

# EasyWhite Tan® (EWT) / Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the chemistry of Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid?**

The central component of Stahl's EasyWhite Tan® (EWT) technology is Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid, an organic liquid tanning agent that crosslinks collagen fibers and is built into the structure of tanned leather. Once reacted, Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid can no longer be washed out and does not contribute to any toxicity.

### **Is Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid safe to apply and/or handle?**

As with any reactive tanning agent, Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid is safe to use, provided the relevant application and handling guidelines are strictly always followed. Stahl strongly advises users to closely consult the safety data sheet (SDS) provided and to always use personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid.

Leathers made with EWT, do not pose any skin contact risks for operators or consumers, if Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid is applied and used in the recommended way during tanning (again, please refer to the recommendations provided in the SDS).

### **Biodegradability**

#### **In leather**

Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid pre-tanned EasyWhite® is biodegradable, including shavings and cuttings and thus provides a good base for biodegradable leather articles.

#### **In wastewater**

Conclusive studies regarding the biodegradability of Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid in wastewater have yet to take place. Stahl is conducting experiments at an operating effluent treatment plant, and we hope to have reliable results available in early 2023.

### **Wastewater**

The use of Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid can help reduce the amount of wastewater generated compared with conventional tannings, as less water is required for the process. The potential reduction depends on the tannery infrastructure.

Moreover, the water from this tanning process can be fully recycled to use in either soaking or in liming, instead of fresh water.

Granofin® Easy F-90 liquid can also help minimize the environmental impact of the tanning process. For example, "pickle-free" tanning eliminates the need for process chemicals such as acids and salts. Specifically, EasyWhite Tan® requires approximately 80% less salt to be added during the tanning process, while water consumption is reduced by up to 40%.

This reduces the discharge while also safeguarding environmental aspects. The shortened process also leads to savings, enabling a reduced carbon footprint.

### **Treatment of EWT shavings**

Two relevant studies are currently taking place to investigate the treatment of EWT shavings. Reliable results expected to be available in early 2023.