



Pulling the Hide

The animal was hung by the hind legs during the ageing process. For butchering, it should be turned around, and hung by the head. Cut off the legs. I like to use a power circular saw. Cut the legs at or just above the joint. Do this for all four legs. Mmm Mmm, I love the smell of burned bone in the morning, NOT.

Pulling the Hide

Slit the hide on the inside of each leg.
Start at the joint, and continue all the way
to the centerline of the chest.





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For the hind legs, start the cut at the joint, and continue to the pubic area of the inside of the thigh.



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Cut the hide from the chest, up the neck to the throat. Then cut laterally, around the side of the throat, all the way around the neck. This is a fairly difficult step on a large buck. The hide is very thick here.

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Once the lateral cut is complete, pull the hide, starting at the top. You may have to use your knife to get enough hide for a good grip.



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When pulling the hide, there will be places where the hide comes off easily, and places where it holds to the carcass because of connective tissue or muscle. In these cases you may have to use a knife to help. Be very **careful** because the slightest imperceivable nick will show up during the tanning process. This small deer required almost no help from my knife. The large buck on previous pages of this site was very difficult. I had to use my knife often, and it still took 40 minutes to pull the hide. In other years, I've used my car to pull the hide. This works, but it can pull off a lot of muscle in the process.





Pulling the Hide

Lay the hide on a flat surface. Sprinkle it with table salt. Be sure to get full coverage, including the edges. Salting the hide cures it. This removes moisture from the hide, and protects it from bacterial growth. A small deer hide takes about one pound. A very large hide may take up to two pounds.