

## FUR TERMINOLOGY

BITES	Scars from fighting and mating appear as dark or red blemishes or holes on leather.
BREEDER	A mink that has been kept for breeding purposes beyond the primary stage. These skins are generally poorer quality, particularly in colour and the belly may often be browner, poorer, or stained.
BURNT	i) The skin may have been dried too quickly. In which case the skin will have a glazed appearance. II) The skin may not have been washed properly; and then this phenomenon is due to the blood.  A burnt skin will crack easily at touch; and may quite well fall to pieces during the dressing process.
COARSE	Guard hair is rough and stiff; wiry to the touch.
COVERAGE	Density of guard hairs per square inch. Good coverage occurs when the underfur/underwool is not visible through the guard hair.
DENSITY	Concentration of underwool per square inch; thickness of Underwool.
FLANKS	The sides, toward belly of a pelt.
FLAT	Guard hair and underwool lying instead of standing; pelt lacks underwool support.
FLOW	An important word which plays a large part in the grading of fur. If you move your finger or hand from the tail towards the head, against the lie of the guard hair—you can move the guard hairs in the direction of the motion. Should the guard hair spring sharply back into position again, then there is strength in the pelt, and it is said to “flow”.  A weak pelts guard hair will lie where it has been pressed.
GREASY	Pelted poorly, incompletely scraped; excess fat on leather and fur.
GROTZEN	A stripe of darker coloured guard hair running down the centre of the back on some species or colour phases.
GUARD HAIR	The longer and sturdier of two hair types in a pelt; extends above underfur.
HAIRSLIP	A term applied when the fur of a mink comes away during the dressing process. This could result from a tainted skin, or over close fleshing.
LOOSE	Wool lacks resistance, not tight; underwool lacks density.
MATTS	Clumped, knotted underwool caused by dirt, grease or blood, or tree sap. Sometimes appear as gray spots on leather.
METALLIC HAIR	This condition occurs in dark mink and is characterized by a silvery appearance of the top hair when observed from head to tail. This can cover a relatively small area or extend over the whole pelt.
MOTTLED	Describing dark blotches which sometimes occur in the pastel mink.
NAP	The extension of the guard hair beyond the underwool (Long, medium or short)
PRIME	Word used to describe an animal that has been taken when at the peak of its condition. At other seasons it may be too early or too late (early prime or over prime).

SILKY	Smooth, soft guard hair
SINGE	This condition can be recognized by a close examination of the guard hair, which will exhibit a distinct curling of the tips, resulting in a “singed” appearance.
SHEDDERS & TAINTED	
	Shedders are pelts which exhibit loss of hair when being examined—possibly because of poor handling, a degree of decomposition or too close fleshing. Tainted skins already exhibit a degree of hairslip evidenced by a patch of bald leather, usually as a result of decomposition before pelts, or bad handling.
SLIGHT	Slight Damaged; small holes or scars, small areas missing fur; small bullet holes; faint trap marks.
SPRINGY	Leather is stiff, dry, veiny, hard neck; fur is usually broken and is starting to shed, loose underfur; over prime.
STALE	Pelt older than current season; yellow, orangey leather colour caused by oxidation; fur is dull looking.
SUMMER SKIN	A pelt from an animal which died or was taken in the summer; the pelt is flat and of poor quality.
TAINTED	Usually caused by the effect of body heat soon after death—especially if left in a pile, but also occurring due to disease or poor handling.  A tainted skin fur comes away from the pelt.
TRAP MARK	Will show as a slightly curved mark across the pelt, usually across the rump or sometimes at the head end. The extent will vary; but some degree of damage will almost certainly have occurred to the fur.
UNDERFUR	Also called “wool” or “underwool”; shorter, thinner hair type that supports guard hair.
UNDERWOOL	Also called “wool” or “underfur”; shorter, thinner hair type that supports guard hair.
WEAK	Pelt that lacks density; loose
WEIGHT	Depth of underfur.
WOOLLY	Pelt missing guard hair having areas of exposed underwool