Your guide
to hand-knotted carpets
Lay a piece of art on your floor

A hand-knotted carpet can really enhance your home. Not only is it soft and comfy to walk on, but the right carpet in the right place also adds a whole new dimension to a room.

Choosing a carpet is not always easy, there are so many to choose from. Every carpet has its own special charm and its own perfect location. This guide is intended to give you a little advice, but most of all to inspire you to find the perfect carpet for you and your home.

Thanks to the Internet, you can now buy hand-knotted carpets of the highest quality for a fraction of the cost. Visit our website www.CarpetVista.com and browse through more than 11,000 unique carpets in a range of sizes and categories, giving you a selection you won’t find anywhere else.

Let yourself be seduced by the fantastic patterns, colours and designs. We have everything from nomadic carpets featuring naive motifs, majestic in their simplicity, to the very finest carpets woven in the world’s leading workshops.

A hand-knotted carpet is an investment that will brighten up your home for years to come. With the right care, it will last for generations and only increase in value.

Seize the opportunity to lay a piece of art on your floor.

We won't be happy until you're completely satisfied!

We look forward to helping you. No question is too simple, silly or complicated. You are always welcome to contact us: via e-mail (info@carpetvista.com) any time of day, or by phone (+46 40-182270) weekdays between 9am-5pm. We place great importance on always providing fast and accurate answers to all your questions. Although most people buy carpets relatively seldom, more than 35% of our customers are so satisfied with their purchase that they come back within two years to buy more carpets from us, and naturally we hope that you are one of them.

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A fact that is often forgotten is that in carpet manufacturing, a high-quality wool is crucial to the end result. A perfect example of this is the Persian Gabbeh carpet. Generally they are weaved using wool from sheep that graze high up in the mountains, which makes the wool stronger and more oily. This, combined with the fact that the yarn is hand spun, produces a very soft and durable carpet. Nomads usually use wool from the sheep they breed themselves. That way they are involved in the whole process.

Larger studios employ someone solely for purchasing and ensuring that the wool used is of the highest quality. Wool quality also has an impact on the dyeing process, and high-quality wool generates more attractive colours as plant dyes ‘bite’ more evenly.

The type of wool used also has a major impact on the price a carpet can command. Choosing a carpet with high wool quality is almost always worth the money, as this type of carpet is beautiful to look at, soft to touch and lasts much longer. The high-quality wool adds the finishing touch and is dirt and water repellent ensuring it stays beautiful longer.
Nomadic carpets

Today you can buy amazing nomadic crafts for a very low price. This is unfortunately a reality that is slowly changing. The availability of quality nomadic carpets is steadily decreasing, which ups the price as the demand grows for these artistically and culturally most interesting of newly-produced Persian carpets.

There are still millions of nomads currently living in the Orient, with sheep farming as their main source of income. The camps, with their black goat hair tents, huge herds of sheep and goats, and shepherds on their donkeys and horses, are a fascinating feature of the landscape.

However, much of the nomadic culture is slowly disappearing, as the nomads become more settled. A contributing factor is that they can now find areas where the conditions are so good that they are able to stay for longer periods and no longer feel the need to move around. Slowly but surely they are becoming a kind of “resident nomad”. These days, most nomads move around by jeep and motorcycle, which is hardly the image people normally have of a nomad and his camel.

Carpets, kelims and bags of various sizes are important for the daily life of the nomads. The weaving materials come from their own livestock. The carpets are knotted on horizontal looms and the patterns, which are inspired by the nomads’ surroundings, are passed down from generation to generation. The weavers don’t use a pattern template, they knot purely from memory.

Nomadic carpets are already a scarce commodity and are becoming increasingly difficult to acquire. In the past, our buyers didn’t have to make much effort to buy hundreds of nomadic carpets at a time. These days finding a single good purchase is a challenge!
A nomadic carpet softens your room and gives it warmth and fits well in modern environments. The image shows a Ghashghai.
Kelims - the versatile carpets

Kelims is not only the name of a common Persian weave, but it is also the name of the technique used in its manufacture. Persian Kelims are mainly produced by nomads and made into carpets (without pile), bags and tent curtains.

The surface of a Kelim is made up of weft threads, and the pattern appears once these are returned. When the yarn is returned, a small cavity is created which should not be too large. This technique creates the traditional step-like pattern that characterises Kelims and the carpet looks the same on both sides.

When manufacturing Kelims, only natural materials such as wool are used, sometimes with a touch of silk in the slightly finer Kelims. The colouring of the yarn, which comes from plants and minerals, contributes to the beautiful, natural colours in the carpets. The choice of materials gives the carpets a long lifespan, and these days you can find both antique and semi-antique Kelims on the market.

Kelims are woven in several countries; in addition to Persian Kelims, there are also Afghan, Turkish and Moldavian Kelims on the market. The most common Persian Kelims are Kelim Sumakh, Kelim Senneh, Kelim Fars and Kelim Ghashghai. Examples of Afghan Kelims include Galmuri, Maimane, Maliki and Golbarjasta. The border between Afghanistan and Iran is home to the Baluchi nomads who also weave Kelims, usually in slightly darker colours.

Kelim Patchworks are hand-woven carpets that are formed by joining new and older Kelims, saddle bags, and bits of nomadic tents. The carpets, usually originating from Iran and Turkey, are cut into smaller pieces and then sewn together, with a smooth underside, in new and excitingly unique designs and sizes for both modern homes and more classic settings.

The carpets come in a variety of patterns and colours. The patterns are mostly rectangular or floral with pointed features, a result of the weaving technique used.

There is currently a high demand for Kelims as they are ideal for modern, minimalist interiors. They also find their way into so many homes due to their wide range of uses, including bedspreads and picnic blankets.

Many people like to hang their Kelims on the wall instead of a picture to create an Oriental atmosphere in the home. One great advantage with Kelims is that most of them are double sided and can be turned over if they get dirty, which increases their lifespan.
Valuable tips before buying your carpet

Take your time
The most important factor when choosing a carpet is that you take your time and do not let yourself get stressed. Choosing a carpet will then be much easier and much more fun.

Start with the size
The first thing to consider when choosing a carpet is how big it should be. There are some good rules of thumb when it comes to determining the size. Your carpet should not cover the entire floor. Leave an area free around the edge of the carpet, to create a frame for your beautiful carpet. If you lay the carpet under a set of table and chairs, the carpet should be large enough so that all of the chair legs are on the carpet even when the chairs are pulled out. The edge and fringes are the most vulnerable parts of the carpet and a chair pulled back and forth over the edge may damage it over time. An easy way to get an idea of how large the carpet will feel in your room is to cover the area where the carpet is to be laid with newspapers or a bed sheet. You can then fold the edges in or out until you find a size that feels right for your room.

How will you be using the carpet?
In a hallway, or an area you enter with your shoes on, it is better to lay hard-wearing carpets and avoid pale colours. Under a dining table it could be an idea to have a heavily patterned carpet. If a mishap should occur, a stain will not be as visible as it will blend in with the pattern.

Different placement different appearance
The pile on a hand-knotted carpet rarely stands straight up. It usually lies in one direction, which gives the carpet a different appearance depending on where you are standing. This is particularly evident when there is a lot of light from one direction, such as a window or another light source. Test the carpet with the pile in both directions before you decide which is best.

A good investment
A carpet is a good long-term investment. A used carpet that has been well cared for tends to have a higher value than at the time of purchase. This applies in particular to the more exclusive carpets. We do not recommend speculating in the carpet market unless you are extremely knowledgeable on the subject. See it rather as an investment you can enjoy as long as you own it, and which it may be possible to profit from, if you should choose to in the future.

Compare prices before you buy
As with all other investments, it is wise to compare prices between different shops, but make sure you are comparing the right carpets. Two carpets may look very similar from a distance, but a Nain Tabas and a Nain 6La, for example, are priced completely differently. The knots in a Nain 6La are much denser, which takes much longer to make. Consequently, comparing a Nain Tabas from one shop with a Nain 6La from another will give a completely false picture. The same applies to comparisons between Persian and Indian Gabbeh. But it isn’t the knot density here, it is the quality of wool and the dyeing that is the major difference and the reason why a Persian Gabbeh is more expensive.

The best way to store your carpet
Keep your carpet rolled up, preferably in a cool dry place. Avoid basements and attics, as these areas generally attract pests. As carpets are made from natural materials and contain no toxins, there is an increased risk of pests. Avoid exposing the carpets to direct sunlight too, as this can fade them.

Gently roll up the carpet, pile inwards, ideally onto a cardboard tube to avoid any creasing. Lay a few mothballs for extra protection against pests. Then tie a couple of straps around the carpet so that it doesn’t unroll. Pack the carpet well, ideally in a couple of large plastic bags and seal the ends well with tape. Unroll the carpet at least every three months to vacuum it. You should also check the carpet thoroughly for pests that have crawled into the pile. Lay a few more mothballs, as their effect diminishes over time.

Under no circumstances should the carpet be wet or damp when you roll it up for storage. Nor should the carpet be stored in an upright position, as this could result in it losing its shape. If you must store your carpet in a basement, avoid laying it directly onto a concrete floor that could be damp, lay it on some boards to keep it off the concrete.

Note: a carpet that is laid on the floor will not be attacked by pests.
Exclusive carpets

It is hard to draw a precise boundary for what defines an exclusive carpet, but most carpet experts nevertheless agree on the following definition: It is an exceptionally detailed carpet which has been hand-knotted in a workshop by experienced, professional carpet weavers. The material used must be of the highest quality and have a knot density of at least 600,000 knots per m².

An exclusive carpet is above all hand knotted, with an incredible number of hours of hard work and a high level of concentration behind it. The finest carpets are knotted in studios, in a more orderly fashion than the nomad camps or homes. Every tool used is of a high quality, to eliminate any possible damage to the carpet during manufacturing, and concentration is high throughout the weaving process.

Most of the studios that weave exclusive carpets are located in Iran (Persia) in cities like Tabriz, Keshan, Isfahan, Nain and Ghom. There are also a number of beautiful hand-knotted carpets that come from Hereke, near Istanbul, in Turkey (Anatolia). Naturally, all carpets have a distinct character that can be traced back to the city or region of manufacture.

A common feature in virtually all exclusive carpets is a high knot density, often from 600,000 knots per m² up to, and sometimes exceeding, one million. But that is primarily carpets from Isfahan, Ghom, Tabriz, Nain, Keshan and Hereke. Many of these carpets have silk elements, sometimes even gold and silver, to highlight certain details. Particularly fine, detailed carpets are knotted solely in silk which gives a level of detail that is difficult to surpass.

In some cases, stories are woven into the carpets that retell historic events in a beautiful and illustrative manner. Once you have seen an exclusive carpet, you cannot help but wonder how it is possible to produce something so beautiful using such an age-old method.

This type of carpet, ideally a large one, is considered very exclusive and has been a common feature in most royal palaces and castles around the world for centuries. A hand-knotted carpet in these beautiful interiors has undoubtedly enhanced the feel of elegance and luxury and they can still be found in many government buildings. It is not uncommon to spend as much on decorating these buildings as was spent on building them.

These beautiful carpets are, where they lay, a reminder that they are actually priceless treasures, and not least an exquisite cultural heritage that is worth preserving for the future. There are of course plenty of exclusive carpets on display in museums around the world, and some find their way into collectors’ homes, often for a high price.

In addition to a high knot density, there are several additional factors that come into play when it comes to classifying them as exclusive. We have mentioned that the most detailed carpets are woven entirely in silk. In carpets where silk is used to simply enhance the details, the finest sheep’s wool is used, known as kork wool. This wool comes from the neck of the sheep and has a high lanolin content, making it soft and easy to work with. Only natural dyes, extracted from plants and...
minerals, are used in the dying of the yarn and the carpet’s colour combinations are chosen carefully to ensure the best possible harmony.

Nothing is left to chance in the making of an exclusive carpet and accuracy is a recurring factor throughout the manufacturing process in order to achieve the necessary quality.

Almost all hand-knotted, exclusive carpets have a signature woven into the short end of the carpet. It is common for this signature to be accompanied by, for example, the Iranian flag. Examples of signed carpets include Habibian (Nain), Imani (Ghom) and Enteshari (Isfahan), The city of manufacture is usually also woven into the carpet.

It is currently still possible to locate exclusive carpets for sale, but we would caution that it will be harder to find these in future. The main reason being that many talented weavers are retiring due to old age, and there are no natural heirs to inherit the craft. The younger generations are turning to other professions and it has become less common for children to follow in their father’s footsteps, resulting in the loss of the age-old tradition of passing the knowledge down the line.

It is also a major investment in time and materials for the studios, and they often choose to concentrate on utility carpets, with less detail but which are quicker to knot and therefore a faster source of revenue. So if you see a beautiful, hand-knotted, signed exclusive carpet that you like - buy it, tomorrow may be too late!

A well-made older hand-knotted carpet can last for generations and often becomes more beautiful as the years go by. This is largely thanks to careful selection of the materials used combined with precision craftsmanship. As the colours age, the carpet develops its special charm.

But even the best carpets become worn when being used. CarpetVista Patina is a series of carefully selected carpets with a certain degree of wear, but the wear has not impaired the carpet’s appearance, rather it is part of a beautiful and natural ageing process. One thing the selected carpets have in common is that they are all at least 40 years old, with a certain elegance and harmony in both their patterns and colours. We chose these carpets in order to preserve the wonderful heritage and to allow them to be discovered by a new generation.

All Patina carpets are washed and carefully inspected, and any damage that could affect the carpet’s continued sustainability is repaired. If the pile is worn unevenly or if the surface layer of the pile is damaged, the pile is carefully polished down to create a beautiful smooth finish.

The end result is the best of both worlds, a sustainable carpet with the truly majestic feel that only an older carpet can provide. You are getting a beautiful carpet that will only increase in value.

These vintage carpets are pieces of art that deserve to be preserved and used by many generations to come.
Ziegler carpets have a fascinating history. It all began in the late 19th century. The Persian Empire had long been suffering from political unrest and the once thriving carpet industry was struggling because the upper class, who had always bought most of the carpets produced, could no longer afford them. The interest in Oriental carpets, however, had begun to flourish in Europe and particularly in England. The eminent Swiss trading family, Ziegler, already had trade relations in the region, where they had an outlet for their industrially produced fabrics. The carpets being imported into England at this time were not ideal for the style of English homes; in particular, it was difficult to find carpets of the right size for areas such as dining rooms.

Ziegler took matters into his own hands and started his own production in Sultanabad, employing prominent carpet weavers, who previously had difficulty making a living from their craft, on a fixed salary. It was a great success, and within a few years he had employed most of the top carpet weavers.

The carpets produced were created according to Persian tradition, but with some influence from English taste, and generally had somewhat more sparse patterns with only a few, slightly subdued colours.

Thanks to these skilfully created new productions, you can now have a part of this exciting history in your home. As a result of Zeigler’s successful new production, Kazak carpets originating from the Caucasian mountains have started being produced in Pakistan. They are also generally of a very high quality but aren’t quite as close to the originals. The motifs are the same as the antique models, but the colours are somewhat brighter.
Dyeing
the secret behind the sheen

We can all appreciate the fantastic sheen of a well-made hand-knotted carpet. The secret behind the sheen is the dyeing of the yarn used to knot the carpet.

There are as many recipes for the perfect dye bath as there are colours and shades. One thing most carpet yarn dye baths have in common is that their dyes are extracted from plants, insects and minerals. Usually with a carefully balanced blend of several dyes mixed together according to an ancient secret recipe.

For example, red comes from the madder root or cochineal beetle, blue comes from the leguminous plant indigo, brown and black come from pomegranate or walnut shell, and shades of yellow and brown come from ochre, a form of iron ore found in the desert. The list of dyes that can be found in nature is lengthy, and virtually all shades imaginable can be obtained naturally. Not only do these dyes provide a beautiful colour, but they are also gentle on the environment and the people who work with the dyes and yarn.

Despite the many benefits of natural dyes, a method began in the late 19th century using a compound called aniline to speed up the process. This gave the carpet garish colours that faded quickly. Carpet production started to gain a bad reputation, and heavy penalties were introduced in 1903 to stop the use of aniline. Nowadays, the risk of finding a carpet dyed with aniline on the market is very slight, as the dyes used for these carpets would have almost always faded away by now.

In the early 20th century, significantly improved synthetic dyes, known as chrome dyes, were introduced. Their characteristics are more similar to plant dyes, as they are far more resistant to fading from sunlight and washing. However, they don’t have the sheen or softness of the plant dyes. These days, newly produced carpets often contain a combination of natural and chrome dyes. The yarn for the larger surface areas and recurring colours is dyed using natural dyes, whereas chrome dye is used for accentuating colours and fine details.

However, the most common method is to honour the old traditions, and colour according to the ancient recipes using natural dyes. This still produces the very best sheen.
In 2007, CarpetVista organised a design competition inviting our visitors to submit their own personal designs. The aim of the competition was for the winning designs to be produced as hand-knotted carpets. The response was almost overwhelming - with thousands of designs submitted from around the world. We knew there were plenty of excellent designers, but this challenge was about adapting patterns for hand-knotted carpets, which isn’t always easy.

Unlike printed textiles, for example, there are limitations with knotting patterns into a carpet, which you have to bear in mind when sketching your ideas. Nevertheless, we received an incredible number of entries and selecting the winners really was no easy task for the jury.

The winning entries have now been produced and sold exclusively via our online store CarpetVista.com with great success.

Before production began, we sent a film crew to India to follow the work behind production of the carpets, which has resulted in a great film about the manufacture of hand-knotted carpets. You can watch the film on CarpetVista.com or YouTube.

We’ve even had to produce additional editions of many of the designs due to their popularity. In addition to the honour of winning, the artists are also featured on our website along with their designs, thereby enjoying a little extra exposure. In other words, a useful and easy way to reach beyond their national boundaries. As we also received a lot of enquiries after the competition about possible follow-ups, we organised a new competition in the spring of 2009 and were again delighted with the level of interest. Thousands upon thousands of beautiful and creative entries were received, and once again the jury had a tough time sifting through them all.

Even this time around, we received playful designs and simple motifs that would suit most modern homes, but to be honest they would also look great in more classic homes, as they would add an elegant contrast.

The winning entries from the latest competition will soon be available for purchase at CarpetVista.com and more competitions are being planned.
It is not unusual for the design of a figural Persian carpet to come from or be inspired by a myth or poem. Travelling storytellers dating back a thousand years often had a rug with them, in which the design reinforced and illustrated their story.

The carpet on the facing page has taken its motif from the 12th century Sufi poet Farid un-Din Attar’s classic work “The Conference of the Birds”. All the world’s birds gather for a conference, in which they decide that they must lead a pilgrimage to find the great Si- morgh.

Through the poem, we follow the journey toward selflessness and the true nature of God. The journey travels through the seven valleys: search, love, knowledge, unity, contentment, wonderment, and finally true poverty and absolute nothingness. By the end of the journey only thirty birds remain, the others have all dropped out along the way.

Si morgh is Persian for thirty birds. The thirty birds discover that there is no ideal place, nor any ideal king. But when they stop by a tranquil pond, they see their reflection and discover that the real truth can only exist in their own hearts and desires. The poem ends in a song of praise to life and the freedom to make your own choices.

Lifelike and realistic depictions of people and animals are uncommon in countries where Islam forbids the depiction of living creatures. This is one of the reasons that these carpets are so rare.

These days, really fine figural carpets are usually knotted in studios in Iran (Ghom, Tabriz and Isfahan). Figural carpet are also very occasionally knotted by nomads. Since the early 20th century, many figural carpets have also been knotted in China, whereas none at all have been produced in Afghanistan, Turkey, or in the Caucasian regions.

Knotting a figural carpet is more time-consuming than traditional designs, and is very demanding on the weaver. This aspect, combined with a strong interest from collectors, means that figural carpets often generate a higher price than other carpets of the same technical quality and size. The real gems in a collection often consist of figural carpets with mythical motifs. This also applies to CarpetVista’s collections.
Looking at the size of the carpet, it is fairly obvious that a larger carpet will be more expensive than a smaller one; quite simply because more material is used and it takes longer to weave. Various qualities of wool are used in carpet making and some carpets even contain elements of silk, which has an impact on the price. Even the material used in the warping machine affects pricing. Almost all yarn has been dyed and when natural dyes are used they produce natural colours that when combined well create an overall harmony which makes them more expensive than when chrome dyes are used.

In some carpets, the artist uses a fine pen to enhance the details when creating the pattern. More detail also means that it takes much longer to knot the carpet. A more detailed design requires a more densely knotted carpet to achieve the right effect, plus a higher level of concentration from the weaver.

The carpet’s origin is also very significant; a Persian carpet is very different from an Indian one, mainly in terms of better quality and more accurate craftsmanship. The tools used also play a major part; a nomadic carpet is always slightly more crude than a studio-knotted carpet, both in terms of pattern and workmanship, simply because the conditions are different. A nomad who knots carpets must not only rely on the products nature provides, but also on much more basic looms.

When pricing a carpet, you need to take into account its age and, if it is an older carpet, its condition. There are a number of antique carpets on the market these days and if they have aged well they will have retained a certain charm that you will not find in any newly-produced carpets. If an older carpet is in good condition it will be more expensive, but there are examples where even old, beautifully worn carpets have been sold for large sums of money. Old carpets are now appearing on the market; carpets inherited from family members who have had them in their possession for many years. Sometimes these carpets turn out to be very valuable. If you want to sell this type of carpet and you suspect it may be worth something, you should always consult an expert to take a closer look at the carpet. Antique carpets are sold at quality auctions throughout the world for very large sums, and many of them are actually inherited from old homes.

As with much else in society, carpet pricing is also governed by demand and trends. When a certain type of carpet becomes very popular, demand increases; and if supply is scarce, prices will go up. This is particularly evident in nomadic carpets, which are becoming increasingly harder to find on the market as many nomads are becoming settled and finding regular work.

But ultimately, it is still the overall look that determines the final price. How well the weaver has combined the colours, how beautiful the pattern is and whether you can see how much of his soul the weaver has put into the carpet.
Take care of your carpet

Now that you've bought a beautiful carpet for your home, we want you to enjoy it for a very long time. The best way to ensure that your carpet lasts is to take good care of it. We can give you a little advice on how to properly care for your carpet.

**Vacuuming**

The thing that wears out a carpet fastest is gravel and sand, which usually shows in the fringes and long sides. To minimise this risk, we recommend you vacuum your carpet once a week in the direction of the pile. Remember to lift the vacuum cleaner nozzle after each stroke, ensuring you don't drag it back and forth, as this causes unnecessary wear to the carpet. Be careful when vacuuming the fringes so that they are not sucked into the nozzle.

A new carpet may still contain some excess wool from the pile cutting process. Do not try to remove all the dust at once, instead allow the vacuuming to take the necessary time, so as to reduce wear to your carpet. We recommend that you avoid beating the carpet, as there is a risk that this will damage the knots.

**Depressions/creases in the carpet**

Sooner or later you will have creases or depressions in the carpet from your furniture, but these are easy to remove. Place a clean, damp towel over the area of the carpet which is creased/depressed. Then use an iron to iron over the towel a few times in the direction of the pile. If the carpet pile does not return to its original shape, you can repeat the treatment but bear in mind that the iron must not come into direct contact with the carpet.

**Cleaning advice for spills**

1. Deal with the spill immediately.
2. Carefully scoop up liquids with a spoon.
3. Dilute the liquid with cold water if necessary.
4. Dab - do not scrub - off the fluids and other waste with a clean colourless cotton cloth.
5. Always work from the edge toward the centre of the stain/spill.
6. If necessary, use a little detergent with cold water.
7. Brush lightly with a clothes brush if necessary.
8. Repeat from step 2 as necessary.
9. If the cleaned area needs to be dried, use a fan or hair dryer on a low setting.
10. Finish by restoring the pile, brush with a clothes brush in the direction of the pile.

For advice on how to remove adhesives, ink, chewing gum, etc., visit: www.carpetencyclopedia.com

**Renew your carpet’s sheen**

If you want to freshen up your carpet, it is quite easy. Start by vacuuming the carpet firmly in the direction of the pile. Pour a little detergent (not too much as this could remove the lanolin) into a bucket of lukewarm water and wet a colourless cotton cloth. Then squeeze out the cloth and iron it over the carpet in the direction of the pile. Repeat a few times and then let the carpet dry. This can be done once a year to freshen up your carpet.

**Carpet cleaning**

If you take care of your carpet properly and vacuum it regularly, it will remain a beautiful item that adorns your home for many years to come. Carpets in today’s homes don’t get as dirty as they once used to, but if your carpet still needs cleaning, you can take it to a carpet cleaner, but make sure they specialise in Oriental carpets. A proper carpet clean involves the carpet being shaken to release any small particles like gravel and sand. Minor stains are then treated, after which the carpet is rinsed with cold water and scraped with a rubber scraper until all dirt has been removed. The carpet is then dried in a special drying room and stretched if necessary. This kind of cleaning restores the elasticity and sheen to the pile and the colours regain their former brightness.

The carpet should also be rotated at regular intervals to avoid any uneven wear. Remember that a carpet which is exposed to normal wear and tear can actually become more beautiful with age.
How a carpet is made...

1. The first step in the production of a hand-knotted carpet is shearing the wool from the sheep. The finest wool comes from the neck, known as kork wool.

2. After having sheared the sheep, the wool is spun, in this case by hand. This is time-consuming work, but necessary to achieve the perfect quality yarn.

3. Dyeing the yarn involves it being dipped repeatedly in large dye baths to ensure the colour is even. The dyes are extracted from plants, minerals and insects.

4. After the yarn is dyed, it is important that it is dried thoroughly. The colours stabilise in the sun and the yarn is then rolled up into large balls before knotting.

5. Before the knotting work can begin, a pattern template is required. This is carefully sketched out on graph paper, where each square represents a knot in the carpet.

6. A carpet can be knotted by a single person or in a group, here on a vertical loom. The knots are beaten down to ensure the carpet pile is compact.
Once the carpets have been washed, they are dried in the sun to stabilise the colours. Meanwhile, the colours fade slightly, giving the carpet its beautiful hue.

Before the carpet is sold, it is checked thoroughly and small holes that may have come about during post-treatment (washing and cutting) are repaired.

Our purchasers examining a finished hand-knotted carpet on our behalf. Buying these carpets requires extensive knowledge of the craft.

You will find a large number of hand-knotted carpets in our online store, all of which have been produced in this manner. Come take a look!
Hand-knotted carpets overview of different types

There is virtually an infinite range of different carpet types to choose from. Browse the selection on our website www.CarpetVista.com and find more detailed information and prices for more than 11,000 unique carpets. Here are some examples of the most common types of carpet.

Nomadic art with naive motifs

- Ghashghai Figural 238x151 cm
- Ghashghai 241x159 cm
- Ghashghai 285x157 cm
- Kurdi 312x202 cm
- Lori 286x216 cm
- Ghashghai Figural 183x130 cm
- Bakhtiar 318x216 cm
- Beluch 294x210 cm
- Kurdi 305x152 cm
For people looking for something extraordinary

Isfahan 400x289 cm
Tabriz 50 Raj Silk signed: Tabib Nejad 411x304 cm
Tabriz 60 Raj Silk 398x299 cm

Ghom Silk 295x195 cm
Isfahan 305x204 cm
Nain 6La signed: Habibian 297x205 cm
Brightly coloured carpets with a unique sheen that radiate harmony

AFGHAN/Pakistan

Afghan Khal Mohammadi
240x169 cm

Afghan Khal Mohammadi
300x198 cm

Afghan 336x245 cm

Pakistan 2ply Super 9/16
245x158 cm

Pakistan 2ply Super 9/16
204x142 cm

Pakistan 3ply
296x201 cm

Kazak 253x174 cm

Ziegler 402x296 cm

Ziegler 401x301 cm

Ziegler/Kazak

High quality reproduction of traditional European-inspired carpets

Ziegler 424x299 cm

Kazak 253x174 cm

Kazak 293x210 cm

Kazak 399x271 cm

Kazak 401x301 cm
Thick, plush carpets, often of minimalist design

Hand-knotted carpets of modern European design