

# Ask *the* Experts



## **Pride of Persia Rug Co.**

Persian Rugs

### **If you have an odd size space for a rug, what is the best way to find a custom rug?**

Can you accommodate a "standard" size? Excluding smalls and runners, most rugs fall into these categories: 6'x9', 7'x10', 8'x10', 9'x12', 10'x13', 12'x15' to 12'x18', and 13' x 20'. Measure your space for minimum and maximum, then look for a rug in that size range. Readily available sizes afford you more choices and better prices. Avoid rounds and squares unless absolutely necessary.

A hand-woven custom rug might not turn out as you anticipated. You could wait six months to a year for a rug that arrives with the wrong colors, size, or pattern.

The last resort is customizing, or sizing, an existing rug by cutting it. Sacrificing a commercial quality rug for size is no great sin, but it drastically reduces its value. Amputation – chopping off excess – is often the easiest but least legitimate solution. The rug expert performs plastic surgery, determining where to cut and how to reattach the pieces, leaving the pattern intact and the scar hidden.

If you must have an "odd" size rug, search and wait, and be flexible, especially regarding price. The rug market offers tremendous variety. Given time and resources, locating an unusual size rug is often possible.

*For more than a decade, Mehdi Abedi and Lisa Slappey have taught "The World of Persian Rugs" through Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. They are the owners of Pride of Persia Rug Co., which specializes in older Persian rugs along with high-quality newer rugs from around the world.*

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