

ROUZATI RUG CARE ADVICE

WATER DAMAGE

Overflowing water from potted plants near or resting on a rug. Within three weeks, the rug foundation can become so weak that chunks can be torn from the affected area.

Placing rugs in areas where flooding can occur, such as the basement. Damaged in this way, a rug can feel peculiarly stiff when moved about.

In either case, water damaged rug must be removed as soon as possible, cleaned properly, and allowed to dry completely.

MOTH DAMAGE

Flying moths do not eat your rugs. But the larvae from hundreds of eggs laid by the female moth do. The larvae thrive in dark, undisturbed areas where a rug gets little traffic and is not often vacuumed. A bad infestation sometimes leaves a cobweb-like vile in the affected area, along with fine, sand-like debris.

A rug damaged by moth larvae is not difficult to repair, but reweaving a large area can be expensive.

DOG CHEWS/CAT SCRATCHINGS

Puppies tend to chew rugs because of tooth growth.

The best way to prevent chew damage is to keep the puppy away from the rug. One suggestion: Sprinkle an ounce of moth flakes beneath the rug along the edges.

Cats not declawed can inflict significant damage to the rug if they habitually hone their claws on it. As with dog chews, the best advice is to control the cat's activities.

VACUUM CLEANER DAMAGE

Regular vacuuming of an Oriental rug with an electric vacuum cleaner is recommended because it prevents dirt on the surface from filtering down into the pile where it can accumulate and cause increased wear. A cautionary note if your cleaner is equipped with a power brush: If used too strenuously, the beater bar can cause a raking effect on the top layer of an Oriental rug. For routine cleaning, a plain vacuum nozzle will do and this is especially true when vacuuming the fringes. A power brush on the fringes can cause rapid wear.

SUN DAMAGE

Most rug dyes are quite resistant to sun fading or bleaching. Still, ultraviolet rays, powerful as they are, can cause the rug to fade if the rug is exposed to sunny areas over long periods. Consider sheer drapes and/or turning the rug, end-to-end, once a year to even out wear and color damage.

TO LAY A RUG FLAT

To flatten out wrinkles or creases, from a rug that has been rolled for shipping, for example, first determine which way the nap lies. Stand at the end of the rug with the nap running toward you, then roll the rug up from your end as tightly as you are able, then slowly unroll and smooth the rug along the way.

RUG PADS

Pads beneath an Oriental rug can prevent sliding, prolong the life of the rug by cushioning the impact between shoe sole and hard floors, and provide comfort under foot. To determine if you need a pad, follow this rule of thumb: A heavy, thick rug does not necessarily need a pad, while a thin, soft rug does, as does an older rug or a rug that has been rewoven or patched of has a weakened foundation. To use a pad or not, often is a personal decision. But if you use a pad, make certain that it is an inch smaller than the rug—not including the fringes—so that the pad will not show.

BLOCKING A RUG

When a rug is out of square or has built-in wrinkles, blocking may help. A rug is sized by turning it over, making it as square as possible, and fastening it down along the edges (We use a staple hammer.) A mixture of sizing and water is sprinkled over the back of the rug, and the rug is allowed to dry. The moisture in the sizing helps equalize tension in the foundation of the rug, and the sizing helps the rug hold its square, flat shape. Note here that even a good quality rug is rarely perfectly rectilinear.

STORAGE

When a rug is stored for more than a few months, it should be cleaned, sprayed with insecticide, and wrapped in protective plastic or tough synthetic paper, like Tyvek building paper. Do not use newspaper or common brown wrapping paper, as these materials are not chemically stable and usually are quite acidic, and do not provide the protection from insects or moisture the stored rug needs. Make certain the rug is completely dry and think twice about using moth balls or flakes as these materials have little repellent effect. Moreover, the odor can prove difficult to remove. Cedar scent is useless here. Store the rug in a clean, dry place out of reach of squirrels and other rodents.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Vacuum your rug often. Rotate end-for-end once in a while. Avoid placing potted plants on the rug. Keep a sharp eye on your pets. Inspect the entire rug periodically for signs of wear or damage.

When you spot a possible problem with your rug that is beyond your ability to rectify, do not hesitate to call our experts at Rouzati Rugs—847-328-0000 for advice and guidance.

And remember: With a bit of proper care, your Oriental rug will provide many years of utility and pride of ownership.