

8 Decisions, Decisions

Shopping for a carpet or rug? Before you decide, think about how you want your rug to serve you. Do you want it mostly for adding beauty to your home? Do you expect it to hold up under hard wear? Should it be easy to clean? Look for a carpet that suits your taste, needs, and budget.

How much traffic will your carpet get? Carpet in a living room, kitchen, rumpus room, or entrance gets more wear than one in a bedroom or guest room. For these heavy traffic areas, you will want a carpet that wears well. Carpets of lesser quality may be all right for little-used rooms.

Will the carpet be used where children spend a lot of time? Will pets play on it? If so, you know that there will be spills and stains. Get a carpet that does not stain and is easy to clean.

Will the carpet be near sunlight or dampness? If so, you'll want to be sure its colors won't fade and that its fibers won't mildew.

Think about floor coverage. Wall-to-wall carpet has a grand look and tends to give a room a finished appearance. It hides poor flooring and helps to muffle noise. It won't shift when walked upon. And it has no edges to trip over.

On the other hand, a room-fit carpet is cut nearly to the size of the room. The edges of the floor are left showing. It looks almost like wall-to-wall carpet, but it can be removed for cleaning. And, depending on the shape, it can be turned in order to wear evenly. Room-fit carpet usually needs to be laid by rug experts.

Room-size rugs are sold in standard sizes. These may be 9-by-12 feet or 12-by-15 feet. They are easy to put down. They can be shifted for equal wear. They can be easily removed for cleaning.

Area rugs can be used to fill in a spot or to separate one area from another. They can be used over wall-to-wall carpet in heavy traffic places. They are easy to move.

Scatter rugs are usually smaller than 4-by-6 feet. They come in many shapes and styles. Many are washable. Scatter rugs should have nonskid backing to prevent sliding. Choose your rugs carefully, and you'll be happy with your choice.

Recalling Facts

1. When buying a carpet, you should choose one that suits your taste, needs, and
 - a. budget.
 - b. car.
 - c. personality.
2. A living room carpet gets more wear than one in a
 - a. bedroom.
 - b. entrance.
 - c. kitchen.
3. Which kind of rug won't shift when walked upon?
 - a. area rug
 - b. scatter rug
 - c. wall-to-wall carpet
4. Which of the following is a standard size for a room-size rug?
 - a. 4-by-5
 - b. 9-by-12
 - c. 8-by-13
5. Many styles of scatter rugs are
 - a. expensive.
 - b. returnable.
 - c. washable.

Understanding the Passage

6. A carpet of lesser quality might be used in the
 - a. kitchen.
 - b. rumpus room.
 - c. guest room.
7. For a room where children spend a lot of time, you should get a carpet that is
 - a. easy to clean.
 - b. germ free.
 - c. soft and warm.
8. Sunlight might make a carpet
 - a. fade.
 - b. shrink.
 - c. mildew.
9. To keep the noise level in a room down, you should choose
 - a. area rugs.
 - b. scatter rugs.
 - c. wall-to-wall carpet.
10. Scatter rugs should have nonskid backing to prevent a person from
 - a. breaking into the house.
 - b. setting the rug on fire.
 - c. slipping and falling down.