

Ask *the* Experts



Pride of Persia Rug Co.
Persian Rugs

What is the difference between knotted and tufted?

Hand-tufted rugs cannot be defined as hand-knotted, hand-woven, or handmade. Strictly speaking, handmade rugs are woven of individual knots, known as either Senneh (Persian) or Turkish knots, tied on warp strands of the foundation. To construct a hand-tufted rug, clumps or "tufts" of material (usually wool or a synthetic fiber) are shot with a gun through a pre-fabricated canvas base. The design is already printed on the canvas. The resulting loops are sheared to create the effect of individual strands of wool, and glue is applied to the back to secure the tufts of pile. Often, a second canvas backing is added to cover the unsightly glue from the buyer's view. These rugs are termed "hand" tufted because a person's hand holds and shoots the tufting gun.

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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