Greasy skins such as bear, muskrat, racoon, fox, beaver, domestic sheep, pigs, and similar animals, need an additional degreasing step to produce a soft skin. Lay the skin on a piece of cardboard flesh side up and apply a mixture of 50% **Degreaser** and 50% water to the entire area. Allow it to soak in for 30 minutes, then fold flesh side to flesh side for an additional 30 minutes.

Next, rinse the skin well in clean, room temperature water. The skin is now ready for the tanning process.

## Step 6 - Tanning

Once the skin is shaved and if needed, degreased, place it back into the pickle solution for an additional 12 hours or up to 24 hours for larger skins. Remove the skin and in a small amount of the bath, add 2 tablespoons of baking soda to EACH gallon of pickle and dissolve.

*Note: the baking soda will foam, so be sure the container is large enough that it doesn't overflow.*



Once the baking soda is dissolved, place the skin back into the tan bath and soak for an additional 4 hours stirring the solution every hour. This raises the pH of the solution which allows the tan to bond to the skin. Remove from the soak and drain until the skin is damp.



## Step 7 - Oiling

Lay the damp skin flesh side up and pour a generous amount of **Fur Oil** in the center. Wearing rubber gloves, rub the oil in to all areas including the edges, being careful to avoid the fur. For best absorption results, the oil and skin should both be at room temperature (70°F or above) when applying.

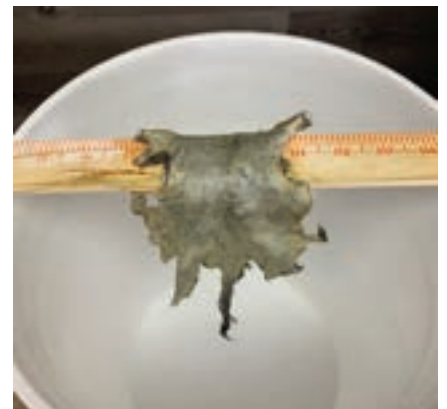


After the oil has completely penetrated, fold the skin flesh side to flesh side and let it sit overnight.



## Step 8 - Drying

The next day, open the skin and hang it to dry in a cool area where air can get to both sides. Start with the fur side out, then dry with the flesh side out.





To prevent the skin from becoming stiff and to keep it flexible, it is important to work it as it dries. Pull and stretch it and/or rub it over a table edge - this will break the fibers and soften the skin.



When it is mostly dry, work in a circular motion to buff the flesh side with the enclosed **Pumice Stone**. Apply gentle pressure when treating smaller, fur animals as their skin is thinner. This will also help to break the fibers and give the flesh side a soft, suede-like feel.

If **Fur Oil** does get on the fur, wipe it off with a damp cloth or lightly rinse just the fur side with water trying to avoid wetting the flesh side.

## Step 9 - Finishing

### FLUFFING THE FUR

For a fluffier look to the skin, lightly mist the fur with water. Then, using a hair dryer on low heat setting, blow with the grain of the fur while combing with a soft brush. Then lightly blow the air against the grain of the fur - gently lifting the fur with the soft brush.



### SILK POWDER

For an additional soft silky feel, lightly sprinkle the flesh side with the Silk Powder and rub in with your fingers. Knock or shake off any extra.



# You did it!

Congratulations on completing the tanning of your fur skin!

Check out our website to share a photo of your finished skin and see photos of tanned skins from other customers.



@tanning.your.hide



**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.

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