



## **Dressing Service – Information Sheet**

Devonia offers a dressing service enabling private individuals, small holders or larger sheep breeders to get their own lambskins made into sheepskin rugs. We can also process goatskins and alpaca skins. We are unable to process deerskins or cow hides. We are prepared to process one skin or more.

1. Unshorn lambskins make the best rugs. Sheepskins (the skin from a sheep as opposed to a lamb) generally produce very poor quality rugs.
2. The skins from lambs kept through the winter months are often low in quality. The wool is generally long, weak and there can be second growth/shedding problems if the animals not slaughtered until after the first signs of Spring-like weather.
3. A wool length of 2 to 5 inches (50 to 125mm) is required to produce a sheepskin rug. It is occasionally possible to process skins with wool slightly longer than 5 inches but the quality needs to be very good with the wool free from knotting or the result will be poor. We will refuse to process some skins because we know that the end result will be very poor and/or there is an unacceptable risk that the skin may get caught in a machine and be a safety issue to one of our operatives.
4. If at the time of planned slaughter, the wool length is expected to be much longer than 5 inches then it is recommended that the animal is sheared at the appropriate time to allow the wool to re-grow to the optimal length. (We appreciate that this is not always possible.)
5. The skins should be well salted as soon as possible after the animal has been slaughtered - ideally within a couple of hours but definitely on the same day. This will prevent the build up of bacteria which can quickly lead to wool slip and then to putrefaction. We recommend evenly spreading about one kilo of salt on the flesh side of each skin. Leave overnight to 'brine out' and apply about a further half a kilo of salt to 'dry' the skin out. The skin is not actually dry but most liquor will be absorbed. The abattoir may be able to help with this – it is worth checking.
6. Well-flayed skins, i.e. those removed cleanly by the abattoir without damage, are required. Skins entering the dressing process with flay holes, however small, are likely to get caught in our tanning machines and become badly damaged.
7. All the skins we process must come from an authorised source i.e. a licensed abattoir. To get your skin after the animal has been slaughtered you may need to provide evidence that you are planning to send the skins to a registered plant. Our Defra registration number U3513 should help with this.
8. You can either send the skins by parcel post or an alternative carrier or deliver direct to us. If you send the skins, you must ensure they are well wrapped otherwise the carrier may refuse to deliver them. The process generally takes 8 to 12 weeks and we contact all customers, normally by telephone, to inform them when their skins are ready. We require payment on collection of the skins or before the skins are sent. An additional charge to cover carriage would apply when skins are sent. This charge would be confirmed at the time.
9. When you send or deliver skins to us you must provide the following details. Your name, address, telephone number and email address. This is in addition to the quantity and breed/colour of the skins.
10. Although we do our utmost to advise customers on the qualities required of a raw sheepskin to make a good quality sheepskin rug and we process each skin to the best of our ability, we can offer no guarantee as to the final outcome.
11. If payment is not received within 3 months of the customer being informed that the skins are ready then Devonia reserves the right to take ownership of the skins to attempt to recover the costs incurred.
12. By sending or delivering your sheepskins to us for processing you are accepting the terms outlined above and the prices detailed below.



## **Dressing Service - Price List**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Price</b>
Dressing of sheepskins/goatskins	1 to 2	£40 per skin
Dressing of sheepskins/goatskins	3 to 5	£35 per skin
Dressing of sheepskins/goatskins	6 to 29	£30 per skin
Dressing of sheepskins/goatskins	30+	£28 per skin
Dressing of alpaca skins	Each	£45
Salting (1)	Each	£2.50
Delivery of skins to Devonia via Chew Valley/Exeter (2)	Each	£3.00
Multiple skin manufacture e.g. doubles, quads etc (4)	Per skin	£7.50
Making of double-sided cushion from dressed skin (5)	Each	£12.50
Making of pouffe from dressed skin (5)	Each	£15

### **ALL PRICES ARE EXCLUSIVE OF VAT**

#### **Notes**

- (1) The salting charge will apply to any skin received in a fresh (un-salted) condition or any skin which has not been salted to an acceptable standard and requires re-salting.
- (2) We occasionally receive dressing skins via some South West abattoirs which have been collected by Chew Valley Hide & Skin and delivered to us by Exeter Hide & Skin. Exeter/Chew Valley charge Devonia for this service which will be passed on to the customer. Currently this charge is £3 (plus VAT). Please note this charge could increase at any time.
- (3) The dressing price applicable will be that for each lot received at any one time. We are unable to hold small lots received at different times and combine them to create a bigger lot for the benefits of a price reduction.
- (4) Not all sheepskins will be suitable to be made into multiples. We can advise if any of your sheepskins are suitable if required.
- (5) Not all sheepskins will be suitable to be made into cushions or pouffes. We can advise if any of your sheepskins are suitable if required. To make a double-sided cushion or a pouffe from only one sheepskin it will need to be of a large enough size.

Feel free to contact us should you require any further information.

Devonia Sheepskins & Tannery Ltd  
The Tannery, Mardle Way  
Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0AG

Tel: 01364 643355  
E: [admin@devoniasheepskinsandtannery.co.uk](mailto:admin@devoniasheepskinsandtannery.co.uk)