

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

WITH R:DESIGN

all things rugs

— Choosing The Right Type —

The way a rug is constructed—its weave type—significantly impacts its texture, durability, and overall quality. There are several types of rug constructions to choose from, each offering unique benefits and characteristics.

While investing in a high-quality rug may require a higher initial cost, it will ultimately save you money in the long run. A durable rug lasts longer, reducing the need for replacements and offering a more sustainable option by preventing waste that could end up in landfills. Always aim to purchase the best quality you can afford.

Hand-Knotted Rugs \$\$\$\$

Hand-knotted rugs represent the highest quality, crafted using traditional, time-honored techniques passed down through generations. The rug is made by hand-knotting yarn in rows, allowing for varying knot densities that resemble pixels in an image.

These rugs can feature different pile heights and typically have no backing, so the intricate weave is visible from the reverse side, showcasing the craftsmanship involved. Hand-knotted rugs are known for their exceptional durability and timeless beauty, often becoming heirlooms that last for generations. There are varying levels of quality within the Hand-knotted category. Depending on the imagery desired in the rug, the level of detail needed, a hand-knotted rug can begin at 60 knots per inch and go all the way up to 250 knots per inch. The higher the knot/count the more expensive the rug, and the higher level of detail that can be achieved.

Flat-woven Rugs, Soumak Weaves \$\$\$

Flat-woven rugs are made on a loom with no pile height, meaning they are woven flat. This construction makes them ideal for high-traffic areas or spaces with heavy furniture, such as hallways, dining rooms, or kitchens. Without a pile, flat-woven rugs are also easier to clean—dirt and dust stay on the surface and can be easily brushed or shaken out, making maintenance straightforward.

Hand-Loomed Rugs \$\$

A hand-loomed rug is traditionally woven by hand on a vertical loom with a mounted warp. These rugs typically have no fringes or finished edges, giving them a more minimalist look. The process involves pressing strands of fiber together using thin threads, and the pile height is determined by the thickness of the rod used during weaving. This construction creates a unique texture and appearance, with a focus on craftsmanship and subtle detail. These rugs are competitively priced and ideal for more commercial applications. The patterns need to be simple and repetitive.

Tufted Rugs \$\$

Tufted rugs feature a soft, plush pile created using a tufting gun that pushes yarn through a canvas backing, which is then secured with an additional backing layer. This construction gives the rug a luxurious, cozy feel, making it an excellent choice for spaces like living rooms and bedrooms where comfort and warmth are a priority.

— Understanding Durability —

Natural fibers tend to come at a higher price, but their non-toxic nature and long-lasting durability make them a worthwhile investment. In our rugs, we primarily use Tibetan wool and New Zealand wool for their strength and quality. For silk, we use either pure Chinese silk or viscose, depending on the design and desired finish. For commercial rugs or those placed in high-traffic areas, we recommend minimizing the use of silk or viscose, as wool is more durable and better suited to withstand heavy foot traffic. Wool provides greater resilience, ensuring your rug maintains its appearance and functionality over time.

Wool

We highly recommend wool for rug making due to its exceptional qualities, including durability, biodegradability, and low-maintenance nature. Wool is soft and comfortable underfoot, while also holding dye beautifully, resulting in rich, vibrant colors with depth. Its natural resilience makes it ideal for both everyday use and long-term wear.

Silk

For a luxurious, glossy finish, Chinese silk—harvested from silkworms—is the ideal material. While genuine silk rugs can be significantly more expensive, the investment is well worth it for the mesmerizing sheen and rich texture they bring to a space. Plus, silk is a natural fiber that is biodegradable, making it a more sustainable option for your home.

Silk fibers reflect light beautifully, creating vibrant, dynamic colors that can elevate the aesthetic of any room. However, silk rugs require more care due to their delicate nature. They are best suited for low-traffic areas, as they can be prone to damage from heavy wear. To keep their beauty intact, regular maintenance is essential—gentle cleaning and avoiding direct sunlight will help preserve their exquisite appearance for years to come.

Bamboo Silk

Bamboo silk is a popular alternative to pure silk, offering a similar luxurious look at a more affordable price. Unlike traditional silk, which requires silkworm farming, bamboo silk is made from bamboo extract, making it a more sustainable option. The result is a soft, silky texture with a subtle metallic sheen that catches the light beautifully.

Bamboo silk is often used in combination with wool to enhance the rug's durability. Blending bamboo silk with wool helps stabilize the fibers, reducing the risk of shedding and fallout compared to a rug made entirely of bamboo silk. This combination creates a balanced, long-lasting rug with both elegance and resilience.

Mohair

If you're looking to add luxurious, exceptionally soft rugs to your home, mohair rugs are the perfect choice. Mohair wool fibers offer numerous advantages, making products crafted from this yarn a naturally high-value item that exudes innate elegance. Mohair rugs are made from the wool of Angora goats, traditionally raised in the highlands of Turkey, near the city of Ankara (from which the goats get their name). In recent years, herds have also been established in other regions, including South Africa and Tibet, producing mohair of exceptional quality. What sets mohair apart from other types of wool, such as sheep's wool or cashmere, is its composition: fine, strong, naturally elastic threads with a lustrous sheen. The wool feels incredibly soft and fluffy to the touch, has a lovely sheen to it and retains warmth remarkably well. Additionally, mohair wool has excellent antibacterial properties and serves as an excellent thermal insulator. If you have the budget, Mohair is a more durable alternative to Silk. You maintain the luxurious shine that Silk provides, but you add durability to your carpet.

Viscose + Rayon

Viscose, often referred to as rayon, offers a similar lustrous finish to silk but at a more affordable price point, without the need for silkworm farming. Viscose rugs provide an elegant look that mimics the sheen of silk, making them an attractive option for those seeking luxury on a budget. While soft and visually striking, viscose rugs tend to be less durable and more vulnerable to stains and wear compared to other materials. As such, they require more careful maintenance to keep them looking their best over time. When selecting a viscose rug, it's important to consider its placement. These rugs are ideal for areas with lower foot traffic, like living rooms or bedrooms, but may not be the best choice for high-traffic zones such as hallways or dining rooms, where they could wear more quickly.

Jute / Nettle / Hemp

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