

RECP Best Practices Catalogue

Softening of water used for leather production
Developed within the framework of MED TEST II



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



The SwitchMed Programme is
funded by the European Union

Best Practice - Softening of water used for leather production

SECTOR:	Leather
Branch:	Tanning and dressing of leather
CATEGORY	Good Housekeeping
APPLICABILITY	Utilities

COMPANY SIZE	35 Full-time Employees
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Description of the Problem (Base Scenario):

The use of water that has not been softened, both in the boiler and for the process operations, stimulates scale build-up and produces stains on the leather and an uneven distribution of the chemicals in the hides.

Description of the Solution:



Water without heavy metals, no more iron stains on leather, resulting in a gain of choice of 10%, hence the 1% increase of turnover.

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Economic Gains

This provides a gain of € 15,000 corresponding to 1% gain in turnover for the company. .

Environmental Gains

This operation also brings about a reduction of 10% of COD in discharges per year, or 19,500 kg/year.

Health and Safety Impact

None



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Capital Investments & Financial Indicators	Acquisition of a Water Softener: € 2,000. Time for Return on Investment: ≤ 2 months
Supplier Information	Imported
Other Aspects	none
Implementation	The company has already installed a water softener.