

RUGS 101: THE BASICS

A RUG SERVES AS THE ANCHOR FOR A ROOM'S DESIGN, SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR SEARCH. DETERMINE YOUR FAVORITE STYLE AND COLORS BY VIEWING A VARIETY OF RUG DESIGNS — FROM TRADITIONAL TO CONTEMPORARY — PRIOR TO HEADING TO THE FURNITURELAND SOUTH RUG GALLERY. AREA RUGS ARE AVAILABLE IN LIMITLESS SHAPES AND SIZES, SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE DIMENSIONS OF YOUR ROOM READILY AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS FLOOR PLANS SHOWING ANY SEATING OR CONVERSATION AREAS. OUR SALES & DESIGN CONSULTANTS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU SELECT THE PERFECT RUG FOR YOUR SPACE, LIFESTYLE AND BUDGET.

MATERIALS

Materials and construction methods vary greatly and may affect which rugs you choose to purchase.

Rugs can be found using **natural fibers** such as wool, silk, cotton, sisal and jute. Wool is the traditional fiber used in the construction of fine, hand-made Oriental rugs. One of the great benefits of using natural fibers is that they absorb and retain dyes in a more natural way, resulting in an authentic appearance that cannot be matched by synthetic fibers.

Synthetic fibers such as olefin (polypropylene), nylon and rayon are used exclusively in machine-made rugs, with olefin being the predominant fiber. Synthetic fibers can withstand great amounts of foot traffic and are often stain-proof. Rugs made of synthetic fibers are easy to maintain and offer a great value to consumers.

Rugs are also often made from a **blend** of both natural and synthetic fibers.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

With the variety of techniques employed in making rugs, it is important to understand the difference in construction methods and the effect that this may have on a rug's quality and price.

Hand-knotted rugs are woven by skilled artisans. The process of hand-knotting is extremely intricate and time consuming, dating back at least 3,000 years. A hand-knotted rug is secured to its foundation by tied knots rather than glue, which produces exceptional density and quality. These one-of-a-kind pieces could have as many as 200 knots per square-inch, and can take a year or more to complete, resulting in a beautiful heirloom for your family.

Hand-tufted rugs are also hand-woven, but employ a less intricate process. Hand-tufted rugs are created by punching tufts of thread through a tight canvas. Once the rug is completed, a backing is applied using a high-strength adhesive and the top is sheared to produce a plush, flat surface.

Flat weave rugs are the most basic of hand-loomed rugs. They are woven on basic looms and are reversible.

Machine-made rugs are created on power looms by hand, machine or computer. Machine-made rugs come in a variety of sizes, colors and designs and are available at a fraction of the cost of a hand-made rug due to the speed of production.

KEY TIPS

- Measure the space where you will place each rug. In a living room, rugs are traditionally at least the length of the sofa - 5x8 is generally the smallest size used here.
- When placing a room-sized rug on a hardwood floor, choose a rug that allows 8" of space around the perimeter of the room.
- In the dining room: measure your dining table and add 4 feet to both its width and length. This will allow additional space to pull out dining chairs.
- Rug pads are not only important for keeping rugs in place, but also for preserving your investment. Since rugs begin to wear on the bottom first, a rug pad will help to prolong the life of your rug.

