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Maintenance of a rug

Underlays

Underlays offer an extra resistance to your rug and will prevent it from slipping.

We selected two types of underlays:

1. For hard floors: a porous material that sticks to the floor (vacuum) won't affect any type of floor heating
2. For wall to wall carpets: a slightly sticky material prevents your rug from crawling on the wall to wall carpet

Vacuum cleaning and beating

Usually vacuum cleaning a rug once a week is enough. The vacuum cleaner will extract most of the dirt and sand from the pile. Beating is useful only when the rug is turned upside down. The dirt will drop on the floor and you can swipe it away with a broom.

Stains

Do not wait till stains dry. Clean as fast as possible! With some foam of natural soap, rub the stains. Most will easily disappear. Red wine can be removed by pouring strong clear alcohol on it or some sparkling water might do the job. On the market you will find a variety of stain removers, be aware that some (bleachers) might also remove the colours of your rug! **Never use vinegar to remove stains!** Vinegar will fix colours and thus stains containing any dye (coffee or tea) too.

Never leave a wet/humid carpet dry on the floor! (see *Water*)

Water

Every rug has at first been washed with water. But two major problems might arise:

1. When the rug is wet, it must be lifted till it dries. Airflow under a wet rug is essential, if not, warp and weft will suffocate inside the knots of the pile and will disintegrate and rot.
2. Not all carpets are colourfast. Some dyes are not strongly fixed and a *bleeding* may occur. These colour bleeds are hard to fix when they go deep into the pile. If superficial, the sun can sometime make them fade, but it takes years of patience and sunshine!.

Flowerpots

They are never 100% waterproof. One day (probably too late) you might discover that the spot under the pot is damaged and the rug is rotten. Avoid putting such items on the rugs.

Moths

Moths love places with no light nor air. E.g. under the sofa or chest legs, heavy tables, they select rolled or folded rugs in a dark space.

Look out for white substances on the rug looking like small pieces of cotton; if such appear, vacuum clean and rub with some strong alcohol before bringing it to a professional rug cleaner. The flying moths are harmless, but they will lay microscopically small eggs by millions in another place and will find their way deep into the pile. If the warp and weft of the rug are in cotton, they will be spared from damage, only the pile will be eaten by larvae.

It is essential to ventilate the rooms regularly and to move furniture every now and then to vacuum clean under the legs etc. If you do not use the rugs for a certain time, wrap them in newspaper. Every three to four months, check and replace the old newspapers by new ones.

There is no magic way to eradicate moths even if some advertisements claim they can!

Professional cleaning/check for repair

We can professionally clean your rugs when you get the feeling colours have become a little dull. It is hard to say how long it takes before your rug needs a check for repair or for cleaning as it will depend on your way of using the rug. Be aware that checking your rugs regularly will keep the costs low. It is better than waiting until you see a gross damage/stain/unravelling etc.

By professional cleaning we suppose the job that cannot be done at home anymore :

- Full beating of the rug with professional equipment (considering the condition of the rug)
- Full, deep cleansing with water and natural soap (bearing in mind the type of dyes that might bleed)
- Appropriate drying of the rug

Besides cleaning, our workshop offers following services:

- Repairing fringes and borders
- Repairing major holes and damages to your rug or flat weave
- Advising in making the right choice for your rug

In case of a water damage or stains, do not hesitate and contact us as soon as possible. We will be happy to advise: a simple phone call can sometimes prevent further damage.