

IMPORTANT! READ THIS FIRST - BEFORE USING YOUR KIT

1) Make sure your pelt is ready for tanning!

Whatever your situation, make sure to flesh and brush the fur as best you can. Everyone has their own way to flesh, and honestly you just need to get your hands dirty to get better at this. I have done as much research as one can and in the end, I do it my own way!

However, there is always the option to pay someone who has experience. You will be surprised how easy it is to find these people using Social Media. (Kijiji, Facebook, etc.)

Once you have fleshed and brushed your pelt, you can do one of three things.

- Freeze it for later; (Stack furs in a bag and have fur side out. Try to store as flat as possible.
- Dry it out (If tubed, skin side out!) on an appropriate stretcher and store it in a garage or any cool safe environment out of the sun, and use for a later date. A dried pelt will get hard and be "Crinkly" to the touch. Don't freak out, it's suppose to! (I prefer this method!)
- Or start tanning immediately. (Skin side out)

Regardless of what method you do, it's a good idea to give it a good wash when ready to tan. If tubed, make sure its skin side out! It will help get that grease out better!) Throw it in 3 gallons of water and add the full bottle of degreaser provided in this kit. Emerge your pelt and wash it the best you can. The idea is to get the loose dirt/blood and grease out of the fur and hide. Water should be medium temperature. I usually work the hide until it becomes very soft, and I really rub the hide to help work that grease out!

Once finished rinse soap out of pelt/fur by doing the same process as above, but without the dish soap. I like to squeeze the pelt starting from the nose and working myself downwards over the pail.



2) Plan for 7 days from today? The 7th day is going to require your attention!

- the 7th day will require drying time and some elbow grease.

3) Do you have a place where you can store your Varmint 48 product and pelt for the 7 days?

- Even though Varmint 48 is not dangerous to handle, if consumed could cause serious health hazards. Make sure to keep out of reach of small children, pets, and other animals. Not that I should have to say this, but one can't be too safe, "don't drink the Varmint 48 solution! I don't care how thirsty you are!"

4) Go through the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before handling Varmint 48 (full MSDS at www.c4-outdoors.com)

- Even though Varmint 48 is not classified as "Dangerous" it needs to be respected. It is classified as a "Warning" product and by reading the SDS on Varmint 48 will educate you on how to safely handle the product.

Now you're ready for the C4 Outdoors Varmint 48 Tanning Kit!

NOW YOU'RE PREPARED

LET'S TAN THIS THING!

IMPORTANT: THIS FORMULA IS INTENDED FOR ONLY 1 COYOTE, OR 1 FOX/RACCOON, OR 2 SMALLER CRITTERS.

1 Now that your pelt has been fleshed and washed, it's time to get started. Fill the Pail $\frac{3}{4}$ with lukewarm water.

2 Add the **VARMINT 48** formulated blend into the water. With gloves and safety glasses stir product until it has fully dissolved. The product will want to sit on the bottom of the pail, so make sure to get right down there when stirring. If it's being stubborn, chances are your water is a bit on the cold side. Don't panic, just wait 5 or 10 minutes and keep stirring until completely dissolved.

3 Once the product has dissolved, place the pelt in the solution (skin side out!). Make sure that there are no air pockets, and that the pelt is fully submerged in the solution. You do not want any part of the pelt sticking out. TIP: I use a 5lb weight to help hold the hide down.

4 The pelt will stay in **VARMINT 48** for 7 days. It's always a good idea to give it a stir once a day while waiting. If for whatever reason you cannot get to it on the 7th day, don't worry! I have done trials and have found that the pelts turn out fine after 14 days. I wouldn't recommend keeping it in longer though!

5 Now that it has been soaking in **VARMINT 48** for the duration instructed it's time to pull it out! I am very confident that your pelt is officially tanned, but if you have any doubts cut a thin sliver off the hide, and look to see if it is white in color all the way through. It is...that's what I thought! It's okay to gently squeeze out the excess brine back in the pail, as long as your gentle. TIP: I like to pick it up by the nose over pail and squeeze working my way down to tail)

6 Time to wash the pelt; after all, we need it to smell and look pretty!

You will have to find another container (5 gallon pail or greater), don't dump the brine out of the **VARMINT 48** pail yet, you may need it again as stated in Step 7.

Okay, you got your second pail, add lukewarm water and use the bottle provided to shampoo your pelt. You will have to turn the pelt inside out, so the fur is outside. Give it a good wash! Once finished rinse all shampoo out and we are ready for the last step! (Squeeze out using my method in previous steps, grab by nose and blah blah blah.) Flip hide again so its skin side out.

TIP: I LIKE TO TAKE IT OUT OF BRINE AND WASH WITH SHAMPOO AS EARLY IN THE MORNING AS POSSIBLE, LIKE 6AM!

7 Time for it to dry. It's going to take approx 10 to 14 hours, for a coyote, to dry depending on the humidity in your area. Smaller critters will take less time. The point here is, make the time and check on your drying pelts. I suggest checking the hide 4 hours, 6 hours, 8 hours, after pulling it out.

NOW, IF I WERE TO STRESS AN IMPORTANT STEP, THIS ONE IS IT!

This is the most important part of the process, the more time you invest in this step the better the outcome will be. What you're looking and feeling for is the hide to be fairly dry but damp to the touch, like a clammy feeling. You will notice the edges of the hide will do this first. When you find these spots (like the edges of the pelt) give them a stretch with your fingers. You will notice the hide will turn white while stretching. I know what you're thinking, "That's awesome!!" Your right, it is. So when you're

checking, look for parts of the hide that are ready to stretch. If it doesn't turn white, then that part is still too wet. Keep checking periodically and stretch out those spots until you have completed the pelt. Once you get a feel of what "is ready to stretch" this step will make more sense.

For whatever reason, you wait too long and you come back to a pelt as hard as plywood. (Dried fully before getting to it) **DON'T WORRY!!** Just simply place hide in **VARMINT 48** until it becomes pliable and restart this step. See, aren't you glad you didn't dump the solution yet!

STRETCHING TIPS:

- Once I have pulled and stretched with my fingers, I will take the hide and run it through a metal ring back and forth. You can also do this using the edge of your workbench, chair, table, etc. (wouldn't recommend the dinner table) I have also had success with a thick rope that is secured on both ends, than running the pelt back and forth in the middle of the rope.
- Be careful, I have put many holes in my hides by stretching them!
- Once you have it all stretched and are happy with the softness, I ALWAYS take fine grade sandpaper and go over the entire hide. This helps give it a softer feel and a more consistent appearance.

8 Final Step!
Give it a good brush and enjoy your very own tanned pelt!

CONGRATULATIONS!
You have done it!