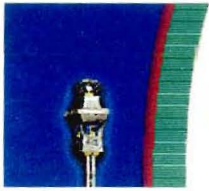


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FACULTY OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY

**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE DESIGNS OF LOCALLY
MANUFACTURED AND IMPORTED LEATHERETTE**

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A Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of undergraduate study for the Bachelor of
Textile Technology Honours Degree

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Abstract

Leatherette refers to materials made to imitate leather. Leatherette has many varieties and the possibilities of its applications are nearly endless; end-uses such as in upholstery, accessories like handbags and wallets, book covers and, in clothing and footwear manufacture. This document summarizes a comparative study of the design of locally manufactured and imported leatherette in accordance with the six aspects of design; design of visual appearance, design of manufacture, design for environmentally friendliness, design for reliability, design for cost reduction and design to meet market needs. It gives the system of methods used for this study, which comprises of interviews, design features and make-up tests and, design performance tests. It gives the data collected, analysis and the information drawn from the data upon analysis. It shows through design comparative tests, that locally manufactured leatherette is relatively of less value. The experimental results show that the performance, reliability and durability of the tested locally manufactured leatherette were relatively less when compared to the tested imported leatherette. It concludes with recommendations to improve the value of local leatherette basing on the results of the comparative study. Recommendations include reducing the plasticiser loss rate, improving abrasion resistance and improving the intermediate foam layer.

How less is less?