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The Rug Primer

with Fara Kayone
of Abrash Rugs

THROW DOWN: FIVE TIPS FOR BUYING A RUG

1. CONSIDER THE SOURCE.

"I always tell people: If you want to buy a good diamond, you don't go to a store you don't know," says Fara Kayone of Abrash Rugs. Trusting your retailer usually means a better price and quality.

2. WATCH YOUR TONE.

Vegetable-dyed rugs, as opposed to chemically dyed, will develop a horizontal color gradience over time, which is a mark of high quality, according to Kayone. Machine-made rugs are often the same hue all over.

3. ASK HOW IT WAS MADE.

Similarly, a handspun rug will last longer than machine spun because the lanolin oil stays in the wool and helps it last for 200 to 300 years. "It's like hair with conditioner versus no conditioner," Kayone says.

4. DON'T KEEP SCORE.

Surprisingly, knot count is not the most important element to consider for decorative rugs. Even some low-quality rugs will still have a good knot count. "The quality should be in the wool and color and design," she says.

5. DO YOUR RESEARCH.

As with any investment piece, do your research. "I assume that anybody who walks in this store is smarter than me," she says. She is always prepared to offer opinions, but the ultimate choice lies with you.



TURKISH OUSHAK
Mostly wool foundation and wool pile

VINTAGE TURKISH OUSHAK RUG (\$6,900/ESMAILIRUGS.COM)



FLAT-WEAVE KILIM
Affordable and long lasting

VINTAGE AFGHANI KILIM RUG (\$2,900/ESMAILIRUGS.COM)



PERSIAN SULTANABAD
Good quality, decorative rug

DISTRESSED ANTIQUE PERSIAN SULTANABAD RUG (\$14,500/ESMAILIRUGS.COM)



MODERN

"For modern, you should always choose good quality," Kayone says.

MARLEY HAND-KNOTTED RUG (\$4,099/NEIMAN MARCUS)



MOROCCAN

"People like the soft touch and longer pile," Kayone says.

VINTAGE BERBER MOROCCAN RUG (\$2,200/ESMAILIRUGS.COM)



BRINGING IN A NEW RUG?

THE MOVERS AT CURTIS WILL GET IT SQUARED AWAY.

"Sometimes the quality or lack of quality in a rug is not always apparent, so our rule is to treat every rug like it's the most expensive and delicate item we will ever handle," says Jamie Furrate, president of CURTIS SPECIALIZED MOVING & STORAGE. 214-634-0304. csmsusa.com

No. 17 How to Shop for Upholstery



FOR 10 YEARS, Ray Martin has been the third-generation owner of **M&M UPHOLSTERY**. Founded in 1957, the company upholsters pieces in all sorts of fabrics and leathers. Looking to have something custom made or refinished? For starters, he recommends not skimping on the fabric. Shops in the Design District like Kravet and Perennials are lines he often works with. He also recommends springing for that custom piece rather than buying a new piece you want to refinish anyway. "You're not really saving a lot of money by taking something off the floor when you can have something custom fit your room and have a whole array of fabrics to choose from," he says. "We're seeing more color starting to come back." 1233 Medical District Dr. 214-391-4085. mandmupholstery.com



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We don't like to wait, either. Shop for grab-and-go fabric at these stores.

CHILDRESS FABRIC & FURNITURE OUTLET
1908 S. Good Latimer Expy.
214-565-0900

CALICO CORNERS
12370 Inwood Rd.
972-386-5081
calicocorners.com

GOLDEN D'OR FABRICS
10795 Harry Hines Blvd.
214-351-2339
goldendor.com

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