

# The Magic Carpet

Beautiful Rugs from Faraway Places

## The care of your rug or carpet\*

\*Carpets in this context are 3.5m in area or bigger. I shall refer to rugs and carpets as rugs for these notes.

I often am asked “They last forever don’t they?” Hand made rugs are of very varied qualities and some will last for a very long time. Others will disappoint. A lot of our older stock was in an Iranian household perhaps only two years ago. In the rug making countries they are very aware of the time and love that has been given in the making of a good rug and they treasure them. Shoes are rarely worn indoors. Rugs are sometimes layered, hung on the wall or rolled up except for special occasions. The following tips should help you get the most out of your rug.

### Rotation.

If you turn your rug 180 degrees or relocate within the home once a year you will prevent too much wear becoming evident on any part.

### Reducing ultra violet light.

If you do not have u/v excluding glass you can have an appropriate film applied to strategic windows. We had windows so treated ten years ago and were hardly aware of the very slight colour change. It is not expensive but very effective. We used A1 Window Tinting

in Napier and can recommend them. UV light enters even South facing windows.

### Beating.

Once or twice a year turn the rug face down in the yard or on a verandah and tap all over with a stick to dislodge grit from the base of the pile. Grit can cut pile if left. In some colder climates rugs are beaten over snow but not wet snow I presume.

### Vacuuming.

Some experts warn against vacuuming at all. Others say only at reduced power but all of these agree that vacuuming should only be with, not against, the pile and never on the fringe.

### Cleaning.

At home we use Dri-Cleena-ene a carpet cleaning product that is sprinkled and brushed into the rug, left for an hour and then vacuumed of. It penetrates well and the floor underneath and the back of the rug will need vacuuming as well.

### Washing.

You should know first that all colours are fast. This can be checked with a damp cotton swab. Sodium Laurel Sulphate as found in baby shampoo or baby shampoo is often used. Press as much water out after as possible with towels and leave in a breeze way to dry. Washing is not easy and has its dangers for the rug. We recommend sending to a specialist washer. Most rug dealers would direct you appropriately. Rugs with woollen warps can distort with washing.

### Spotting.

With a spill proceed in accordance with advice from a household laundry chart if available or phone a carpet cleaner for advice. We have found Jae Services in Napier to be very helpful and well informed in the care of hand made rugs.

### Repairs and Restoration.

Should only be entrusted to a specialist. We have three people we can recommend.

### A no shoes policy.

Perhaps not for visitors but wear will be greatly reduced if the family does not wear shoes in the house.

Nick Powrie-The Magic Carpet.