



# AREA *Rugs*

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Do you feel yourself starting to nest for winter and have thoughts of cozying up to the fire? Does the thought of your bare feet on cold floors give you goose bumps? Is your room noisy or seem like it needs something more to pull it together?

An area rug can add warmth, color, texture and pattern to unify your surroundings, as well as anchor a furniture arrangement. Rugs can become a focal point of a room much like a piece of art can be for your walls. If you have a room with vaulted ceilings and hard surfaces, a rug can help with acoustics by deadening sound.

## STYLE?

If your furniture and fabrics do not consist of much pattern or color, the area rug can be a bold pattern with several colors. And just the opposite of that, if you have patterned furnishings with many colors, then a more solid rug with even an accent border may be a good solution.

## SIZE?

When considering a rug for your living room, it can be determined by your furniture arrangement. It should be large enough that the front portion of your furniture sits on it. This not only helps keep the rug in place, but also lets the furniture “bleed” off of the rug and onto the other flooring, thus grounding the arrangement. Another option would be to place the rug so it is in front of the furniture by several inches, which lets the flooring underneath frame the rug and lets the rug be completely visible.

For dining rooms, be sure the rug is large enough to accommodate the chairs when they are pulled out. For kitchens and baths, you may just want a small rug in front of the sink, stove or shower to give you added warmth, color and cushion. Foyers can usually handle a larger rug in the center of the space, and for hallways, a runner is best. Bedrooms can have one large rug that encompasses the bed and beyond it, or smaller rugs along the sides of the bed where you step out onto the floor.

Always keep in mind the design or pattern of the rug in relationship to your furniture pieces. If you are considering a rug with a patterned center and a more solid border edge, consider having a glass coffee table so the pattern is still visible. If the rug has a solid center and patterned edge, avoid placing the upholstery pieces too far onto it, which would conceal it.

## FIBER CONTENT AND COST?

Much like anything, you get what you pay for when it comes to rugs. It has mostly to do with how they are woven and the fiber content. Wool is the most expensive, but it is extremely durable and is flame, water and soil resistant. Nylon is more affordable than wool and tries to mimic the qualities of wool, being very durable and stain resistant. Polyester, acrylic and olefin are the least expensive. They resist sunlight, stains and mildew, but can melt and crush, therefore not as durable or longwearing. If you are planning to stay in your home a while and keep a timeless look, it is worth investing in a wool rug, as it can last a lifetime.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A RUG:

- Are you formal or casual?
- Do you change your taste often, or keep things forever?
- What other elements are existing in the room?
- Do you have lots of kid or pet wear and tear?
- What type of flooring is the rug going over?

Remember as the seasons change, so can your space! In the summer months, consider a lighter weight, bright colored rug or even a natural fiber rug. In the winter months, consider thick woven wool that is warmer with colors that are more subdued. Switching up just the rug or even throw pillows can really change the look and feel of your room while being a fairly inexpensive way to create a new look.

If you find yourself overwhelmed by all of the choices and just cannot visualize what will look the best, do not worry. Most stores can help you with selection, fiber content and costs, as well as let you take rugs home to try in your space. Or, you may want to consider engaging an interior designer to help you. They will narrow down the thousands of options available to a select few based on your existing pieces, style and budget. They can save you a great deal of time and frustration, and help you avoid costly mistakes. □