



PRODUCT & GRADING

sagafurs®





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INTRODUCTION

Saga Furs is a full-service auction house with the world's broadest selection of superior farmed furs. The everlasting beauty of Saga Furs comes from the continuous development of sustainable fur breeding and constant advances along the entire supply chain.

Saga® Mink, Fox, and Finnraccoon remain the preferred choice of designers, fashion houses, clothing manufacturers, and retailers all over the world. Only the finest pelts earn the Saga Furs label.

Pelts produced on European and North American fur farms are collected and graded to form homogenous lots for sales. Customers can trust that every lot sold meets the quality description given. Unique, customized machines measure the pelts automatically and grade them by size, thickness of pelage in fox, mink nap length, shade and clarity. Final quality grading is done by the skilled personnel of Saga Furs.

The Saga® Certification System raises standards above those contained in European legislation. The Saga® Fox and Finnraccoon offerings come exclusively from 100% certified farms and Saga Furs also offers auction lots containing farm-certified mink.



PRODUCT LINE

SAGA® MINK

Our impressive assortment of mink has grown in volume as have the types of superior mink we offer. Saga Furs sets the standard in mink grading. Years of systematic development in perfecting our acclaimed Saga Furs Grading System have earned us high praise and the trust of our customers. The Saga® Mink collection offers you the most reliably graded lots in the industry.



Black Mink has a colour scale ranging from pure black to shades with a brownish tint. Although different dressing processes allow the skins to be bleached and dyed, most of the Black Mink production is used for classical garments in the natural shades and colours.



Mahogany Mink is the darkest of the brown mink. The brown mink types are produced in large quantities and are considered a staple of the fur industry. Although different dressing processes allow the skins to be bleached and dyed, most of the Mahogany Mink production is used for classical garments in natural shades and colours.



Brown Mink includes both the darker and lighter shades of the brown mink. The brown mink types are produced in large quantities and are considered a staple of the fur industry. Although brown mink is widely used for classical garments in natural shades and colours, different dressing processes allow the skins to be bleached and dyed.



Pastel Mink is the lightest of the brown mink. Pastel Mink is produced in small quantities. The skins are suitable for all types of production and can be dyed or toned.



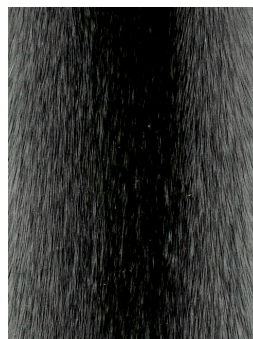
Violet Mink describes the palest shade of the grey mink. Production volume is very limited.



Sapphire Mink is a light grey mink. The most desirable shade is pure blue-grey. Production volume is limited and much lower than the brown types.



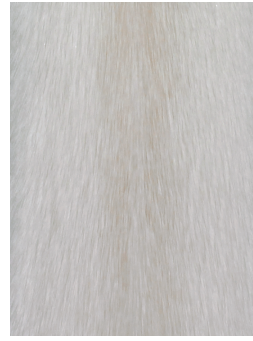
Silverblue Mink is a grey mink with slightly brown shading. Production volume is lower than the brown types but still very substantial.



Blue Iris Mink is the darkest shade of the grey minks and has a pale underwool. The most desirable shade is pure blue-grey. Production volume is very limited.



Palomino Mink is the lighter shade of beige mink. The skins are uniform in colour, sometimes with a darker marking along the back. Production volume is lower than that of brown types.



Pearl Mink is a beige mink with a greyish tone. Production volume is lower than the brown types. The skins are suitable for all types of production and can be dyed or toned.



Jaguar Mink is a cross-bred white mink with clear black, brown, beige or grey spots. Dyeing is an alternative that preserves the skin's characteristic markings when coloured.



White Mink is naturally white. It is also commonly used for dyeing in all colours.



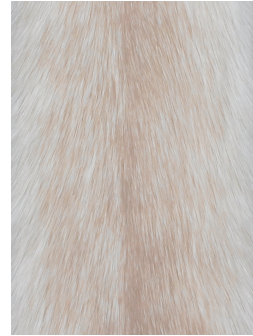
Black Cross Mink is a type of cross-bred mink. Black Cross Mink has a visible dark cross at the back. Dyeing is an alternative that preserves the skin's characteristic markings when coloured.



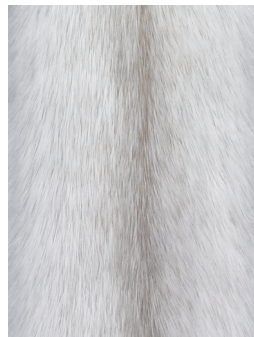
Silver Cross Mink describes the cross-bred mink that has a visible grey cross at the back. Production volume is moderate. Dyeing is an alternative that preserves the skin's characteristic markings when coloured.



Sapphire Cross Mink is a cross-bred mink that has a visible bluish-grey cross at the back. Production volume is very limited.



Palomino Cross Mink has the classic beige Palomino Mink colour, but has a darker stripe along the centre of the back. Production volume is limited.



Pearl Cross Mink has the classic Pearl Mink colour, but has a darker stripe along the centre of the back. Production volume is limited.



SAGA® FOX

Saga Furs offers the greatest variety of superior quality fox pelts in the world. Saga Furs' selection of different types of fox provides the fashion industry with versatility in design and a choice of beautiful natural colours. Unique characteristics in rare types come from carefully selected breeding practices.



Blue Fox is the most common type of fox and considered the core of fox pelt production in the fur industry. Blue Fox is pale and therefore ideally suited for dyeing. The darker guard hair is visible in lighter dyeing. Blue Fox is characterized by relatively short hair of even length.



Blue Shadow Fox has guard hair and underwool that are white except for a very slight darker stripe on the back of some pelts. The skins are suitable for all types of production and can be dyed or toned.



Blue Frost Fox has a stripe on the back with a slight shade of grey along the sides. The hair length is medium. The skins are suitable for all types of production and can be dyed or toned.



Silver Fox is a long-haired fox type that varies in colour from very light to very dark, always with a visible stripe on the back. The skins are suitable for all types of production and can be dyed or toned. It is mainly the silvery hair that takes on the colour, thereby preserving the natural characteristics of the skin.



Shadow Blue Frost Fox is a medium-haired type fox with a stripe on the back, a light grey belly and a white neck. Production volumes are very limited.



Arctic Marble Frost Fox is a long-haired type fox with a very special colour mix of black and white. Production volume is moderate.



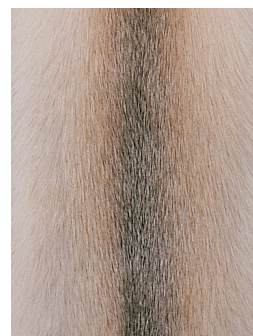
Sapphire Frost Fox has medium hair length in the mid-colour range of grey fox types. It has a darker marking in the centre of the back. Production volume is limited.



Amber Frost Fox is in the mid-shade range of the grey fox types, with brownish tints and a depth of colour. The hair is medium length. Production volumes are very limited.

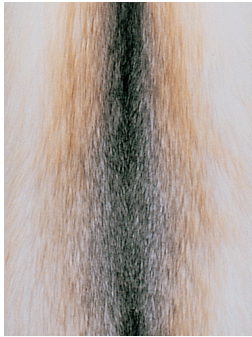


Golden Island Fox is a reddish type with a darker back and lighter belly. The hair-length is medium. Production volume is limited.



Fawn Light Fox is a medium-hair-length fox type with a dark back and very light belly. Production volume is very limited.





Golden Island Shadow Fox is paler than Golden Island Fox. It has a dark stripe along the back and lighter fur around the neck. Production volume is very limited.



Arctic Golden Island Fox is the palest of the Golden island types. It has an amber-shaded stripe along the back and medium hair length. Production volume is very limited.



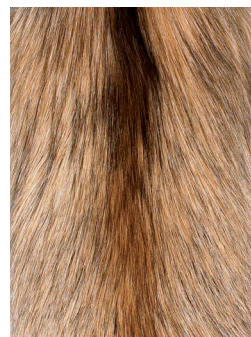
Gold Fox is a long-haired fox type with an intense reddish colour. Production volume is limited.



Gold Cross Fox has a natural long-haired wild look. The colour of the Gold Cross Fox can vary from dark grey to dark red, always with a visible cross marking on the back. Production volume is very limited.



Cross Fox is in the medium-brown range. It has sprigs of black and a dark cross marking on the back. A long-haired type, Cross Fox has a natural wild look. Production volume is very limited.



Smokey Fox is a long-haired variety slightly paler than Cross Fox. The fur has golden tints and a cross marking on the back. Production volume is very limited.



Fire Gold Fox gets its name from the reddish tint in the fur. It is paler than Gold Fox and has a long hair length. Production volume is limited.



Platinum Fox is a long-hair-length type with a white and grey colour blend and a marking on the back. Production volume is limited.



Platinum Gold Fox has a long hair length and is lighter than Gold Fox. It has a reddish golden colour with white features at the neck. Production volume is limited.



Arctic Marble Fox is a long-haired type with a special colour mix of black and white. Production volume is limited.



Sun Glo Fox is a long-hair-length variety. Quite pale in colour, it has a darker stripe with some red-brown markings along the back. Production volume is limited.

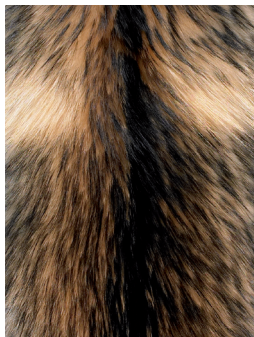


Arctic Marble Cross Fox is a long-haired variety with a dark stripe along the back. It has a unique colour mix of black, brown and white.



SAGA® FINNRACCOON

Natural shades of Saga® Finn raccoon give designers the wild look they want in a longhaired pelt. Greater variety offers you unlimited possibilities. The skins in the Saga® Fox and Saga® Finn raccoon collections come from exclusively certified farms.



Finn raccoon offers a natural long-haired wild look. Finn raccoon has thick underwool and long beige, brown and black guard hair. The colour of the underwool is grey.



Arctic Finn raccoon features lighter colour tones with a natural long-haired wild look. Arctic Finn raccoon has thick underwool and long beige and brown guard hair. The colour of the underwool is grey. Production volume is very limited.



White Finn raccoon is completely white with the natural long-haired wild look featured in other Finn raccoon types. Production volume is limited.



GRADING

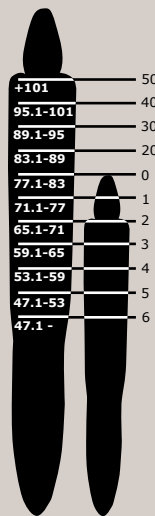
Our grading system for Saga® Mink, Fox and Finn raccoon is considered the best in the industry. Optimal grading ensures that all parties get the right price for their skins.

SAGA® MINK

Sizing

The skins are measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail or, if the skin has been incorrectly pelted, to the nearest point of full skin width. This means that a small portion of the measured area cannot be used. In addition, the skins may shrink when dressed.

Torn skins are measured, if possible, according to the size they would have been as whole. The degree of damage is considered during the final grading.



Sex

Due to the significant differences between female and male mink (i.e. size and hair) sex is a sorting criteria in the grading process. Male skins are longer and wider, while female skins are shorter and the leather is thinner. This does not mean, however, that male skins are better in quality than female skins.



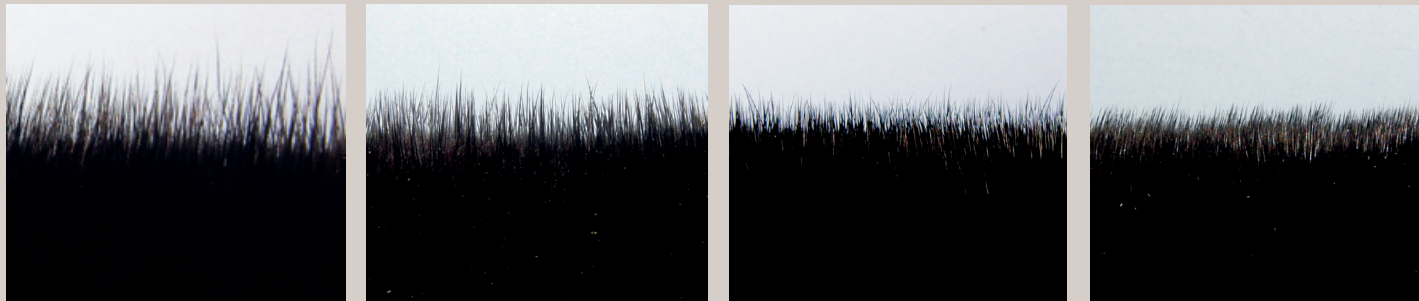


Type

At this stage mink skins are sorted by main types and mutations are separated.

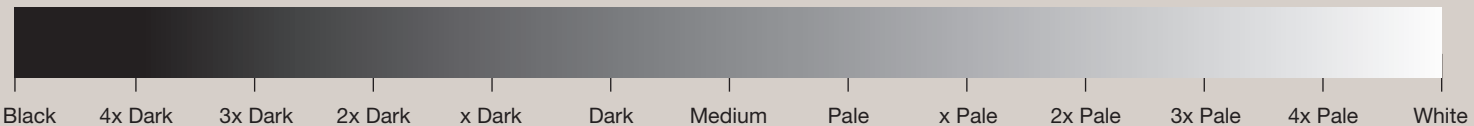
Nap Length

The guard hair length of mink skins is measured by dedicated sorting machines. The process results in four nap lengths: Long nap, Medium nap (Classic), Velvet 1 (short nap) and Velvet 2 (very short nap). In the final grading, skins with Velvet 3 (extremely short nap) are separated manually.



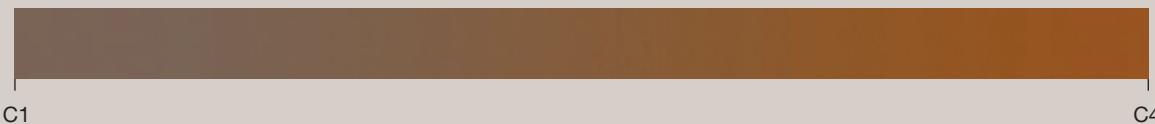
Shading

Saga® Mink skins vary in colour from dark to pale shades. Depending on the type of skin, different variants of the scale below are used. Some types, for example, only vary from 2x Dark or up to 3x Pale.



Clarity

Mink skins are then graded according to their degree of clarity, or colour tone. Below is an example of the degree of clarity in brown mink types:



It is important to note that shading and clarity characteristics do not affect the quality grading of a skin.



Quality Grading

Quality grading is performed manually by Saga Furs' expert graders. The quality categories for the skins are: **Saga® Lumi Royal, Saga® Royal, Saga®, IA, Saga® I, IB and II.**

Saga® Lumi Royal lots are made very selectively of short-napped mink skins of exceptionally high quality.

Skins of animals that have been use for breeding - i.e. breeders - and summer skins are graded separately according to their own quality criteria.

The Saga® trademark is used exclusively by Saga Furs for the selling of mink, fox, and Finn raccoon skins that have been graded according to Saga Furs' grading criteria. Saga® is revered worldwide as the industry leader in fur grading.

Quality Criteria

GRADE	CHARACTERISTICS
SAGA® LUMI ROYAL SAGA® ROYAL	Skin of very high quality. Dense underwool and resilient, even guard hair. Saga® Lumi Royal consists of silky, short napped skins of exceptional quality that exceed the normal Saga® Royal criteria.
SAGA®	Skin of high quality. Somewhat weaker than Saga® Royal regarding underwool, guard hair or general appearance. The long nap skins of Saga® Royal and Saga® are combined under the description Saga®.
IA	Skins with underwool and guard hair of Saga® Royal or Saga® quality and any one of below mentioned defects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weak belly – Stains or slight sign of wear on males.• Metallic – Guard hair is slightly curved and dry giving the skin a metallic shine.• Spotted – In Pastel and Cross minks.• Figure – Figure defect on Cross minks.
SAGA® I	Overall weaker quality than Saga® but with good commercial value.
IB	SAGA® I-quality underwool and guard hair, with any one defect listed under IA.
II	The weakest grade given to regular skins.

Final Grading

1. Quality and colour

The skins are manually checked by expert graders to ensure they are appropriate as to quality, shade and nap length. Skins with extremely short naps - i.e. Velvet 3 - are separated from Velvet 2. Differing skins are promptly moved into more suitable categories according to quality and shade.

2. Special characteristics and IA/IB-quality

Skins with IA/IB defects - i.e. weak belly, metallic, etc. - are separated. Sprinklers (sprinkled with white guard hair on a dark skin, or dark on white) and white marks (significantly large white markings on the belly) are also separated at this stage.

3. Clarity (tone) of colour

The different categories of colour clarity are (from the greyer or bluer tones to reddish): Colour (C)1, C2, C3 and sometimes, C4. The clarity descriptions used depend greatly on the type of mink in question. In the blue and pale types, clarity is of great importance.



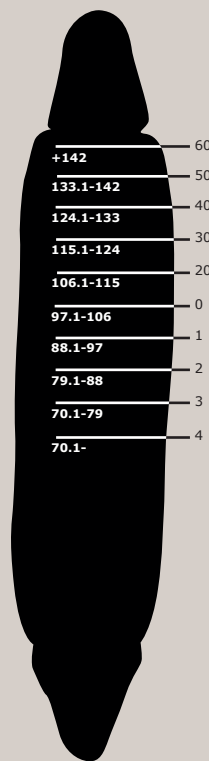
SAGA® FOX & FINNRACCOON

Sizing

The skins are measured from the tip of the nose to the foot of the tail or, if the skin has been incorrectly pelted, to the nearest point of full skin width.

Torn skins are measured, if possible, according to the size they would have been as whole. The degree of damage is considered during the final grading.

There is no difference between male and female fox and Finn raccoon skins in the grading process. Only Blue Fox and Shadow Fox are available in size 60.



Type

Fox skins are sorted by type. Main types (Blue Fox, Silver Fox, Blue Frost Fox, and Shadow Fox) are shaded by machine while mutation types are shaded manually by experts.

Clarity

Saga® Fox and Finn raccoon skins are graded by the degree of clarity, or the colour tone of the fur. Colour Clarity I group describes skins whose colour is distinctive and vibrant. The lower the clarity, the more muddled the colour is.





Shading

As with mink skins, depending on the type of fox or Finn raccoon skin, different variants of the scale below are used. Saga® Fox and Finn raccoon grading uses the following colour sorting scale:



Quality Criteria

GRADE	CHARACTERISTICS
SAGA® ROYAL	Skin of very high quality. Dense underwool and healthy, silky guard hair with good covering. The ideal characteristics of the various fox types differ depending on the skin type.
SAGA®	Skin of high quality. Somewhat lighter underwool and less silky or even guard hair than Saga® Royal.
IA	IA/IB-qualities are not used for Blue Fox skins. On the other hand, some Silver, Frost and Golden Island skins are graded according to characteristics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sparse – Sparse guard hair • Rump – Unchanged, darker hairs on the hips • Coarse
SAGA® I	Overall weaker quality than Saga® but with good commercial value.
IB	SAGA® I-quality underwool and guard hair, with any one defect listed under IA.
II	The weakest grade given to regular skins.



Final Grading

1. Quality and colour

The skins are checked to make sure they are appropriate as to quality, shade and nap length. The density of Blue Fox skins is measured by machine, but the result is determined manually in the final grading. Differing skins are promptly moved into more suitable categories according to quality and shade.

2. Special characteristics and IA/IB-quality

Woolly skins and skins with IA/IB defects - i.e. coarse, sparse, etc. - are separated. Depending on type, the special characteristics of the skins are evaluated.

3. Clarity (tone) of colour

The different categories for colour clarity are: Colour (C)1, C2, C3 and C4. The concept of clarity in fox skins differs slightly from that used for mink skins. Not only are the blueish or reddish tones taken into consideration, but also the general appearance expected of the fox type in question.

Grading of Lowgrades

Defective skins are first graded according to quality of the pelage following normal Saga standards Saga® Royal, Saga®, Saga® I, and II. Then, they are divided into (up to) six groups according to the degree of damage. The amount of different shades and clarities depends on the type and quantity of the skin.

In minks, all types of defects (except for white wool) are combined under the description "damaged". Depending on type and quantities, velvet skins and long-napped skins are separated.

In foxes and Finnraccoon, different types of defects are also often combined in varying ways, depending on the type and quantities.

Low grade skins are not labeled.

Grading of Breeders and Summerskins

Breeder skins - minks, foxes, and Finnraccoon - are stained or have a defective belly side. They also have a thicker and less elastic leather than regular skins. The amount of different shades and clarities depends on the type and quantities of the skins in question.

The skins are graded according to the quality of the pelage following normal Saga standards.

Breeder skins are not labeled.

Summerskins are of poor quality, lacking density to such an extent that they do not meet any of the Saga quality criteria. In grading summerskins, the most important criterion is the amount of underwool. Skins are not separated by shade or clarity.



GLOSSARY

Breeder: skins of animals that have been used for breeding.

Dressing: the process in which a skin is cleaned, softened, stretched, and prepared for use in garment making, for example.

Guard hair: long hair that extends beyond the underwool.

Lowgrade: skins with defects and/or damages.

Pelt: the skin of an animal with the fur still on it.

Show lot: a randomly selected lot of skins used to represent one string of lots of a particular type and grade.

Sparse: fur that is inconsistent in density.

Top lot: the highest quality skins of a particular type on offer at an auction.

Underwool: short, woolly underfur.



GRADING COURSE

We offer the only course where you can learn grading according to traditional Saga Furs standards.

This intensive course in the world's best grading process provides the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of all phases in the grading of Saga® Fox, Mink and Finnraccoon. The course will also take you through the entire auction system.

Programme:

- Grading principles
- Practical training in grading different types of fur
- Practical training in the inspection of show lots
- Introduction to the Saga Furs auction system
- Presentation of Saga Furs global activities

Instruction is given in English, but interpretation to Chinese is available.

For the most up-to-date information on the course and how to apply visit sagafurs.com/auction/products/grading-system/grading-course/ or contact Mr. Mika Jokinen at: mika.jokinen@sagafurs.com; Tel: +358 9 84 981, fax: +358 9 849 8319.





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