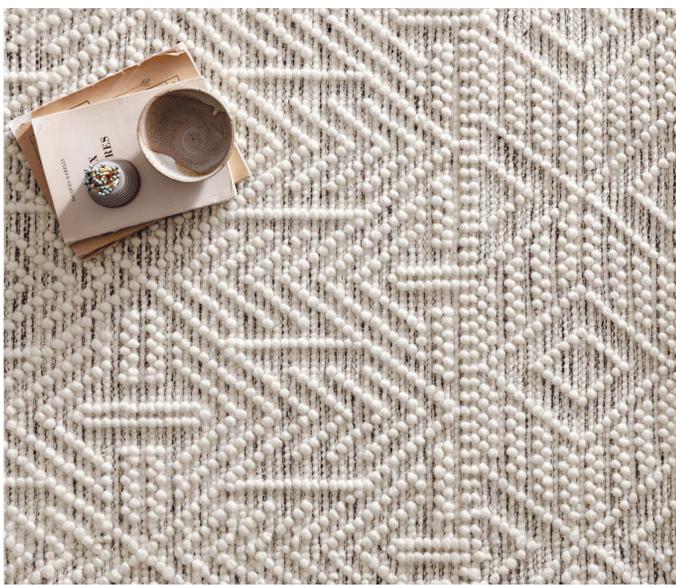




Rugs *Rufe!*

HOW TO DECORATE YOUR HOME WITH RUGS

By Cindy Brzostowski



When you think of decorating your home, your mind might go to items like art, lamps, plants... But there's another piece you shouldn't forget about in your design arsenal: rugs.

Rugs serve functional purposes, like preventing furniture from scratching wood floors and reducing the chance of falls. They can also be used to transform a room's aesthetics and mood.

Betina Martins Mogo, the owner of Embellish My Home in Lakeway, sees rugs as a great way to define spaces and complete the scene. Through her full-service interior design furniture store, she has helped many clients choose the right rugs for their homes and is happy to share some of her rug wisdom with anyone.



Rugs 101

“Naturally, a new rug will add comfort and warmth,” says Martins Mogo. “With so many materials, designs and construction styles, there is surely one for every taste and budget.” So, with all those options, where do you start?

Martins Mogo says there are two important questions you must answer before purchasing a rug: “Where are you putting it?” and “What use is it going to receive—low or high transit?” A rug for the kitchen in your family vacation rental should be different than a rug for your bedroom.

Once you have some ideas, she recommends taking home samples, the same as you would with paint colors, because a rug’s colors can look completely different in your home’s lighting conditions than it looks in the store. And before buying, don’t forget to check the right size for the rug by measuring the space where it will be set and the furniture it will complement.

Let’s Talk Materials

So, you know where your rug is going and whether that place gets a lot or a little traffic. Next, Martins Mogo wants you to consider some of the main options in materials and how they’re best suited for different places in the home:

Synthetic (such as polyester and nylon) — “Well-priced, easy to clean, durable and usually shed-resistant. In this category, you will find rugs for outdoors, too.”



Wool — “A natural material made to last. Easy to clean and soft, wool rugs tend to shed for the first three to six months, but this is nothing you cannot solve with a little patience and regular vacuuming. The durability and ‘cleanability’ make synthetic and wool rugs the best choice for family rooms and entries.”

Viscose — “A manufactured fiber that comes from wood pulp, it is usually mixed with wool and adds sheen and softness to the piece. The drawback is that it makes the rug more delicate, so it is recommended for low-transit rooms like bedrooms.”

Natural fiber (such as jute, sisal or seagrass) — “Usually in earthy tones, these rugs have a very casual look. They are not recommended if there are pets in the house as stains are hard to remove from them. Place them outdoors only if they will not get wet.”

Construction Considerations

Another important factor besides the rug’s material in differentiating rugs is how they’re constructed, which ultimately affects their price.

Hand-knotted rugs are the most expensive. “One rug can have hundreds of knots and can take months to complete,” Martins Mogo says. “Sometimes considered an investment, they can last decades if they are properly cared for.” >>



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For an alternative, consider hand-tufted rugs. With these, there’s a pre-made backing with the pattern, and a worker uses a tufting gun to create the pile. Martins Mogo says, “Since their construction takes less time and requires less-skilled workers than hand-knotted rugs, they’re more affordable.”

Flatweave rugs are handmade, too, but don’t have a pile, and they’re typically reversible and economical.

Finally, there are machine-made or machine-loom rugs. “Using computer-controlled looms, machine-made rugs feature a wide variety of designs and patterns at a lower cost,” says Martins Mogo.

Rug TLC

Once you’ve welcomed home your chosen rug, don’t forget about the upkeep. Martins Mogo says that the best

way to keep your rug looking its best is to vacuum it regularly at a low power setting and without a beater bar (that rotating brush attached to the bottom of the vacuum).

If you accidentally spill something on your rug, she says to blot the stain with a clean, un-dyed cloth to absorb as much of the spill as possible and avoid staining. Martins Mogo also recommends making the additional investment in a rug pad for extra comfort, durability and safety. She explains, “The proper rug pad will keep your rug safe and prevent premature aging.”

Shopping for a rug? You can find Embellish My Home at 2422 Ranch Road 620 South, Suite A-140, Lakeway, or online at www.embellishmyhome.com.