



HOW TO CLEAN AN AREA RUG



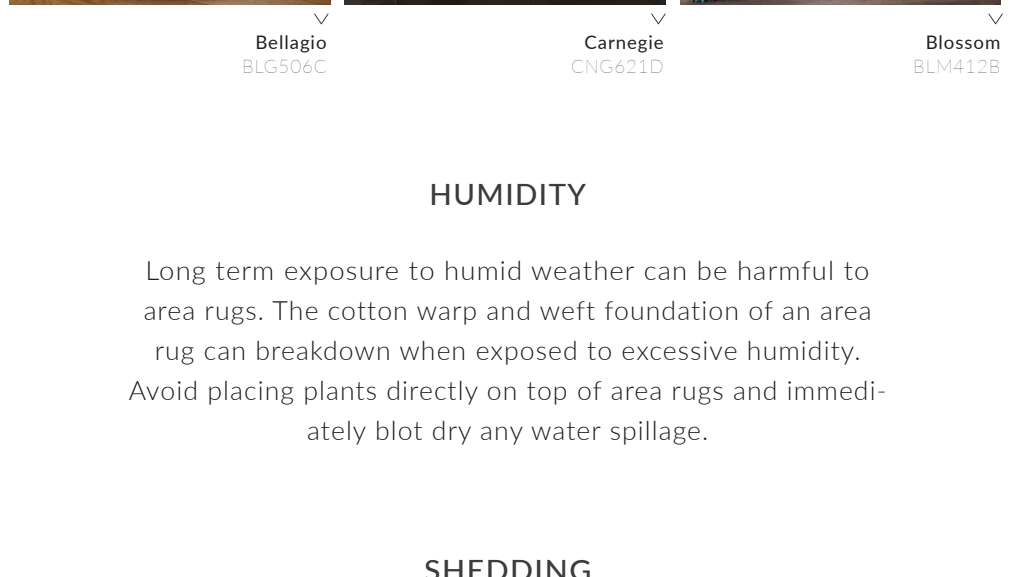
GENERAL CARE

KNOW YOUR RUG

Area rugs can be made from a variety of yarns or a blend of yarns and materials. Read the label on your rug and follow any special cleaning instructions and precautions provided by the manufacturer of your rug.

PROTECT FROM FURNITURE MARKS

Use rug protectors under the legs of heavy furniture to avoid flattening of your rug pile. Rotating your rug every few months will help relieve areas from excessive wear.



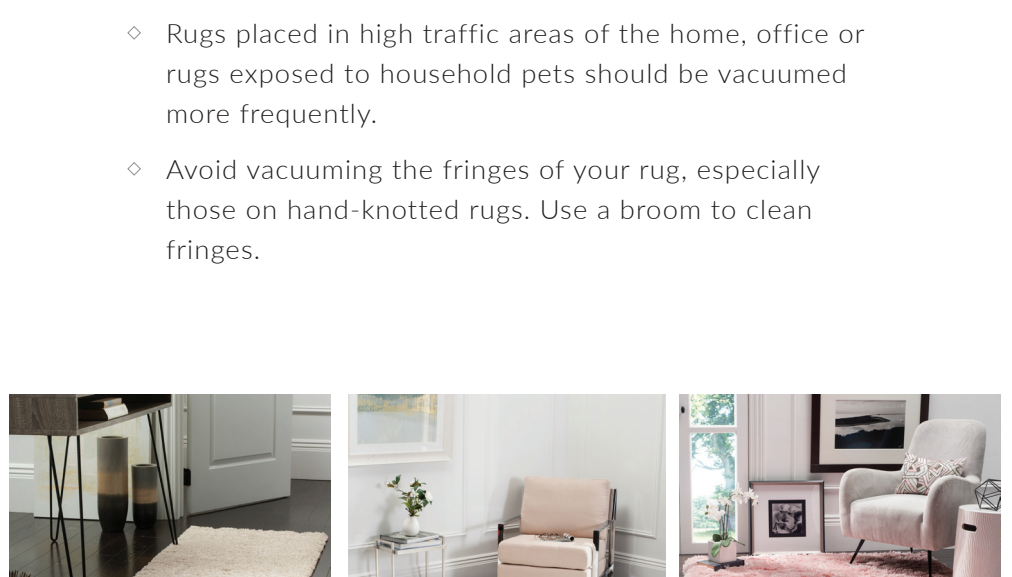
Watercolor WTC696A Fifth Avenue FTW112A Casablanca CSB775B

FLATTENING AND REMOVING CREASES

Packing and shipping may cause temporary creases in area rugs. To remove them back-roll/reverse roll your rug and allow time for the creases to relax.

AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT

Direct sunlight will cause the colors in your area rug to fade over time.



Bellagio BLS366E Carnegie CRG2629B Blossom BLS477B

HUMIDITY

Long term exposure to humid weather can be harmful to area rugs. The cotton warp and weft foundation of an area rug can breakdown when exposed to excessive humidity. Avoid placing plants directly on top of area rugs and immediately blot dry any water spillage.

SHEDDING

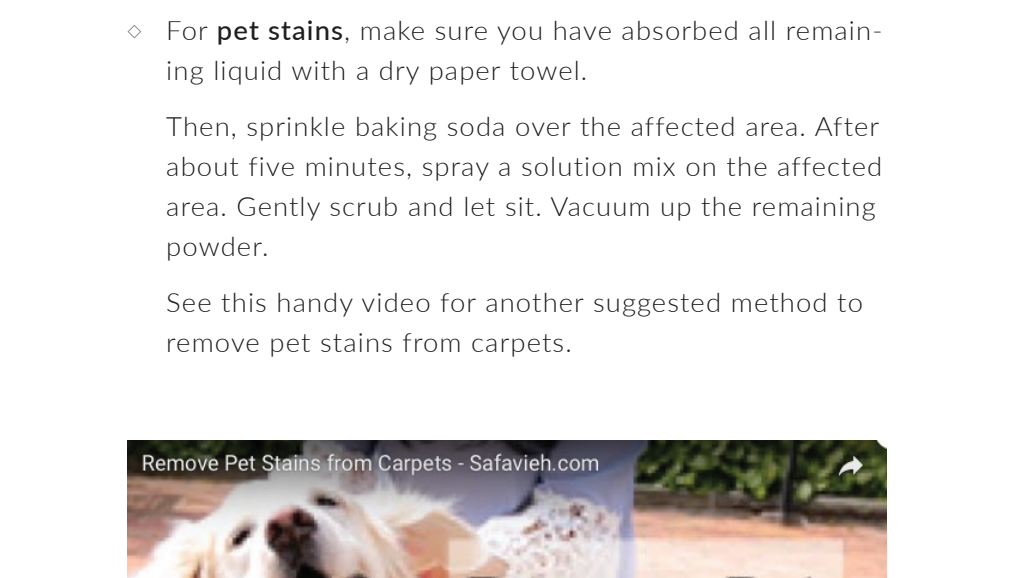
Wool rugs, especially new wool rugs, may shed. To reduce excessive shedding, vacuum your rug 1-2 times per week in the direction of the pile. Shedding should diminish within several weeks. See the 'Wool' section of Specialty Care for more information.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

VACUUMING

Routine vacuuming is the most important step in maintaining the life and beauty of your rug. It is recommended that you have area rugs professionally cleaned every 1-2 years to remove deep set dirt in high traffic areas. Otherwise, attentive vacuuming will significantly extend the life of area rugs.

- ◊ Vacuum thoroughly at least once a week with a canister vacuum.
- ◊ Do not engage beater bars.
- ◊ Rugs placed in high traffic areas of the home, office or rugs exposed to household pets should be vacuumed more frequently.
- ◊ Avoid vacuuming the fringes of your rug, especially those on hand-knotted rugs. Use a broom to clean fringes.



Florida Shag SG467-1113 Luxe Shag SGX160A Polar Shag SGR51P

BRUSHING/SWEEPING

Brushing is the best way to remove stubborn pet hairs that the vacuum misses. For short pile area rugs, use a carpet brush or carpet sweeper. For longer pile, a carpet rake works well. Sweeping works best for outdoor rugs. The sturdy pile of an indoor-outdoor rug doesn't trap dirt as readily as other area rugs.

BEATING

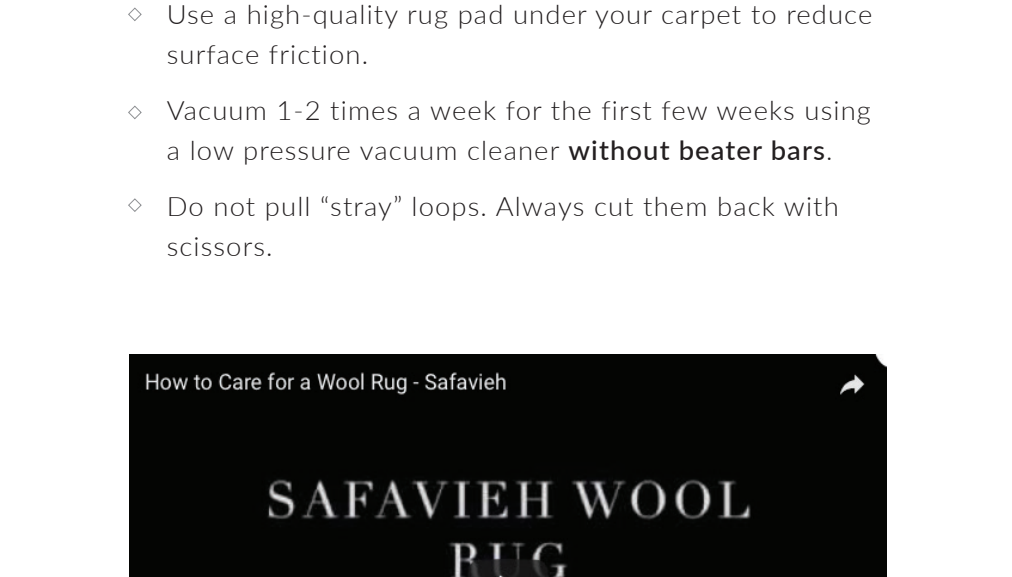
For rugs that are relatively easy to handle, bring them outdoors and shake vigorously to remove excess debris. Hang over an outdoor railing and beat with the back of a broom or a rug beater, varying in vigor based on the construction and condition of the rug.

ROTATE THE RUG

Area rugs placed in high traffic areas will wear faster than those in lesser tread-upon locations. Rotating a rug every few months will help to evenly distribute any wear and fading.

VIDEOS

For tips on how to clean shag rugs, follow the methods provided in these videos.



STAIN REMOVAL

Act quickly following a spill to keep a permanent stain from setting into your rug.

LIQUID SPILLS

Use a clean cloth and press firmly around the spill to absorb as much as possible. Do not rub! This can set the stain deeper into the rug, making it harder to remove and increasing the likelihood that the stain will re-appear.

STAINS

Make a solution of water, white vinegar and mild detergent. Mix and gently apply the foam that rises to the top of the solution to the stained area with a clean cloth. Finish by using a damp, clean cloth to absorb any residue.

- ◊ For lighter stains or spills on synthetic yarns, sponge clean the area with cold water and mild detergent.
- ◊ For harder to remove stains, professional rug cleaning is recommended.
- ◊ For **pet stains**, make sure you have absorbed all remaining liquid with a dry paper towel. Then, sprinkle baking soda over the affected area. After about five minutes, spray a solution mix on the affected area. Gently scrub and let sit. Vacuum up the remaining powder. See this pet stain video for another suggested method to remove pet stains from carpets.



SPECIALTY CARE

VISCOSE RUGS

Viscose, or art silk, has the same soft, luxurious look and feel as silk, but at a much more affordable price.

A carpet sweeper is recommended for 100 percent viscose rugs, but if you do use a vacuum, set the power to low and disengage the beater bars.

Viscose is extremely absorbent so remove stains using a damp cloth and a mild cleanser. For tough stains, use the stain solution suggested above and gently apply the foam that rises to the top to the stained area. Blot with a clean damp cloth to finish.

Keeping a viscose rug cool and dry is extremely important. Excessive moisture will cause the yarns to yellow or the dyes to bleed out. High heat can cause the rug yarns to shrink.

Vintage VTG12-0931 Vintage VTG112-1113

WOOL RUGS

Wool rugs shed as a natural consequence of how they are made. This shedding will gradually diminish.

- ◊ Use a high-quality rug pad under your carpet to reduce surface friction.
- ◊ Vacuum 1-2 times a week for the first few weeks using a low pressure vacuum cleaner **without beater bars**.
- ◊ Do not pull "stray" loops. Always cut them back with scissors.

NATURAL SHEEPSKIN RUGS

Sheepskin is naturally dirt repellant, water resistant and sturdy, but proper maintenance is still necessary to keep your rug looking its best and feeling soft.

- ◊ Brush the fur with a sheepskin brush routinely to avoid matting.
- ◊ Do not use alkaline laundry detergents. Normal wool wash will cause the leather backing to stiffen or even deteriorate.
- ◊ Keep out of the sunlight. UV rays will cause the wool to yellow.
- ◊ If you get a stain, dampen the area and cover it with cornstarch or potato starch. Once the area dries, shake the starch out of the fur.

Sheep Skin SHS121D Sheep Skin SHS121B Sheep Skin SHS121D

NATURAL FIBER RUGS

Rugs made from jute, sisal and seagrass natural fibers have a wonderful woven texture that actually allows dirt to fall through. Vacuuming the rug and underneath the rug is the easiest way to remove debris. In the case of a stain, natural fiber rugs can be scrubbed with a soft brush, but avoid getting these rugs too wet, as water can weaken the fibers over time.

Cape Cod CAP201A Natural Fiber NF141B Cape Cod CAP202B

INDOOR/OUTDOOR RUGS

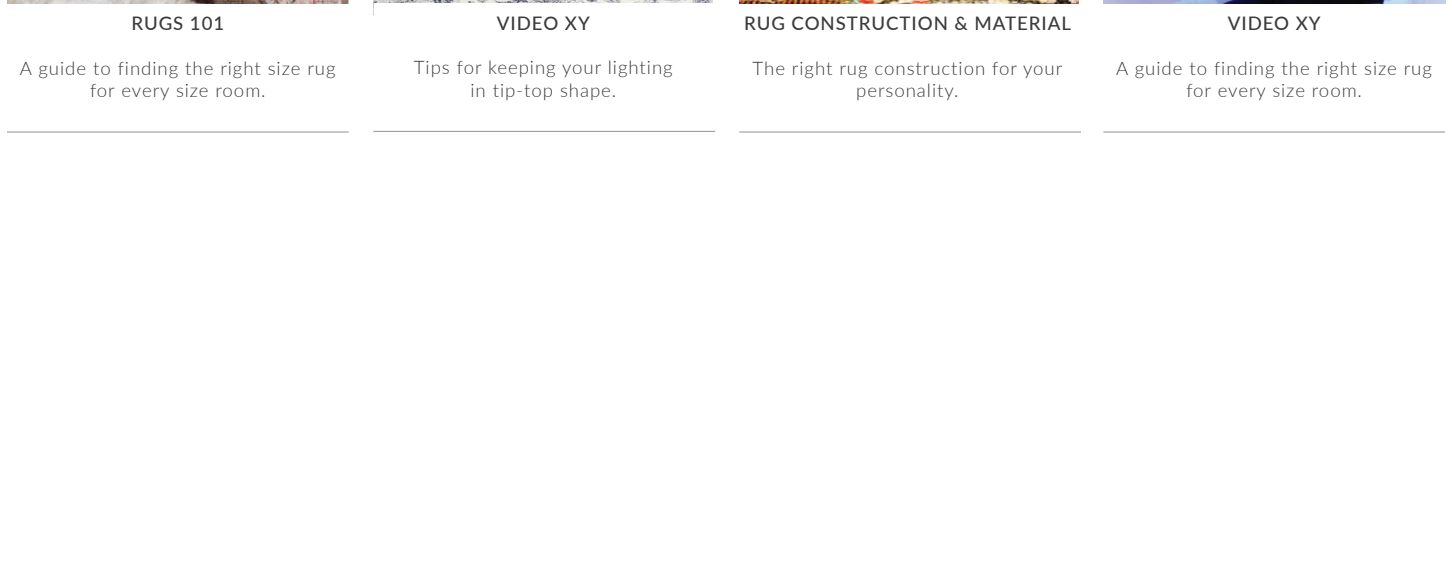
Indoor-outdoor rugs are made with durable synthetic materials to help them to withstand high traffic and natural weather elements.

Outdoor rugs can be cleaned with a bit more vigor than regular rugs. Rinsing a rug with a garden hose is an excellent way to blast away excessive grime.

Dry indoor-outdoor rugs over a railing in the sunlight on both sides instead of placing it on a wooden deck or stone patio, which can encourage the growth of moss or mold on a damp rug.

Courtyard CY7062-243A7 Cottage COT956S

MORE ARTICLES & VIDEOS



RUGS 101: A guide to finding the right size rug for every size room. VIDEO XY: Tips for keeping your lighting in tip-top shape. RUG CONSTRUCTION & MATERIAL: The right rug construction for your personality. VIDEO XY: A guide to finding the right size rug for every size room.