

New automotive leather topcoats with anti-soiling and non-squeak properties

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In the last few years automotive interior designers have increasingly selected automotive upholstery leathers in light colours such as beige or grey. However, leathers finished in these light shades are prone to showing a more rapid soiling of the surface, resulting in the leather seats losing their high quality, pristine look quickly. This tendency is even more pronounced by the shape of modern car seats with prominent bolsters.

Systematic research into the surface properties of finished leather revealed a strong relationship between surface morphology and soiling properties. This study has led to the development of top coats with a new surface morphology design and significantly improved soiling behaviour. At the same time these new top coats provide outstanding performance in terms of reducing the propensity to squeak, which can happen when two surfaces are rubbed against each other.

The structure and physical performance of the new top coats will be presented. The effect on the aesthetic and haptic properties of the leather will be discussed as well. Practical aspects of producing such leathers will also be addressed.

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