

Distressed Rugs

Hand knotted rugs have long been an art form cherished for their quality and elegance. As quality rugs age they develop a patina to them which adds to their character and desirability. This is often why old rugs can have a higher price tag as the natural wear and polish has developed a look somewhat different than when the rug came off the loom.

Types of Distressed Treatment

Rugs of all construction type and material can have a light dye applied over the surface to calm the vibrancy of the colors. In some cases, this dye is simply sprayed over the surface and can easily be washed out. For others, the rugs are dyed in a giant dye bath and have much more stable colors which will withstand wash and spotting. For the rug cleaner it can be hard to tell how your rug was dyed meaning occasionally a rug can come out brighter and with more vibrant colors than the rug you originally purchased. In other cases, rug producers and sellers are not adding color, but rather taking them out. Dye stripping is a common practice in rug washing, however some extreme stripping processes leave the foundation and pile in great distress and a weakened state. Once again, after these rugs are stripped out a dye is usually applied to even out the color and bring the rug to a sellable color pallet. Any colors which were intended to stay but were stripped out in the chemical process, such as the blue outline of a flower, will be painted or airbrushed back in and generally are not color fast.

Each of these processes can be applied to both new and old rugs and sold as “antique” or “vintage”. Some producers have successfully developed a process which achieves these looks without compromise to the structural integrity of the rug. However, many dealers have resorted to inexpensive and extreme processes which have degraded the rugs integrity to nothing more than a style with no intent of providing you with a rug which will last generations. It is important to remember that a high price tag does not mean that a rug is of higher quality and will not succumb to negative outcome when spotting or cleaning. Today a rugs “value” or price is primarily based on its salability and style.

Processing for Popularity

- Over the years, specific rug types and origins have become increasing desirable for the appearance they develop with this natural aging process. To satisfy the market, and produce rugs that will sell quickly, rug makers have resorted to chemically aging not only new production rugs, but also old rugs which no longer meeting the markets demand. The result of this process can effect the rugs strength and color particularly when addressing cleaning and stains.
- Post weaving finishing to create a desired look has long been a practice of the rug production process. In fact, if you saw any of your hand knotted rug the moment it came off the loom, you probably wouldn't recognized it at all. Every rug goes through a wash and finishing process to enhance the look of the rug and make it market ready.

ARCS
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Distressed Rug



Color Stripped Antique Rug