

Rug Fiber & Construction Guide

Designer Reference for Performance, Texture & Application

Hirshfield's Design Resource



WOOL

Performance Notes

- Naturally durable
- Soft Underfoot
- Excellent resilience and recovery
- Naturally stain resistant due to lanolin oils
- Great insulation and sound absorption
- Performs well in high-end residential spaces

Best Applications

- Living rooms
- Bedrooms
- Formal Spaces
- Layered Interiors

Considerations

- Higher investment price point
- Some Shedding initially
- Avoid prolonged moisture exposure

Common Construction Types

- Hand-knotted
- Hand-Tufted
- Hand-Loomed
- Flatweave
- Axminster

Overall Feel

Organic, textural. architectural



SISAL

Performance Notes

- Extremely durable
- Excellent for high traffic
- Strong natural texture
- Add organic warmth
- Great foundational layering rug

Best Applications

- Living rooms
- Hallways
- Stair runners
- Layering bases

Considerations

- Can feel rough underfoot
- Sensitive to moisture/staining
- Less softness than wool

Common Construction Types

- Woven
- Flatweave
- Bound broadloom
- Custom fabricated rugs

Overall Feel

Organic, textural. architectural



JUTE

Performance Notes

- Softer than sisal
- Relaxed casual texture
- Ideal for layering
- Budget-friendly natural fiber

Best Applications

- Bedrooms
- Casual living spaces
- Layering interiors

Considerations

- Less durable than sisal
- Can shed
- Not ideal for heavy traffic

Common Construction Types

- Handwoven
- Braided
- Chunky Weave
- Flatweave

Overall Feel

Soft, relaxed, coastal-organic



NYLON

Performance Notes

- One of the best performance fibers
- Highly stain resistant
- Excellent durability
- Strong resilience and recovery
- Great for busy households

Best Applications

- Family rooms
- Stairs
- Hallways
- Performance-driven projects

Considerations

- Less natural texture
- Can feel more commercial depending on construction

Common Construction Types

- Machine woven
- Tufted
- Broadloom
- Performance woven

Overall Feel

Durable, practical, versatile



POLYESTER

Performance Notes

- Soft hand feel
- Excellent color clarity
- fade resistant
- Budget conscious option

Best Applications

- Bedrooms
- Low traffic areas
- Decorative rugs

Considerations

- Lower resilience than nylon
- Can crush under heavy furniture
- Less longevity in high traffic

Common Construction Types

- Power loomed
- Machine woven
- Tufted

Overall Feel

Soft, approachable, decorative



POLYPROPYLENE/OLEFIN

Performance Notes

- Excellent stain resistance
- Moisture resistant
- Great indoor/outdoor performance
- Easy Maintenance

Best Applications

- Outdoor spaces
- Mudrooms
- Casual family spaces
- Performance applications

Considerations

- Lower-end construction can feel less refined
- May flatten over time

Common Construction Types

- Machine woven
- Flatweave
- Indoor/outdoor woven
- Performance rugs

Overall Feel

Casual, functional, family friendly



SILK

Performance Notes

- Exceptional softness and sheen
- Highly luxurious appearance
- Fine detailing and craftsmanship

Best Applications

- Formal rooms
- Decorative Layering
- Low traffic luxury interiors

Considerations

- Delicate fiber
- Requires professional care
- Higher investment

Common Construction Types

- Hand-knotted
- Persian-style weaving
- Blended artisan rugs

Overall Feel

Ultra-luxury, sophisticated, artisanal



PERFORMANCE BLENDS

Performance Notes

- Combines softness with durability
- Often blends wool + synthetic fibers
- Better stain resistance than pure natural fibers
- Improved longevity

Best Applications

- Family-friendly luxury interiors
- Open-concept spaces
- Everyday living

Considerations

- Performance varies by blend ratio
- Texture differs by manufacturer

Common Construction Types

- Hand-knotted
- Tufted
- Machine woven
- Hybrid construction

Overall Feel

Balanced, versatile, designer-friendly



CONSTRUCTION TYPES EXPLAINED

Hand-Knotted

- Highest level of craftsmanship
- Extremely durable
- Time-intensive artisan process
- Often heirloom quality

Best For

Luxury and long-term investment pieces

Hand-Tufted

- Softer and more affordable than hand-knotted
- Plush texture
- Faster production timeline

Best for

Organic modern and transitional spaces

Flatweave

- Low profile
- Easy layering
- Great for casual or high-traffic areas

Best for

Layering and everyday functionality

Power Loomed / Machine Woven

- Highly consistent construction
- Performance-driven
- More budget flexible

Best for

family friendly and large scale projects

Broadloom Fabricated Rugs

- Custom-sized from carpet material
- Finished with binding or serging
- Excellent flexibility

Best for

Large rooms, stair runners, custom sizing



Designer Quick Recommendations

Need	Recommended Fiber
Luxury softness	Wool
High traffic durability	Nylon
Organic texture	Sisal
Relaxed layering	Jute
Indoor/outdoor use	Polypropylene
Formal elegance	Silk or Viscose
Family-friendly luxury	Performance Blends



Featured Rug Partners

Kalaty

HRI

Prestige Mills

Stanton

Dash & Albert

Kaleen

Rebel



The right rug does more than complete a room - it shapes how the space feels.

From grounding large open-concept interiors to adding softness, texture, and visual balance, rugs play an essential role in creating layered, welcoming environments.

Understanding fiber types, construction methods, and performance characteristics allows designers to make selections that not only look beautiful, but also support the way clients live every day.

Whether the goal is relaxed organic texture, refined luxury, family-friendly durability, or statement-making design, thoughtful rug selection creates a stronger foundation for the entire project.

At Hirshfield's Design Resource, we're here to help simplify the process with curated rug partners, sourcing assistance, custom options, and designer-focused support tailored to each project's needs.

