



# YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SELECTING A RUG



Whether you're designing a space from scratch or trying to tie together an existing decor scheme, rugs are the perfect tool. On top of adding style and underfoot comfort, a rug is the true secret to turning a house into a home.

That said, there's such an enormous variety of rugs in the market today - how can you be sure you're buying the right one? We've put together this guide to help you purchase your next rug with confidence.



## RUG SIZE AND PROPORTION

Rug size is a point of contention among many interior designers - some believe a rug should encompass all four feet of each piece of furniture, while others feel you only need a rug big enough to fill the gaps. In truth, the reason there are so many different sizes available is because there's not one perfect rug size. It all depends on the dimensions, furniture and function of your space.

Most rugs will fall within one of these categories:

- **Small rugs** will usually range from 80 x 150 cm to 120 x 170 cm. These are perfect for entryways, bedrooms and small living areas.
- **Medium rugs** measure around 160 x 230 cm. A rug this size will sit under your coffee table, providing a nice border for you to rest your feet on as you lounge. You can also make use of a medium rug in a bedroom where there's ample floor space, or to put a little comfort into your home office.
- **Large rugs** range up to 200 x 300 cm. The front feet of your couches will fit comfortably around the edges of a rug this size, perfect for a casual lounge area or rumpus room.
- **Very large rugs** include anything beyond a large rug and will require a huge amount of space. However, when used effectively they can effortlessly tie together an open plan home. Use a rug this size beneath your whole lounge or dining suite for an opulent feel.

Remember proportion is everything. When arranging furniture around a rug, there should be equal space between each piece to ensure the rug is not cluttered. If you're finding furniture has to be uncomfortably close together to fit around your rug, you may need a size up.





## DESIGN AND COLOUR

People often say that a rug should be the first thing you buy for your design scheme. That's because you'll have much more freedom of choice and you can draw a colour palette from your rug to direct the rest of the room's decor.

If you're looking for a rug to go in an existing space, you'll have to do the reverse. Consider the current palette of your room - identify major themes and incorporate those into your search for the perfect rug. It can be much harder to find the right rug when you're limited this way but creative homeowners can make it work.

The colour you choose for your rug can also [affect the mood of your space](#):

- **Cool or neutral** colours provide a feeling of serenity, especially in the presence of natural light.
- **Vibrant, saturated hues** invite energy into an otherwise mellow room.
- **Warm tones** of any colour make a space feel more cosy and are perfect for offsetting cold interiors.
- **Light colours** will help a small space feel larger, while **dark colours** can turn a wide open space into an intimate nook.



## RUG MATERIAL

Rugs can be manufactured using a huge variety of fibres, each with its own appeal and disadvantages.

### WOOL

Wool is a natural fibre, so it's wonderfully soft and resilient, but may also be an allergen for some people. The moisture-retaining quality of wool means that your rug can assist in humidifying your home - storing moisture when it's humid and naturally releasing it when the air is dry. This does mean you should avoid wool in any room that will be particularly damp, as it may never fully dry.

The resilience, durability and softness of wool make it a very popular choice. That said, while it will hold up nicely in high-traffic areas, wool is not the best fibre against stains. Shedding will occur with spun fibres like wool, although it does decrease over time.

### HEAT-SET POLYPROPYLENE

Many of our rugs use heat-set polypropylene - a far superior material to bulk continuous filament (BFC) polypropylene. This highly desirable synthetic fibre is soft, durable, colourfast, non-shedding and [easy to maintain](#). Due to polypropylene's water resistance, you're free to use many kinds of wet cleaning products without risking damage. You'll love the vibrant, long-lasting colour of a polypropylene rug and its non-allergic and anti-static properties will keep everyone happy.

It's worth noting that synthetic fibres like polypropylene are less resilient, meaning they're more likely to show tread marks over time.

### VISCOSE

This semi-synthetic material is most commonly seen in small doses, as part of patterned rugs. The faux-silk nature makes for wonderful, luxurious underfoot textures as well as visual interest. Avoid placing rugs made primarily from viscose in high-traffic areas, as they do wear under stress.

Like wool, viscose is a spun fabric and will naturally shed.

### POLYESTER

Polyester is a byproduct of oil production, meaning it's very affordable. It can be spun particularly thin, and has a beautiful silken sheen which makes it the popular choice for long-pile shag rugs.

On top of material, the method of manufacture plays into qualities of your rug. A machine-made rug will have a greater number of needle points per square. This means the pile will be denser, more detailed and considerably more durable. Meanwhile, a hand tufted rug will be truly unique and offer a chunkier, more luxurious pile but is sensitive to water and pulling.



## RUG PILE

Rugs are defined by the length and cut of the fibres - ranging from short pile to plush, to shag.

As a general rule, the shorter the pile, the more durable your rug will be. In part, this is because the pile cannot be so easily treaded down. Shag rugs may also get caught in the beater bar of your vacuum cleaner, so shorter piles are easier to clean.

Also consider comfort when choosing a rug though - a shorter pile may be more functional but you're bound to love the [indulgent feeling of shag pile](#) between your toes.

## BUDGET

If you're tackling an entire room - or even a whole home - you'll find your design endeavour can get expensive very quickly.

That said, the right rug can last for a long time - so spending more up-front on a high quality rug can save you money in the long term. Think about the home you're buying for. If it could be your forever home, it's definitely worth investing in a top of the line product to ensure you get many years of style and comfort out of your rug. However, if you're renting or likely to relocate, a less durable rug will suit you just fine.

Size is also a major contributor to the price of a rug, so if you're trying to fill a large space on a small budget, consider layering a stylish rug of your choice over a large, affordable jute floor covering.

**Fact: The standard size in Australia for large a rug is 200 x 300cm.**

Large rugs are great for living rooms, 6-8 seat dining settings, master bedrooms, and rumpus areas. At Carpet Call, our rugs come in standard sizes that suit most of today's interiors.



## Myth: Natural fibre rugs are uncomfortable and hard

Natural fibre rugs such as jute, sisal, and wool can actually be very soft and comfortable – even when walking around barefoot. If you tend to shy away from natural-fiber rugs because you think they might be scratchy or too rough, try one out with 24 hour try before you buy policy to see how it feels.



## ACCESSORIES

Getting the right equipment to ensure your rug lasts longer and doesn't turn into a hazard is vital. If you're placing a rug on hard floors, [you need an anti-slip mat](#). This will stop the rug from sliding or twisting and also protect anyone in your home from tripping over it.

[Our Amazing Absorbent Wonder Block](#) is also a must-have for rug owners. These PVA sponges absorb liquid at lightning speed, taking the effort out of cleaning up water or stains on your rug.

With over 40 years of experience under our belts, the team at Carpet Call truly are the experts in the field and Australia's largest carpet and rugs retailer. This means we understand that a rug might look different in-store from how it looks in your home. We offer a Try Before You Buy policy, letting you take home up to three rugs for a 24-hour trial period with no cost and no purchase obligations.

## WORK WITH THE EXPERTS

If you're ready to discover the ideal rug for your home, [browse our enormous range online](#) or at your [nearest Carpet Call store](#).





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Or book a call back with our flooring specialists at  
[www.carpetcall.com.au](http://www.carpetcall.com.au)