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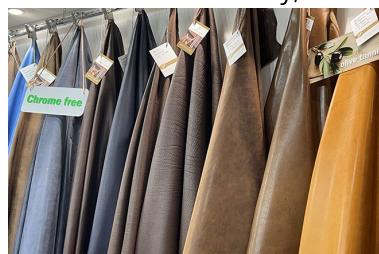
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Metal-free tanning trend comes to Lineapelle

Italy

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After a quiet start, visitor numbers picked up on the first day of Lineapelle with exhibiting tanners highlighting their Spring/Summer 2023 collections. The 99th edition of the trade fair is taking place at the Fiera Milano Rho exhibition grounds, from February 22-24, featuring 950 exhibitors.

Tanners occupy just over three halls (six in total) of Lineapelle and this year it's not the SS 2023 leather collections that stand out but rather a conscious shift towards presenting leathers with a lower carbon footprint and a greater focus on process sustainability.

Despite chrome tanned leather being the most commonly used tanning system globally, there is a clear trend that more and more tanners are looking to offer chrome and metal-free tanning systems to their customers.

Alessia Zaramella, Senior Marketing & Communication Officer for Italian tanning group Dani, told ILM: "At this fair, our focus has been on a stand made from natural materials such as wood and a full leather flooring made by us.

"The whole stand is made in-house by Dani and we have brought in a wall of plants from the tannery. The stand is open and transparent as this is a message we want to get over to customers; we have nothing to hide."

Dani is launching its ZeroUno leather collection at the show, which is its lowest carbon footprint range produced using vegetable tannins for footwear, leather goods and upholstery.

Many tanner's stands showcase their LWG rating or ICEC certifications at the forefront and a number are highlighting novel vegetable-based tanning systems such as Silvateam's Ecotan and wet-green's olive-tanned leather.


The leather chemical industry has launched a number of new tanning systems during the pandemic and, if Lineapelle is anything to go by, tanners are now looking to offer a range of alternatives to metal-based tannages. Well-made chrome-tanned leather is still the most popular and preferred tanning system, but there is a sense that its market share is being eroded by a new generation of alternatives.

Show organisers UNIC have also introduced a special area at Lineapelle focusing on leather as a by-product of the food industry and its role in a circular economic model. The display features a range of by-products from the tanning industry, such as fertilisers, to demonstrate how leather making can be a sustainable industry taking waste from another industry.

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