

# FIBER FACTS



## Rug Pad... Best Friend to Your Rug AND the Floor Underneath

Wall-to-wall flooring preferences and styles, especially in high-end residential interiors, shifted long ago in favor of hard surfaces such as wood, stone and tile. The availability of less-expensive but still very attractive wood-look laminate flooring helped accelerate this trend.

Another important factor in the shift toward hard floors was the availability of beautiful rugs to add a personal touch to these spaces. Today, the amazing variety of shapes, sizes and designs—including custom products—makes rug shopping more exciting than ever.

### Rug Pad is Not a Luxury

We are sometimes asked by clients if a rug pad is actually necessary. The answer is “Yes.” The most important advantages are:

1. *Safety.* A good rug pad will grip the area rug to help it from sliding and shifting underfoot.
2. *Cushioning.* Like the cushion under a wall-to-wall carpet, a rug pad offers greater softness underfoot and helps lessen wear and tear by absorbing a portion of the impact from foot traffic.

3. *Protection.* Think of a pad as a layer of protection between the rug and the floor. Dust and dirt that falls through the rug lands on the pad and is trapped there. It does not get ground into the floor underneath. This is one reason why we prefer solid rug pads over those that have holes.



### Types of Pad

Different types of pad offer various features. In general, there are three primary types of quality pads:

*Non-Slip rug pads* have a low profile and are designed to keep rugs from slipping, bunching, and wrinkling by

gripping both rugs and floors firmly. These pads can be used with all rug types and sizes. Note: Non-slip rug pads sometimes feature a sticky or tacky surface. Avoid this type of pad. The adhesives on these pads can transfer over time, leaving residue behind.

*Cushioned rug pads* make your rugs more comfortable and luxurious to walk and even sit on. This type of pad is typically useful for larger rugs that are anchored down by furniture. Grip is less important in these situations.

*Cushion + Grip rug pads* offer all of the full range of benefits: safety, cushioning and protection. For this reason, these are among the most popular of the quality pads.

### Beware Cheap Imported Pads

Many rug pads, especially plastic-type “waffle” products manufactured overseas, can actually do more harm than good. Created to fill a niche at the lower end of the market, the quality of these pads is often suspect.

Many of these imported rug pads are made from PVC and contain



chemicals/plasticizers that can break down and react with the floor underneath, especially those with glossy finishes such as polyurethane, vinyl, acrylic and lacquer. The result is a residual imprint of the pad on the floor. This problem can be difficult or impossible to correct.

### **Quick Tip**

No matter what type of pad is used, it's probably a good idea to occasionally fold back a corner of the rug and lift the pad to check on the floor. In most cases, there will be nothing to see... but better to be safe than sorry.

### **Need Help?**

Oriental, flat wovens, or anything in between... If you need help choosing a quality rug pad, your local Fiber-Seal Service Center is at your service. Of course, we can also provide our exclusive protective treatment and cleaning services. We're here to help!

### **Designers' Corner**

Visit [www.FiberSeal.com](http://www.FiberSeal.com) to see what's new! Lots of great information can be found in Designers' Corner, including back issues of FIBERFACTS.

### **You can also connect with us on our social media networks!**

