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# GALLATIN VALLEY

## FURNITURE CARPET ONE

Bozeman Montana

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### Area Rugs Characteristics & Features

Area Rugs can be a great way to add color and characteristic to your home. There is a variety of area rugs constructed from different materials and patterns. Your area rug should perform well in addition to looking great. We have provided general information and photos below about construction features, methods, and fibers used to help you identify the type of rug your are looking for.

**Rug Characteristics** – The amount of density, twist and type of fiber(s) used in a rug will determine how durable an area rug will perform and it's ability to retain it's color.

- **Density** refers to the tightness of the tufts, or knots. The denser the weave, the better the area rug will wear.
- **Twist** refers to the amount of yarn spirals. A yarn twist that is tighter provides added durability.
- **Fiber** for area rugs may be from a variety of synthetic or natural materials, which will help determine performance and appearance. Natural fibers provide soft, low luster colors and long-term performance. Synthetic fibers provide brilliant colors, softness, easy maintenance and value.

**Construction Methods** - Area rugs may be machine-made, hand-hooked, hand-tufted, hand-knotted, a flat weave or braided.

- **Hand-Made Area Rugs**

In addition to traditional hand-made area rugs, Asia and other countries also produce many hand-made contemporary area rugs. There are different types of hand-made area rugs: knotted, tufted, hooked, looped and flat weave. Rug construction alone does not dictate area rug quality, factors such as density, material and weave should also be considered when selecting an area rug.

- **Hand-Knotted Area Rugs**

Hand knotted area rugs are woven by hand; and depending on size, construction and density, one area rug could take a year or more to complete. Hand-knotted area rugs are secured to the foundation by knotting, versus gluing, producing exceptional density and quality.



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- **Hand-Hooked Area Rugs**

Using a pattern and a hooking device, yarn is punched through a canvas cloth creating a looped pile. The yarns are then glued in place in lieu of knotting, and a cloth is attached to the back.

- **Hand-Tufted Area Rugs**

Hand-tufted area rugs are usually created by punching yarn in a cloth that is attached to a frame, and then gluing the backs with latex after hooking the yarn. The surface loop pile is then sheared to produce a flat surface. This process creates an area rug that is very plush, generally less expensive and easier to make than hand-knotted area rugs.

- **Flat Weave Area Rugs**

Flat weave area rugs are less expensive, easier to make and are usually made of wool, cotton, bamboo, or nylon. Because they are looped, flat weave area rugs do not have a pile and are reversible. This category also includes Kilims, Dhurries and Soumaks.

- **Braided Area Rugs**

Braided area rugs are constructed in several different ways, including tape, tubular, yarn and flat. In the tradition of early America from which braided area rugs were created, these area rugs may be woven with many different materials such as wool, clothing, old blankets, nylon and blends.

- **Machine-Made Area Rugs**

These area rugs are made on power looms by hand, machine or computer. The loom is strung with a cotton or jute warp, and then woven using nylon, polypropylene, wool or other material. Computer operated machines produce a number of contemporary designs in various sizes and colors from a predetermined design. More than 40 shades can be achieved in a single area rug using a cross-weaving technique. Machine-made area rugs have become very popular due to the variety of sizes, colors, designs, lower pricing and availability. Machine-made area rugs are woven on Wilton, side-woven Wilton and Gripper Axminster looms.

- **Wilton Woven**

Wilton looms are situated face-to-face and feature computerized electronic heads. The loom needles loop the yarns in two synthetic backings. Loom size and structure vary based on number of color capacities. Two identical area rugs emerge from the loom once the weaving process is complete and the rug is cut in half.



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- **Wilton Side Woven**

The Wilton side-woven area rugs are woven in a similar fashion, but at a 90 degree angle to the above area rugs. On occasion, cotton backing is to give these area rugs a softer feel.

- **Axminster**

Axminster more commonly refers to a type of carpet rather than a type of loom, although the Gripper Axminster loom was created to mass produce carpet in 1927.

**Fibers Used in Area Rugs** - There are six general types of fiber:

*Natural Fibers:*

- **Wool:** Wool is soft and extremely resilient. Wool provides strength, versatility, and variety and is available in many colors. It happens to also be naturally stain resistant, non-toxic, non-allergenic flame-retardant, and is a natural insulator
- **Cotton:** Cotton is available in many colors, provides softness and good performance.

*Synthetic Fibers:*

- **Nylon:** Nylon is manufactured in an unlimited variety of colors, resists soil and is easily cleaned. The resilient nature of nylon withstands the weight of furniture and heavy traffic.
- **Olefin (Polypropylene):** Olefin is the predominant machine-woven synthetic fiber. Olefin has a soft wool-like feel, but resists wear and stains while being colorfast, strong and affordable.
- **Polyester:** Polyester provides softness when constructed into thick, cut pile textures for area rugs and durability in furniture fabrics.
- **Acrylic:** Acrylic can be blended with other fibers to provide the look of wool at a lower costs.
- **Blends:** Any of the above natural and synthetic fibers may be blended. Synthetic fibers such as olefin and nylon are petroleum products, while rayon - a man-made alternative to silk - is synthesized from cellulose found in trees. Animal-derived natural fibers include wool spun from sheep, goats, llama and alpaca. Plants produce natural fibers such as sea grass, jute, flax and cotton.

