



Rug Odor

Rugs travel from all over the world to your home where you roll it out and it looks great. But after spending some time with your new rug you start to notice the room smell different. In some cases, the odor fades and we become accustomed to the new environment in the room. But when it doesn't, the first thing you want to know is "why?". Because not all rugs are made the same, it can be difficult to nail down the exact source of the smell. Even some which have the same construction style can have different processes used after the rug is completed to achieve a desired look. Here are some of the more common sources of rug odors.

Common Sources of Rug Odors

The most common odor we see in the rug industry is with what are called "tufted rugs". Tufted rugs are constructed with a latex (or synthetic latex) backing and can usually be identified by the canvas like backing that is applied to the back of the rug. This backing is covering the latex which holds the face yarns in place and give "body" to the rug (See Latex Flyer). With this type of rug construction, the odor is generally coming from the latex glue and cannot be corrected.

In today's modern design, many rugs are chemically treated to remove color from the rug. What was once a brightly colored rug when it came off the look is bleached out to give a more designer look to the rug (See Distressed Rugs Flyer). In some cases, these chemicals can leave an odor in the rug.

Occasionally, odors can be washed out of the rug or neutralized. However, even though the odor is treated is not uncommon for the smell to become noticeable again after its next wash. This can explain when a rug comes back from cleaning with a bit of an odor. It is likely the odor is neutralized or covered up after the chemical process where the rug was woven, then the wash removed this odorant.

Addressing Rug Odors

Many old rugs, particularly those with thick pile, can harbor a lot of dust and soil from years of use. Even with all the dusting and washing a rug can handle, it may not be possible to remove 100% of this contaminant. When the rug is cleaned, the contaminants in the rug can be activated and release an odor which may have been either covered by an odorant or may have not been noticed before. Generally, additional dusting can resolve these types of odors.

Be Aware of Odd Smells

- A rug washing plant is full of all kinds of smells from the various rugs in process meaning occasionally your rug care specialist cannot identify this odor until it is in the home.
- It is important to contact your rug cleaner as soon as possible so they can assess any odor that may be different from before.
- If you have received a new rug, or new to you, and something smells off, contact your rug cleaner to see if they have a viable option to correct any off-putting odor.

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