

## **PRO-1 BRUSH ON TAN** - Instructions for Use

PRO-1 Performance Chemicals (681-355-0225 / 304-880-3119) [www.pro1performancechemicals.com](http://www.pro1performancechemicals.com)

Note: Salting is NOT a necessity for tanning – raw skin is wide open fiber & absorbs chemicals most efficiently.

### 1. SPLIT & TURN: remove large chunks of meat only (do not worry about meat / fat membrane when pickling raw skins)

- if pickling skins raw: wash and / or rinse in cold water to remove blood (1 fl. oz. Degreaser / 5 gal. cold water)...
- if salting overnight only, rehydrate in clean, cold water until completely relaxed....
- if fully salt-dried, rehydrate in the following solution until completely relaxed...

Rehydration Formula for Salt-Dried Skins: ["WEAK PICKLE" - pH adjusted to 4.5 for bacteria protection]

- per 5 gal. lukewarm water

- 2 fl. oz. Degreaser / Relaxer

- appx. 1 fl. oz. White Vinegar: adjust pH down to 4.5-5.0 for bacterial control – adjust after all other chemicals are mixed in (pH: NO LOWER THAN 4.5)

Note: for odorous skins, add 1-2 fl. oz. Deodorizer Concentrate / gallon

### 2. PICKLE the skin: (3 days minimum for avg. whitetail - 2 days fur bearers)

#### SKIN-SIDE OUT IN ALL TANNING SOLUTIONS

- 1 gallon lukewarm water (85-90 deg. F) / lb. of skin (4-5 gallons / avg. whitetail cape) - PLENTY FREE FLOAT (not cramped w/ folds)

- 1 lb. of salt / gallon

- 1/2 fl. oz. LiquaSafe Acid / gallon (pH will be low 1 @ start, but will climb as skin absorbs the acid)

- 2 fl. oz. Degreaser / 5 gallon (all skins contain natural oils that should be removed for optimal tanning / softness)

Note: - Agitate every 30 min. first 2 hours - then every other hour first day - agitate periodically until the pH stabilizes (normally 3 days)

After stabilized, skin can be stored in pickle indefinitely by stirring 1x / week (keeps mold from growing on surface)

(keep lid on to prevent water & degreaser solvent from evaporating)

- Keep submerged - unless you have a paddle vat or wet drum for mechanical movement, keeping submerged keeps the skin in safest pH range (of particular importance until the pickle pH stabilizes = skin is not pulling in more acid = pH doesn't rise)

- Run 2 batches hides for the volume of pickle, then discard

- Maintain pickle pH range of 1.0-1.8

Note: An effective way to keep skins submerged - plywood circle for *plunger effect* w/ five 2-liter bottles of water on top for weight in a Rubbermaid trash can from Lowe's (the plywood circle keeps the skins from "popping-up between the bottles")...or simply create an "umbrella" by opening up short-incision capes "shoulder up / hair-side up w/ skin down" - skins can be left floating as long as they are "kept wet w/ pickle solution & hair-up" - we do recommend submerging during first 2 overnights for maximum protection

Note: Most all problems w/ loose hair occur from mistakes in pickling - you need to stir the solution for the skin to absorb the acid -

this is MOST IMPORTANT DAY 1 - don't just throw it in there & stir a couple times, then leave it for 24 hours - MOVE IT TO FEED IT!

When skin is pressed against skin, it will not absorb the acid - agitating ensures "the skin absorbs the acid" (very important Day 1/2)

Whitetails "float on the top" - even w/ weight, they will all be "mashed up together @ the top of the pickle"...fur bearers "sink"

& literally free-float unrestricted...whitetails / floating skins require more diligent agitation...OPEN UP FOLDS BY HAND & RE-POSITION...

Day 1: every 30 min. for 2 hrs., then every other hr. (try not to load skins after 12 Noon...4-5 hr. agitation as a minimum Day 1

before leaving overnight submerged)...Day 2: 3-4x (they will begin to stabilize)...Day 3: 2-3x...(1-2x / week after that if storing)

### 3. SHAVE (if skin is greasy, such as bear, raccoon, etc., perform a PRIMARY DEGREASING after shaving):

- 1 gallon warm water (110-115 deg. F to emulsify inter-fibrillar triglyceride grease) / lb. of skin

- 1/2 lb. salt / gallon

- 1 fl. oz. Degreaser / gallon

Add skin & agitate for 30 min. - 1 hour for heavier skins (keep lid on for heat maintenance) - drain only after degreasing & return to pickle

Note: Raise the pH of the degreasing bath up to 4.0-5.0 by adding baking soda - appx. 1 tablespoon / 5 gal. (after skin has been in solution for 10 minutes)...remove the skin to do so - this relaxes / opens up the acidic fibers for better degreaser penetration...you will need to check

the pH of the pickle after re-adding skin, as the higher pH solution from the degreasing bath will raise the pickle pH some.

[you may choose not to use degreaser in the pickle & only do a warm water PRIMARY DEGREASING after shaving]

### 4. RE-PICKLE overnight minimum

### 5. NEUTRALIZE for Brush-On Tanning

(if PRO-1 Submersible Tanning, drain from pickle - DO NOT NEUTRALIZE & proceed to tanning bath - See Submersible Tanning Guide)

Drain well from pickle (neutralize skin-side out/down):

- per 5 gal. lukewarm water

- 2 cups salt (= 1/4 lb. per gallon)

- 1/2 cup baking soda - MIX WELL before adding skin (= 1 oz. by weight / gallon)

- Add skin / agitate 30 minutes (whitetails)...heavier skins - 45 minutes...thin skins (fur bearers) - 15 minutes

(Note: For fur bearers / thin skins such as fox: 2x the salt = 1/2 lb. / gallon)

### 6. RINSE in lukewarm water & SPIN-OUT (or drain & towel-wick) excess water

(post-rinsing from neutralization shuts down the basification process - if you don't rinse the 8.0+ pH of the basified water after neutralizing, it could disturb the epidermis due that this is an alkaline solution w/ high pH)

Note: Skins need to be thirsty to absorb oil - can't press water to the surface..."too much water in fiber = flooded fiber & won't absorb oil well"

### 7. APPLY BRUSH-ON TANNING OIL - (appx. 110-120 deg. F is optimal oil temperature - DO NOT BOIL)

### 8. FOLD & SWEAT - (hair-side out) leave @ room temperature overnight - 18-20 hours for optimal stretch (place on pallet to allow for drainage as oil displaces water)...DO NOT BAG to sweat & DO NOT REFRIGERATE - cold temperature restricts fiber & does not allow for good oil penetration

### 9. Ready to mount (or bag & freeze) - to mount, rinse only for 5-10 seconds in cold temp. water & spin-out (or drain & towel-wick)

(Cleaning Tip: hose the oil off skin-side briefly, then rinse hair-side out...or simply dunk first in a separate tote, then primary rinse in new tote of cold water)

#### TIP: Saving musty smelling "iffy" capes / skins

It is optimal to cape out, immediately rough flesh, rinse in cold water & proceed straight to the pickle (w/out freezing)...

the PICKLE KILLS THE BACTERIA & is the BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE TO SAVE THE SKIN as it acidifies the skin & sets the hair during the process.

But, if you don't have time to rough flesh immediately after caping - rinse the skin in cold water & submerge the cape in a pickle solution for 2 hours...remove, drain (spin-out), then bag & freeze (this 2 hour process will kill bacteria & strengthen the skin for later processing).

Keep a small or left-over spare pickle just for this purpose during caping season (maintain pH appx. 1-1.5) for soaking "iffy skins".