

Tanning Bears

FLESHING: First off, do your best not to cut hair roots. **ALWAYS** flesh from the tail towards the head, when using a shaving machine. Flesh legs from the feet, towards the main part of the body. Go **VERY** light on the front legs, at the elbow. (Easy to false cut this area) The main part of the body is fleshed the easiest on a beam, and pretty easy to get good and clean. The sides of the mouth and around the eye is very thin, and easy to tear on a beam if you apply too much pressure. I would apply a light layer of salt to the head area, let stand for 20-30 min, THEN start turning the lips, ears, eyes, and nose.

ALWAYS remove the tail bone. If you don't, it will slip **EVERY TIME!** Remove the knuckles. Flesh the paw pads the best you can when raw. The outer part of the pad will easily separate, and fall off, if not fleshed and salted. Cased legs on a small bear are very difficult to shave. Not for the novice shaver.

Bears need to be salted for at least 4 days on smaller bears, and 7 days on larger, before attempting to rehydrate, and begin the tanning process. Mountain lion, 7 days. Thin boar 4 days, thick boar, 7 days with scoring of the shield.

RE-HYDRATION BATH / Lipa-Solve 55:

ALL bears should be placed in a re-hydration bath!

This serves as a washing step, along with beginning the degreasing process. Even a thin, small bear, like the one Justin fleshed in the picture!

A bear like this, won't need more than 3-4 hrs. of re-hydration. A larger bear, with a thick neck and head, might have the head and neck placed in the re-hydration bath, 3-4 hours, before adding the rest of the skin. You don't want ANY skin to spend time in the re-hydration bath that is not needed! Remember, the pickle is your **SAFE PLACE**, **NOT** the re-hydration bath!

FORMULA for a normal re-hydration: To every 4 liters of 32° C water, add 30mL **Lipa-Solve 55**, a 113g salt, and 28g **Citric Acid**. In my opinion, **Citric Acid** should **ALWAYS** be kept on hand in EVERY Taxidermy shop that does its own tanning. Especially bears and small game. We will discuss why, later. There will **ALWAYS** be variables, throughout ALL tanning processes, that will have to be addressed on an individual basis. There is no such thing as a "one size fits all", especially when it comes to re-hydration!

The **KEY** to consistent tanning results is consistency on **YOUR** part. Take notes in the beginning. Maintain a consistent water source, salt source, tanning products, etc. Once you have achieved consistency, and are pleased with your results, **ALL** this will become like riding a bike. My goal here, is to help you achieve that consistency, and actually enjoy tanning skins.

PICKLING BEARS

When tanning bears in-house, your best bet for a good acid, **will ALWAYS be CITRIC Acid**. Others will work, but the natural degreasing effect of citric, Will **ALWAYS** yield a **SUPERIOR** finished product, when it comes to bears, and small game, like fox and yokes!



No-Harm Pickling Acid

Pickling Instructions: (Basic Instructions)

1. Per gallon of warm water (not exceeding 90 degrees) add 1 lb. of salt, 2.5 gallons of pickle is recommended per deer cape.
2. When using No-Harm Pickling Acid add 1/2 oz. per gallon of water.
If using Citric Acid add 3 oz's. per gallon of water.
3. A pH of 1.5 -2 is best.
4. Skins should remain in the pickle solution for 24-48 hours before shaving. Stir/agitate pickle daily. (Skins can remain in the pickle for an extended period of time as long as the pH is maintained.)
5. Once shaved, skins should be put back in pickle overnight. Adjust pH as needed.
6. Re-Shave skins as needed the next day.

Avoid eye and skin contact. May be harmful or fatal if swallowed. Keep container closed and store in a cool place away from open flames. Handle with care using good industrial practices.

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Lipa-Solve 55

Rehydration Application: (Basic Instructions)

1. For best results warm water not exceeding 90 degrees should be used.
2. Per gallon of water add 1/4 lb. of salt, 1 oz. of Lipa-Solve 55. For a natural bactericide use 1 oz. Citric Acid per gallon. Commercial bactericides can be used per manufacturer's instruction.
3. Skin(s) should remain submerged in solution only as long as necessary to rehydrate. Time will vary depending on how long skin has been dry. 4-8 hours for an average deer but as long as 12 hours or overnight for a skin dried hard.
4. Rehydration complete the skin needs to go into the pickle solution.

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Citric Acid

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Per 4 liters of 30° C water, add the following. 85g of citric acid, 450g of salt, and 30mL of **Lipa-Solve 77**. **LS77** is solvent based, and will have little effect on the pH of the pickle bath, which is what you need.

A good COMPLETE degreasing is the single most important step, when it comes to tanning bears. It IS THE FOUNDATION of a good tan, PERIOD!

First off, why do I push doing MOST of the degreasing during the pickle? (With Citric as the acid) Because removing ALL THE GREASE is VERY important. Tanning at home, you don't have the luxury of mechanical agitation, most of the time, so you HAVE to get some degreasing done, EVERY CHANCE YOU GET. A separate degreasing bath is fine, if you can complete the step in a few hours, but you CANT, without continuous agitation. There for, you try to accomplish most of the degreasing during the pickle, while your skin is in a safe pH, and it can stay in the bath for a long time.

If you ever feel a skin still needs to be degreased a little more, AFTER the pickle, fine, go for it.

To every 4 liters of 32° C water, add 230g salt, and 30mL **Lipa-solve 55**. This formula is for using **Trubond 1000B**, as the tanning agent.

When you intend to use submersible tan, the skin NEEDS to remain acidic (paint-on tans work at a higher pH), before adding to a tan, or the tan won't fix. Then the oil won't fix to the skin! The skin will be stiff and hard when it's finished! For this method, to every 4 liters of 32° C water, add 230g salt, 30mL **Lipa-solve 77**, and 28g of **Citric Acid**. Then to the tan, after the degreasing.

If you take a bear and don't do any degreasing until after the pickle, you have lost 2 or 3 days of VALUABLE degreasing time. Tannery's have paddle vats to run bears and small game in, but you don't have that luxury!

Let's say you have grease on your hands. You then put soap on them. Can you just rinse off the soap, and expect your hands to be clean, without rubbing them together? NO!

There isn't a lot to say about pickling, except to maintain the pH, and make sure EVERY skin is thoroughly pickled!

Tanning Bears with TruBond 1000B, or TruBond 1000

TruBond 1000B for RUG WORK- The tannage used in **TruBond1000B** and **TruBond1000** is not merely a preservative. It is a **TRUE** liquid tannage, combined with high quality oil. When using this product, feel confident that you are **TRULY** tanning the skin!

Neutralizing after the pickle: Thin skins- to every 4 liters of water; add 113g salt, and 28g of baking soda. Place well drained skin in this solution for 30-45min. Stir often. **LARGER SKINS** – 43g baking soda, 113g salt, per 4 liters of water, for 45min. Pull, quickly rinse, then drain well. (2 hrs)

Painting tan on skin: Apply a light coat to think areas of the slick, like the head and neck, wait 15 minutes, then apply tan to the ENTIRE skin (including the area you already did), and let skin lay flat for 2 hours. Next, hang the skin to dry overnight.

Next AM, pull on the skin, in ALL directions, and stretch it out. (head included) Let dry completely. Head can be re-hydrated for head shell. Skin will remain soft, IF De-greasing was done correctly

TruBond 1000 for bear capes, 1/2ls, or life size mounting: Same method as **1000B**, but add a light washing of the skin at the end. Then mount or freeze. Use a 113g salt and 15mL **Lipa-Solve 55** per 4 liters of slightly warm water for the wash. *Thanks, Aubrey*



Shake Well

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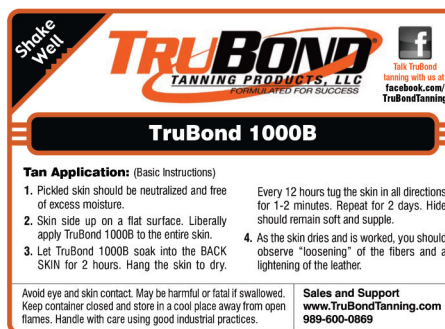
Lipa-Solve 77

Degrease Bath Application: (Basic Instructions)

1. 1 oz. of Lipa-Solve 77, 1/2 lb. of salt, per gallon of water, at 90 degrees initially.
2. Depending on skin type, place in de-greasing bath for a minimum of 3-4 hours. Agitate frequently. For best results, de-greasing should be performed AFTER final shaving.
3. From pickle to de-greasing bath, back to pickle overnight, then to tanning steps.
4. Lipa-Solve 77 can also be used as a degreaser in the pickle (1 oz. per gallon).

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TruBond 1000B

Tan Application: (Basic Instructions)

1. Pickled skin should be neutralized and free of excess moisture.
2. Skin side up on a flat surface. Liberally apply TruBond 1000B to the entire skin.
3. Let TruBond 1000B soak into the BACK SKIN for 2 hours. Hang the skin to dry.
4. As the skin dries and is worked, you should observe "loosening" of the fibers and a lightening of the leather.

Every 12 hours tug the skin in all directions for 1-2 minutes. Repeat for 2 days. Hide should remain soft and supple.

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TruBond 1000

Tan Application: (Basic Instructions)

1. Pickled skin should be neutralized and free of excess moisture.
2. Skin side up on a flat surface. Liberally apply TruBond 1000 to the entire skin.
Example: 12 oz. of TruBond 1000 is enough for a XXL whitetail cape measuring 8" X 22" X 24".
3. Let the tan soak for 2 hours.
Option #1: The skin can then be folded skin to skin, placed in a plastic bag and sweated overnight in a refrigerator. Then freeze or mount.
4. Before mounting a light wash is recommended. Use a handful of salt with bit of Lipa-Solve 55. Wash and rinse.

Option #2: Hang the skin to dry completely. Rehydrate in a solution of 1/4 lb. salt and 1 oz. Lipa-Solve 55 per gallon of warm water. Then freeze or mount.

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