

Ask the Experts



Pride of Persia Rug Co.

How do you care for a wool rug? What services should be performed by a professional?

Although professionals provide services such as cleaning and repair, rug owners can help maintain their rugs with a little attention. Vacuum wool rugs occasionally, making sure not to catch the fringe in the vacuum. Both sides of rugs should be professionally washed every 7-10 years. Periodically inspect the sides and ends of your rug for fraying, and be certain to guard against moths, silverfish and roaches. With routine maintenance, Persian rugs should last for generations.

How do I protect my rug from moth damage?

Rugs woven on wool foundations are especially vulnerable. Moths want to feel secure, so try not to provide them with a congenial environment. They dislike light, activity and the aroma of cedar wood. Use your rug rather than storing it under a bed, in the attic or in a dark closet. If a heavy piece of furniture, such as a trunk, buffet or bed, covers part of the rug, check underneath periodically for moth activity. Using cedar chips or moth spray can help prevent an infestation.

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.

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