

There are several construction techniques used to create area rugs. Although many manufacturers today use high-speed, accurate machine looms, a great many popular styles are still carefully made by the hands of talented and highly experienced craftspeople



Hand-Knotted



The base for a hand-knotted rug is created when columns of yarns, called the warps, are run vertically on a loom. Tufts of wool are then tied around these warp yarns from side to side to create knots. The ends of these knots become the pile of the rug. Once a row has been completed, yarns called the wefts are threaded horizontally through the warp yarns to tighten the knots and build the foundation.



Hand-Tufted



Tufted rugs and loop-hooked rugs are created by pushing yarns into a fabric base. The back of the rug is then glued to keep the tufts in place. The difference between a tufted and hooked rug is in the pile on the face of the rug. For tufted rugs, the surface pile is cut to produce a dense, plush pile. For hooked rugs, the yarns are left uncut to retain their rounded or looped appearance.



Hand-Hooked



Hand-hooked rugs are made by tufting loops of yarn or fabric through a woven base such as linen or burlap which has been stretched over a frame. The rug design is printed on the base fabric and the loops of yarn are pushed through the fabric. You can distinguish a hand-hooked rug by looking at the backside of the rug. A canvas backing is applied to hooked rugs with an adhesive to hold the yarns together.



Flat-Woven



Flat-woven rugs (sometimes referred to as flat-weaves) can be constructed in a number of ways. In general, the yarn is tightly woven along a foundation structure of warp yarns. As a result, the yarn is flat and without knots, covering both the top and bottom of the rug, making most flat-woven rugs reversible. Traditional Persian kilim rugs are the best known flat-woven rug variety. Kilims can be strictly decorative or can be used as prayer rugs. In recent years they have become popular as floor accents in Western households.



Braided



Braided rugs were almost universal in early, Colonial American homes. They are constructed in a variety of ways including a banded braid construction, cloth braid construction, flat braid construction and yarn braid construction. Braided luxury rugs are usually made of 100% wool and offer an appealing, thick look. A unique feature of most braided rugs is that they are reversible. By periodically flipping a braided luxury rug over, you can effectively double the longevity of the rug.



Power-Loomed



Typically made of synthetic fibers like polyester or polypropylene, power-loomed rugs are machine-made on large electrically powered looms. The machine is computer driven and runs continuously to maximize efficiency which makes this one of the more cost-effective rug constructions. A power-loomed rug has a latex backing to secure everything in place.

| Construction             | Key Features                                       | Durability |
|--------------------------|--|------------|
| Hand-Knotted<br>\$\$\$\$ | QUALITY, LONG-LASTING, VALUABLE                    | 20+ YEARS  |
| Hand-Tufted<br>\$\$      | DURABLE, AFFORDABLE HAND-KNOT ALTERNATIVE          | 3-10 YEARS |
| Hand-Hooked<br>\$\$      | PLUSH, HEAVILY TEXTURE, DETAILED PATTERN           | 3-10 YEARS |
| Flat-Woven<br>\$\$       | LONG-LASTING, LIGHTWEIGHT, REVERSIBLE              | 20+ YEARS  |
| Braided<br>\$\$          | LONG-LASTING, FABRIC WOVEN IN A CONCENTRIC PATTERN | 20+ YEARS  |
| Power-Loomed<br>\$\$     | BUDGET FRIENDLY, KID + PET FRIENDLY, DURABLE       | 3-10 YEARS |