

FERREIRA DE SÁ

LUXURY RUGS SINCE 1946

ECHOES
In/Outdoor Collection
Clean and Care Guide

Outdoor Rug Clean and Care Guide



Proper care for your outdoor rugs goes beyond mere cleaning; it involves preserving their beauty and prolonging their lifespan against the challenges of outdoor conditions.

At Ferreira de Sá, we recognize that your outdoor areas are an extension of your indoor spaces, and our rugs are crafted to elevate these environments while enduring the demands of outdoor usage.

Rug Care Routine

Frequent Vacuuming

Regular vacuuming is crucial for outdoor rugs to remove surface dirt and debris, which can embed deeper into the fibers over time. Vacuum at least once a week, and more frequently if the rug is in a high-traffic area.

Immediate Spot Cleaning

Address spills and stains promptly to prevent them from setting into the fibers. Use a soft brush and a cleaning solution appropriate for your rug's material. Always test your cleaning solution on a small, inconspicuous area of the rug first to ensure there is no discoloration or damage to the fibers. Gently dab rather than scrub to avoid damaging the fibers. For a more intense and effective cleaning, use a specialized cleaning company.

Seasonal Deep Cleaning/ Annual Professional Cleaning

Once a year, give your outdoor rug a deep clean to manage deeper soil and stains that household cleaning cannot fully remove. While daily maintenance helps, seasonal deep and professional cleaning service is essential for deep cleaning and removing embedded dirt, despite the frequency of professional cleaning depends on factors like the rug's usage and location.

Routine Rotation

Rotate your rug periodically to distribute wear evenly, especially if parts of the rug are under furniture or receive uneven sunlight.

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Inspections for Damage

Regularly inspect your rug for signs of wear or tear. Early detection can prevent minor issues from becoming major problems.

Utilize Rug Underlay

There are many underlay models on the market. We recommend underlays with non-slip backing and weather resistance. Using an underlay beneath your outdoor rug prevents slipping, enhances comfort with added cushioning, and promotes airflow, helping to reduce the risk of mold and mildew.

Optimal Storage Solutions and Seasonal Considerations

One of the simplest steps in caring for a rug involves proper storage at the appropriate times of the year, which, if overlooked, can hasten the rug's deterioration. It is advisable to perform a final thorough cleaning, ensuring the rug is completely dry on both sides (preferably by hanging it in sunlight), rolling it up, and storing it indoors.

Given harsh weather conditions, especially during winter or periods of heavy rain that could potentially saturate the rug, it is highly recommended to store it indoors. This prevents damage and keeps the rug in ready-to-use condition for the next season. It's important to note that a rug should never be folded.

Always roll your rug for storage to avoid permanent creases and damage. Preferably, roll it into a tube as tightly as possible and then secure it with ropes or straps to keep it tightly rolled in a clean, dry room.

Additional Considerations for Tufted Rugs

While tufted rugs from the Echoes In/Outdoor Collection are designed to complement both indoor and semi-outdoor spaces, it's essential to ensure they are placed in covered areas. These rugs are not intended for direct exposure to rain or prolonged moisture. To preserve their quality and appearance, we recommend using them in locations with adequate shelter, such as patios with roofs, verandas, or other covered outdoor areas. This ensures they maintain their durability and aesthetic appeal over time.

Cleaning Guide for Outdoor Rugs

1. Pre-Cleaning Preparation

Begin by wearing protective gear such as gloves and a dust mask. This will shield you from dust and allergens during the cleaning process.

2. Removing Loose Dirt

Shake the rug to dislodge dirt. For larger rugs, hang them over a fence or railing and beat them with a broom to remove embedded debris. This step is crucial for preventing surface dirt from becoming ingrained during the wet cleaning process.

3. Vacuuming

Thoroughly vacuum both sides of the rug. Use a good vacuum cleaner to effectively remove all fine particles and dust. If available, use an upholstery attachment or a wet/dry vacuum for optimal results, especially to address pet hair and deep-seated dirt.

4. Washing and Scrubbing*

Rugs crafted from materials like polypropylene are specifically designed to be low-maintenance and can be cleaned using a simpler method. Simply clean the rug with water to remove surface dirt and debris. For more persistent stains or accumulated grime, you can spray a mild cleaning solution, such as water with a neutral pH soap or a non-ionic detergent, onto the rug before rinsing.

Scrubbing might not be necessary unless there are stubborn stains; in such cases, use a soft brush to gently treat the affected areas or contact a specialized cleaning company.

Avoid using cleaning methods that involve high temperatures (above 30°C). Refrain from using chlorine-based detergents and bleaches, as they can cause color fading and expedite the deterioration of the rug.

**Always test your cleaning solution on a small, inconspicuous area of the rug first to ensure there is no discoloration or damage to the fibers. After washing, rinse the rug thoroughly with clean water to remove all soap residues, as these can attract dirt and promote residue buildup.*

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5. Rinsing

After you've finished scrubbing the rug, it's crucial to rinse it thoroughly to remove any residual cleaning agents. Start by making sure the dirt and soap were removed after washing. Perform this rinsing step on an inclined surface such as a driveway or a sloped yard. This positioning helps ensure that water doesn't pool on the rug but instead flows off it, carrying away dirt and soap residue efficiently. An effective rinse helps prevent any soap buildup, which can attract more dirt over time and potentially damage the rug fibers.

6. Drying

Once the rug is thoroughly rinsed, the next step is to dry it properly to prevent any mold or mildew from forming, which is essential for maintaining the rug's quality and longevity. If you have enough space and the weather permits, hanging the rug over a clothesline is an ideal way to dry it. This method allows air to circulate around the rug, speeding up the drying process and ensuring that no moisture remains trapped within the fibers.

If hanging the rug isn't an option, laying it flat on a clean, dry surface is an effective alternative. Avoid draping rugs over railings, as they might lose shape as they dry, or transfer color from the railing. Ensure that the rug is completely dry on both sides before using it or storing it away. Turning the rug periodically while it dries flat will help ensure that both sides dry evenly and completely.

7. Store or Place Rug

7.1. Storage Considerations

If storing the rug, roll it tightly and secure with ropes or stretch cords. Store in a dry, cool place, where it is protected from the elements. If indoor space is limited and you must store the rug outside, such as on a deck or in a shed, ensure it is well-protected. Covering the rug with plastic or placing it under a tarp can shield it from moisture, debris, and the deteriorating effects of the elements. However, it's best to store rugs in a dry, sheltered area to prevent any potential water damage. Consider using a breathable cover or a tarp to protect the rug from dust and moisture.

If the rug is stored indoors, ensure it is placed in an area free from dampness or direct heat sources.

7.2. Reinstallation Process

Before reinstalling your cleaned outdoor rug, make sure the underlying surface is pristine. This may require pressure-washing a deck or rinsing a concrete patio to ensure no dirt transfers back to the rug. A clean base enhances the appearance and condition of your rug when it is laid back down.