



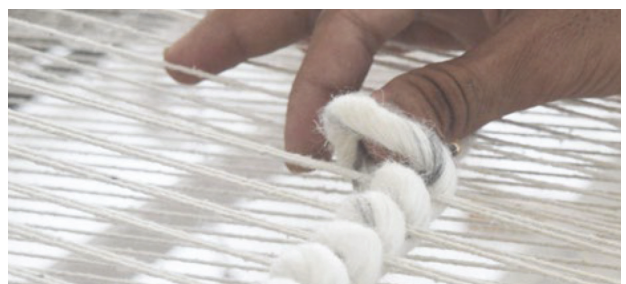
ADVICE ARTICLE:

Layer by layer

How to choose the perfect rug

A rug can anchor a room, soften an echo, or transform a scheme with colour and texture but with so many shapes, styles and fibres available, it's easy to feel overwhelmed.

At Burlwood & Lye, we see rugs not as afterthoughts, but as essential design elements. Here's what to consider when choosing the perfect one for your space.



Start with Purpose and Placement

A rug should work hard in a space visually and practically. Consider where it will sit and what role it plays:

Accent rugs highlight a piece of furniture and add definition.

Cohesion rugs unify seating areas — large enough to sit under front furniture legs.

Statement rugs make a bold focal point, ideally left free of furniture.

Runners add softness and durability to hallways and narrow spaces.

Expansive rugs can replicate the feel of a fitted carpet without the commitment.

Get the Size Right

Scale is key. In living rooms, rugs that are too small can visually shrink a space. Aim for one that's wider than the sofa and long enough to sit under its front legs. In dining rooms, allow generous space for pulling chairs in and out.



Think Shape and Layout

Rectangular rugs are a classic choice, but round, oval or irregular shapes can bring dynamism and help define

zones — especially in open-plan spaces. Overlaying multiple rugs is another creative way to introduce texture and informality.

Choose Colour with Intention

Treat your rug as a fifth wall. An element that can inspire or support your colour palette. Dark tones add intimacy and depth; lighter shades reflect natural light and open up the room. Use it to connect or contrast with wall colours, furniture or artwork.



Play with pattern

Whether you lean towards quiet minimalism or joyful pattern clashes, rugs are a great way to express style. From geometric and striped to earthy, wellness-inspired palettes, a patterned rug can lift a space without the commitment of decorating.

Select the right texture and weave

Cut pile rugs are soft and luxurious — ideal for comfort underfoot.

Loop pile is more durable, perfect for high-traffic zones (though less pet-friendly).

Flatweave or kilim rugs are lightweight, reversible and great for kitchens or conservatories.

Shag pile adds depth and cosiness, while braided rugs bring relaxed, organic character.

Need help finding the perfect rug?

Our team at the Burlwood & Lye Design Centre is here to guide you through every option — from bespoke pieces and luxury natural fibres to high-performance runners and layered looks for every room.

Material Matters

Natural or synthetic? Both have their place

Wool, cotton, silk and jute are breathable and tactile but vary in durability and feel.

Synthetic fibres like polypropylene and viscose offer stain-resistance and are easy to clean — great for busy households.

Plant-based fibres and recycled materials offer an eco-conscious choice.

For outdoor spaces, look for weatherproof designs with quick-dry fibres and fade-resistant finishes.



burlwoodandlye.co.uk

Book a visit to our studio, or chat with a specialist by phone for tailored advice on products, design and installation.

We're here to help you find the right solution for any style, scheme or budget.

Burlwood & Lye, Unit 4a Beehive Business Centre
Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, CM2 9TE

01245 914376
info@burlwoodandlye.co.uk

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