

# Glossary

## All Over Design

A repeating pattern or a design that covers the entire area rug without the use of a border or central medallion.

## Arbrash

A change in the shade of a color within a rug which usually appears in a horizontal line.

## Art Silk

Also called artificial silk refers to the use of polyester, processed (mercerized) cotton or viscose (viscose rayon ) as a substitute for silk.

## Aubusson (Aubuson)

A rug style that began in the 1500's in France as flat weave rugs often with a floral centerpiece created using pastel colors. Popular styles that evolved from Aubusson patterns including the Antoinette, Maison, and Josephine.

## Backing/Backing material

To protect the back of hooked rugs, heavy fabric is secured with latex glue. Also called a "scrim cloth."

## Border

The design which forms the outside edge of a rug and surrounds the field.

## Border Rug

A rug featuring a design on the outer rim, or border, that is a different design or type of carpet in the centre of the rug

## Braided Rug

Yarn or fabric is braided to form a continuous rope or braid which is sewn in a spiral to form a reversible rug.

## Carved Pile

Design or pattern cut or "embossed" into the pile of a rug common in Chinese and Tibetan carpets.

## Carving

Handheld carving tools are used to accentuate details of hooked, tufted and hand knotted rugs, or to create a 3 D effect on solid color rugs.

## Chain Stitch

A crochet stitch used in rug construction that consists of successive loops to lock the final weft in place at the end of a rug.

## Chenille

A fabric commonly used in area rugs that features a thick, luxurious pile.

## Chrome dyes

A quality feature because these synthetic dyes use potassium bichromate to form a permanent bond between the dye and the rug's fiber. Today there are over 600 colors to choose from.

## Contemporary

A catch all phrase for rug designs that are considered modern rather than traditional.

## Cross Woven

Rugs that are constructed using the Wilton loom which weaves side to side instead of top to bottom. These rugs have fringed edges rather than smooth finished edges and often feature delicate patterns made of several colors

## Cut pile

After the yarn is pushed through the canvas in the hooking technique, the loops formed by the yarn are but to leave an open pile.

## Density

This measure of quality in a rug is determined by the amount of yarn and the pile height in a given area of the rug.

## Dhurrie

Called a flatwoven rug, dhurries are usually made of cotton or wool in India using the warp sharing, kelim method.

## Embossed (Area Rug)

A decorative element where areas of the pile are carved to create multi dimension designs.

## Field

The part of a rug's design surrounded by the border. The field may be solid or contain medallions, or an overall pattern.

## Flat Weave

These area rugs do not have a pile or knots. Flat weave rugs can be machine made or hand woven. You can usually see the pattern on both sides of the rug therefore they are often reversible. Kelims, Soumaks and Dhurries are all flat weave rugs.

## Fringe

Decorative threads that hang off the ends of some area rugs, which are treated in several ways to prevent the wefts and knots from unravelling.

## Ground

The color used in the background of a pattern or design on an area rug.

## Hand Knotted

To make a hand knotted area rug, a weaver has to tie each individual knot to the backing, making it truly a one of a kind piece. These rugs are usually made of wool or silk knotted around warps with cotton woven through to hold the knots in place. Because of the long amount of labor that goes into making a hand knotted rug, they are usually the most expensive rugs.

## Hand Made Area Rug

Hand made area rugs are made by a skilled rug maker and can take a great deal of time to make, especially hand knotted area rugs. Besides being hand knotted, hand made area rugs can also be hooked, looped, tufted, or flat woven.

## Handmade Rug

A rug that is either entirely handknotted (or handtufted) and usually made of wool, and which may also include the addition of silk.

## Hand Tufted

To make a hand tufted area rug, a rug maker uses a "tufting gun" to push loops of yarn through the backing. Once finished, a scrim is applied to the backside with glue and then a canvas backing is usually attached to that. The rug is then sheared (cut across the top) cutting the loops to create the pile which is the surface that you see and walk on

## Hooked Rug

Yarns are pushed through the back of a canvas cloth and pulled back through to form a design.

## Knot

Each yarn is knotted through the back of an Oriental rug. The number of knots per square inch is a quality factor in an Oriental rug. The two most common knots are the Persian and the Turkish knot.

## Latex

This glue is used to secure a heavy cloth backing to hooked rugs, and to secure face yarns. Latex backed rugs must not be cleaned using petroleum based solvents.

## Loom

A piece of equipment that is used when knotting or weaving area rugs to hold the warp strands taut.

## Looped

Refers to the pile of a tufted rug when the yarns are passed through the backing from back to front, then front to back, resulting in a loop left intact.

## Machine

Machine made rugs are made on a power loom operated by a machine, computer, or person to produce area. They can be produced in large quantities and with several colors and complex designs.

## Medallion (Area Rug)

A large central focal point or centerpiece on an area rug. Medallions are common on European and oriental rug designs. Typical shapes are circles, diamonds, octagons and hexagons.

# Glossary

## **Modacrylic**

Acrylic yarns that have been modified for added quality and to resist fire.

## **Motif**

Individual or repetitive elements of an area rug's design.

## **Persian Knot**

Looped around one thread with only a half turn around the other thread.

## **Pile**

The surface of the rug, it is sometimes called the "nap" or "face."

## **Pile Height**

The height of the face yarns from the backing to the tip of the piece of yarn.

## **Ply**

One or more yarns are twisted together to form a larger piece of yarn. Ply counts the number of individual yarn pieces comprising the whole.

## **Polypropylene**

A synthetic fiber that is colorfast, mold and mildew resistant, with excellent wearability and is easily cleaned.

## **Rug Pad**

Provides traction between the rug and floor to prevent slipping. It adds padding and keeps the rug smooth, flat and wrinkle free.

## **Runner**

A long, narrow rug, usually under 3 feet wide, primarily used in hallways and on staircases.

## **Sculpted**

A technique in which the pile of a rug is sheared at various heights to create or highlight a pattern.

## **Semi Worsted**

A process of combing area rug fibers to remove shorter fibers, which creates a more lustrous selection of yarn.

## **Setting**

A method of applying heat to twisted tufts of yarn in order to "set" their twisted shape.

## **Shag Rug**

Similar to shag carpet, once popular in the 1970s, shag rugs are now being seen as a contemporary rug style. Shag rugs feature a long pile that is usually made of synthetic fibers.

## **Sheared**

The pile of a tufted rug with yarn loops that are cut into individual yarns, resulting in a carpet like appearance. Also known as "cut."

## **Shedding (Area Rug)**

Where small fibers leftover from the manufacturing process come loose on the surface of an area rug.

## **Sheen (Area Rug)**

Another word for luster. Area rugs can sometimes be given a chemical wash that gives them sheen.

## **Silk (Area Rug)**

Area rugs made of silk fibers from silk worms have a very luxurious look and feel. They are very soft to the touch and can be used on the floor though they are often used as decorative wall pieces because they are very expensive. Real silk rugs should not be confused with art silk rugs.

## **Sisal (Area Rug)**

A very durable, natural fiber made from the pointed leaves of the Sisal plant. The fiber is used to make indoor area rugs that are coarse underfoot.

## **Soumak Weave**

Complicated rugs that are made using a weft wrapping technique where extra wefts of colored wool are added in to create a design or pattern.

## **Sprouting**

During initial use of a braided rug, excess sprouts of yarn may work their way to the surface of the rug. These sprouts should be clipped off at the base with scissors.

## **Staple**

The average length of fibers in a piece of yarn.

## **Traditional (Area Rug)**

Area rugs that are classical or antique.

## **Transitional**

A name that encompasses many different styles of area rugs that have contemporary styles with traditional designs.

## **Tribal Rug**

Area rug designs that were originally woven by tribal people, which sometimes can be described as primitive looking or Southwestern.

## **Turkish Knot**

Tied around two adjacent warp threads.

## **Variegated**

Using multiple colors.

## **Vegetable Dyes**

Natural dyes produced from berries, roots and bark. They are not as colorfast as chrome dyes.

## **Viscose**

a unique form of wood cellulose acetate, created from a combination of natural and man made components.. Viscose rayon has a silky appearance and feel, and also has the ability to breathe in a manner similar to cotton weaves.

## **Warp**

Forming the backbone of a rug, warp yarns are attached to a loom and run the length of an area rug which knots are tied into.

## **Weft**

The yarns woven horizontally through the warps that hold the pile knots in their place.