

Ask *the* Experts



Pride of Persia Rug Co.
Persian Rugs

Are Oriental rugs durable for outdoors?

If you live in an arid area with predictable weather, the answer is "maybe." If you happen to live in a place like Houston, unpredictable weather often includes torrential downpours, our response to using a handmade rug outside is a resounding "No!"

Traditional rug materials (cotton, wool, silk) are not waterproof.

Those of you who have been to Iran may have seen rugs used outside, perhaps even strewn about the streets. At least you have heard such stories. Even these scenes must be seasonally and geographically appropriate. Most areas in Iran have four seasons, and summer rain is a rarity. Rugs are much more likely to appear outdoors in Isfahan or Mashad than in the wetter climate of Rasht near the Caspian Sea.

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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