

# Painted & Overdyed Rugs

**T**here are many reasons rugs get painted or overdyed. Rugs that become worn or “out of style” might receive treatments to hide age, defects, white knots, or even to change the appearance of the piece altogether. This could be done by a dealer trying to sell an old, beat up piece by hiding the damage or wear. A rug owner might request the service from a cleaner to hide the obvious exposed foundation. A wholesaler may decide to change an entire lot of aging inventory altogether to a more “modern” color scheme to get them ready for market.

## Painted Rugs

Regardless of why it is done, oftentimes these paints/dyes are not wash-fast and can pose or expose issues when they get wet, as in the cleaning process. There is no consistent formula or method for “painting,” so often it is what is available at the time: markers, sharpies, acrylic paints, inks, etc. Some of these options can be color fast, others can completely wash out, while others still might become problematic and run colors into adjacent areas.

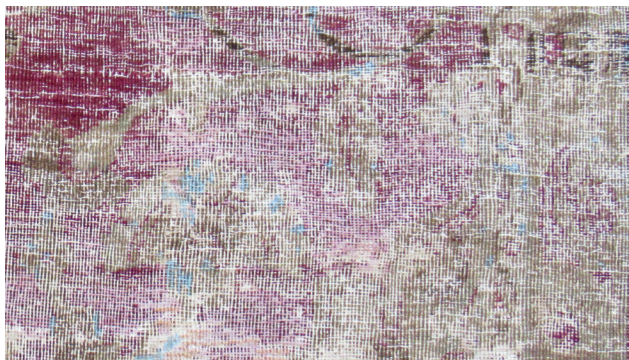
## Overdyed Rugs

Overdyed rugs are usually older pieces that are shorn down to the foundation and dyed all over with a solid color to change the appearance. As with painting, there are no rules on what is used, and the results can range from great wash fastness to color loss or splotchiness when cleaned. Also, in the case of overdyeing, both cottons and wools are tinted, but very few dyes are designed to be permanent on both fiber types.

## Wash Floor Contingencies

- For painted rugs, since the painting is usually used to hide damage or defects, its goal is to be invisible so sometimes it can go completely unnoticed until there is a reaction on the wash floor.
- For overdyed rugs, careful testing can sometimes get an idea of what might happen on the wash floor.

**ARCS**  
ASSOCIATION OF RUG CARE SPECIALISTS



Low Pile Rug with Painted Foundation



Rug Painting Process