

# Ask the Experts



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

Persian Rugs

### **My rug needs to be washed. Is it okay to hose it down in my driveway?**

No! Certain things are best left to professionals. Rug washing is one of them. Hand washing is better than machine washing; this is a labor-intensive job with several steps. Before washing, the accumulated dust and sand must be extracted from the foundation. Then the rug must be spot cleaned and tested for colorfastness. Rugs are generally heavy, but they are much heavier when wet. Extracting the water is a crucial step. After washing, brushing and another round of vacuuming are required. The rug can be put back on the floor only when it is completely dry. Improper washing can result in color run, pile disturbance, and rippling in the foundation. Even under the best of conditions, there is an element of risk in cleaning rugs.

### **How often should I clean my rug?**

Under most circumstances, rugs should be professionally washed once every seven to 10 years. Vacuum your rugs regularly, and spot clean when necessary. Perhaps once a year, turn the rug upside down and vacuum from the back to remove dirt from the foundation. If your rug needs repair, the best time to do this is right after the rug is washed, so that the colors can be matched properly.

*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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