

FOUR HANDS

Our Guide to Rugs





All About Rugs

Bringing the right rug to a room adds a layer of comfort and color that can make any space feel more complete. Our designers introduce new rugs every season in a variety of looks, materials and price points to match any customer, room, style or project.

In this guide, you'll learn:

- Which materials work best for each room
- How our rugs are constructed
- Which rug types might be a better fit for your project
- How to care for various materials and constructions



01.

Materials & Care





Wool

A natural, renewable resource, wool is also one of the most reused and recyclable fibers in the world. Many of our wool rugs are made from 100% wool gathered from sheep in India. However, some of our wool rugs are blended with other materials, like viscose, to give typically matte wool extra sheen and texture.*

- Best for:** Living rooms, dining rooms, high-traffic areas
- Pros:** Durable with strong stain-resistance and water-repellency; great insulating properties
- Cons:** Absorbs humidity, subject to fading, some initial shedding may occur but will decrease over time
- Rug Pad:** Optional but recommended
- Care:** Vacuum regularly, blot spills immediately with clean white cloth. Avoid solvents unless specifically made for wool. Periodic professional cleaning recommended.

*See specific material content for each product on [FourHands.com](https://www.fourhands.com).





Natural Fibers

We offer a range of rugs woven from 100% natural fibers including sisal, jute and seagrass. As always, we never shy away from incorporating mixed materials, such as leather, for even more eye-catching designs.*

- Best for:** Living rooms, high-traffic areas
- Pros:** Strong, renewable, usually free from chemical processing
- Cons:** Can be more coarse than other fibers, can be difficult to clean
- Rug Pad:** Recommended
- Care:** Spot clean and/or light vacuum; blot spills immediately. Avoid placing in humid rooms; keep out of direct sunlight.

*See specific material content for each product on [FourHands.com](https://www.fourhands.com).





Hair on Hide

Our 100% hair-on-hide rugs are made from hides that have been upcycled from abattoirs across Argentine Patagonia, England and New Zealand. Each hide is rigorously hand selected for its quality, size and rich color, and finished with a chromium-free tanning process that's gentler on the environment.*

Best for: Bedrooms, offices, dens, low-traffic areas

Pros: Soft underfoot, durable, easy to clean

Cons: Not ideal for damp or humid areas

Rug Pad: Multi-surface rug pad recommended

Care: Shake, brush with soft bristle brush or vacuum on lowest pile setting. Spot clean with damp soft cloth in direction of hide.

*See specific material content for each product on [FourHands.com](https://www.fourhands.com).





Cotton

Whether spun or woven, our cotton rugs are soft yet strong, and can feature intricate patterns and details due to cotton's ability to hold dyes well. Wool may also be added to cotton rugs for a more textural look and feel.*

Best for: Kitchens, children's rooms, casual areas

Pros: Easy to clean, typically more affordable

Cons: Can stain easily, may not wear well over time

Rug Pad: Recommended

Care: Vacuum regularly; can be machine washed. Periodic dry cleaning recommended.

*See specific material content for each product on [FourHands.com](https://www.fourhands.com).





Viscose

Also known as rayon, viscose is a versatile, semi-synthetic material derived from wood pulp, which is treated and spun into yarns. Some of our rugs are made from 100% viscose with the same softness and shine as silk, while others are mixed with wool for added visual interest.*

- Best for:** Low-traffic rooms and areas
- Pros:** Genuine silk-like qualities (sometimes called art silk or bamboo silk)
- Cons:** Delicate, can yellow with liquid spills or too much moisture
- Rug Pad:** Recommended
- Care:** Vacuum only when necessary on lowest pile setting. Never clean with water to avoid staining; use citric or acetic acid solution instead. Blot spills gently and use hair dryer with no heat to dry. Periodic professional cleaning recommended.

*See specific material content for each product on [FourHands.com](https://www.fourhands.com).





Synthetic

Made of 100% PET (polyethylene terephthalate) from recycled water bottles, our outdoor rugs are durable, soft and waterproof, making them a great option for both outdoors and in.

Best for: Any room, particularly outdoors

Pros: Made from recycled water bottles, kid- and pet-friendly, surprisingly soft, easy to clean, waterproof

Cons: Some limitations in styles

Rug Pad: Recommended

Care: Shake or sweep to remove loose dirt; vacuum regularly. Blot spills immediately; periodic professional cleaning is recommended. Wash outdoors with mild detergent, rinse with hose and hang to dry.


Did You Know?

Average water bottles recycled per rug size:

5x8' =  203

8x10' =  406

9x12' =  548

 = 20 diverted water bottles





At a Glance

	Wool	Natural Fibers	Hair on Hide	Cotton	Viscose	Synthetic
Best for	Living rooms, dining rooms, high-traffic areas	Living rooms, high-traffic areas	Bedrooms, offices, dens, low-traffic areas	Kitchens, children's rooms, casual areas	Low-traffic rooms and areas	Any room, particularly outdoors
Pros	Durable with strong stain-resistance and water-repellency; great insulating properties	Strong, renewable, usually free from chemical processing	Soft underfoot, durable, easy to clean	Easy to clean, typically more affordable	Genuine silk-like qualities (sometimes called art silk or bamboo silk)	Made from recycled water bottles, kid- and pet-friendly, surprisingly soft, easy to clean, waterproof
Cons	Absorbs humidity, subject to fading, some shedding may occur	Can be more coarse than other fibers, can be difficult to clean	Not ideal for damp or humid areas	Can stain easily, may not wear well over time	Delicate, can yellow with liquid spills or too much moisture	Some limitations in styles
Rug Pad	Recommended	Recommended	Multi-surface rug pad recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
Care	Vacuum regularly, blot spills immediately with clean white cloth. Avoid solvents unless made for wool. Periodic professional cleaning recommended.	Spot clean and/or light vacuum; blot spills immediately. Avoid placing in humid rooms. Keep out of direct sunlight.	Shake, brush with soft bristle brush or vacuum on lowest pile setting. Spot clean with damp soft cloth in direction of hide.	Vacuum regularly; can be machine washed. Periodic dry cleaning recommended.	Vacuum when needed on lowest pile setting. Never clean with water to avoid staining; use citric or acetic acid solution. Blot spills gently and use hair dryer with no heat to dry. Periodic professional cleaning recommended.	Shake or sweep to remove loose dirt; vacuum regularly. Blot spills immediately; periodic professional cleaning is recommended. Wash outdoors with mild detergent, rinse with hose and hang to dry.

02.

Techniques





Hand-Knotted

Known for their durability, hand-knotted rugs can withstand decades of traffic. In fact, they can become more valuable every year and can be handed down for generations.

This ancient Indian technique involves artisans looping and securing strands of wool or silk by hand to adjacent knots — producing thousands of knots per rug.

Best for: High-traffic areas

Price point: \$\$\$\$

Pros: Extremely durable, rich color, value can increase over time

Cons: Higher price point due to handmade craftsmanship

Did You Know?

Some rugs can have as many as 40 knots per square inch. Our hand-knotted rugs can have between 16–40 knots per square inch depending on the intricacy of each design.

9x12': ~11,000 knots | 10x14': ~17,000 knots





Hand-Tufted

Soft, durable and affordable, hand-tufted rugs are made using a handheld tool to stitch yarns onto a sturdy backing that resembles a tightly woven fishnet. Once the pattern is complete, a thicker secondary backing is then attached, which can act as a built-in rug pad.

Best for: Low-traffic areas as plush fibers can lose volume over time

Price point: \$\$-\$\$\$

Pros: Sturdy, durable, rug pad is optional

Cons: Some shedding is normal





Woven

Handwoven rugs, also called hand loomed, can be a more affordable option for more cost-conscious buyers. Yarns on these rugs are woven across each other on a loom.

Best for: Low-traffic areas (guest rooms, offices, sitting areas)

Price point: \$\$

Pros: Durable; can be produced faster making it more affordable

Cons: Patterns can be limited due to technique (solid, boxes or other geometrical patterns)



How long does it take to make?

Kilim and other delicate designs:

Two crafters can produce just 12 sq. ft. in 10 hours.

Average time spent:

5x8': 3-4 days | 8x10': 6-7 days | 9x12': 9-10 days

Paddle and loop designs:

Two crafters can produce 40 sq. ft. in 10 hours.

Average time spent:

5x8': 1 day | 8x10': 2 days | 9x12': 3 days



At a Glance

	Hand-Knotted	Hand-Tufted	Woven (Hand-loomed)
Price	\$\$\$\$	\$\$-\$\$\$\$	\$\$
Avg Life	100 years or more	5 – 7 years; up to 30 for more high-quality rugs	2 – 5 years
Best for	High-traffic areas	Low-traffic areas as plush fibers can lose volume over time	Low-traffic areas (guest rooms, offices, sitting areas)
Pros	Extremely durable, rich color, value can increase over time, patterns can be intricate	Sturdy, durable, rug pad is optional	Durable; can be produced faster making it more affordable
Cons	Higher price point due to handmade craftsmanship	Some shedding can be expected, but regular vacuuming can reduce the amount	Patterns can be limited due to technique (solid, boxes or other geometrical patterns).
Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use with a rug pad to extend its life. • Rotate 180 degrees occasionally to reduce wear from foot traffic. • Reduce overexposure to sunlight. • Vacuum 1 – 2x a month. • Clean spills immediately with warm soapy water. • Use professional rug cleaner as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shake or beat rug regularly. • Vacuum 1 – 2x a month to avoid soil accumulation. • Rotate the rug regularly to reduce wear. • To clean wet stains, blot the stain with a paper towel. • For large wet stains, blot and turn the rug upside down to prevent stain from settling deeper into the fiber and backing. Pour cold water in a bucket and mix with any dishwashing soap or shampoo. Soak white cloth/towel into the mixture and rub it on the rug surface to clean the stain. Repeat until the stain disappears. Leave to dry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shake or beat rug regularly. • Vacuum 2x a month. • Rotate the rug regularly to reduce wear. • Use club soda or water and a clean washcloth or towel to clean up any food or liquid spills. • Use professional rug cleaner as needed.

FOUR HANDS

Thank you.

See and shop all rugs at [FourHands.com](https://www.fourhands.com).

