


# 10 Steps For Purchasing Your Next Oriental Rug



Presented by

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An Oriental rug is not just a floor covering. It is a piece of art that can lift the décor of any room and transform it from drab to fabulous in an instant. What's particularly fascinating about Oriental rugs is that because they are entirely handmade from start to finish, each piece is unique and different from any other rug you are likely to come across.

So where do you start when you are looking for an Oriental rug? Should you consider the design, size, knot count, materials used or some other feature? The right answer would be a little bit of each of the above along with a few other qualities.

These steps for purchasing an Oriental rug can help you choose a rug that's just perfect for you!



## Step #1 - Determine The Right Size And Shape For Your Space



The rug size is the first factor you should take into consideration. Are you looking for a large sized rug for the living room or just a small rug to place in an empty corner or under the coffee table? Will a rectangular rug be a better fit or perhaps a round or square rug?

Or maybe you are looking for a rug for your bedroom? Again, there are several choices. You can choose a runner rug to place along the length of the bed or a small round or rectangular rug to place your feet on when you get out of bed.

Whatever your choice, the first step is to measure the available space so that you do not end up with a rug that's too large or too small for the space. The right fit will uplift the look of the room whereas a badly fitting rug can have the exact opposite effect.



## Step #2 - Check The Quality Of The Rug

Oriental rugs vary hugely in quality. There are several factors that affect the quality of each rug.

First is the type of wool used. While rugs made of wool sourced by the nomadic tribesmen have a certain distinct charm, their quality is a little lower than those made of wool sourced from New Zealand. Consequently, they are cheaper too.

Rugs made from New Zealand wool have a richer luster and a soft, plush feel. However, because the wool is difficult to procure and is very expensive too, these rugs can cost a lot more than those made exclusively from local wool.

Some of the more modern rugs are made with a blend of silk and wool. These are more expensive than pure wool rugs and have a super soft, luxurious feel and delicate, elegant appearance. These rugs are as delicate as they look. Because the fibers can get damaged easily, these are best placed in areas where you do not get much foot traffic that would otherwise damage them.

The higher the quality of the rug, the more you can expect to pay for it. The second step is to determine how much you want to pay for the rug.

## Step #3 - Don't Obsess Over the Knot Count

This may sound contradictory to everything you've always heard. Most people hear about knot count being the key deciding factor when buying a rug. While rug count does matter, it is not the only thing to consider. What you should know about rug count is the higher the knot count, the higher the quality and the more expensive the rug is likely to be.

The knot count indicates the number of knots that are created within one square inch of the rug. The average knot count of Oriental rugs can range from about 30 KPSI (knots per square inch) to about 300 KPSI, with 30 KPSI being the lower quality. 300 KPSI rugs are high quality rugs but they can also be very expensive.

In deciding whether you should buy a rug with a high or low knot count, you will first have to determine how much you want to spend on the rug. Another factor you should consider is where you want to place the rug. You do not want to place an expensive rug with a high knot count at the entrance or in an area that receives a lot of foot traffic as this will damage your expensive acquisition.





## Step #4 – Consider The Rug's Visual Attributes

As with quality and knot count, the composition and visual attributes of Oriental rugs can also vary widely.

There are essentially two types of Oriental rugs- tribal rugs and city rugs. Both types look beautiful but in different ways. They each have their own distinct characteristics.

Tribal rugs, which are woven by nomadic tribals are typically smaller and more roughly made. The rugs have deep, rich colors but the patterns that are woven are simpler with larger motifs and more basic borders. Each weaver simply decided their own pattern and color combinations and worked on it to achieve the look they desired.

City rugs on the other hand have more elaborate patterns with intricately designed motifs and more striking borders. The patterns also are more structured because the weaver works off the pattern provided by the person commissioning the piece.

A tribal rug does not necessarily have a lower or higher value as compared to a city rug. They just have different characteristics but neither one is better than the other. When considering the visual attributes, it is more important to think about what will suit your space better. A tribal rug may be a better fit in a home that is done up in rustic décor while a city rug may be more suitable if your home incorporates a more elegant and sophisticated décor style.





## Step #5 – Inspect The Condition Of The Rug



Inspecting the condition of the rug closely is very important. You want to make sure that the rug is in impeccable condition. Rugs lose their value if there are in less than stellar condition. Even if you are not buying it as an investment it still pays to only buy a rug that looks and feels pristine.

Inspect the rug closely from all angles. Does it look worn out in places? Does it seem like it has undergone some repair work or is it completely flattened out on the underside? Does the fringe look intact or is it frayed in places?



## Step #6 – Consider The Age Factor

Antique rugs are an absolute treasure in more ways than one. An Oriental rug has to be over 100 years of age to be considered antique. Not only do these rugs look absolutely fabulous, they also increase in value with time especially if you buy one that has been maintained well. Antique rugs are much more expensive than those that are more recently made but they are well worth the investment.

## Step #7 – Familiarize Yourself With The Lingo

The Oriental rug world is filled with terms you are not likely to have heard of before. If you don't know the difference between Kurk and Kaba or you do not know what is a Herati, Boteh or Gul, you will find it difficult to comprehend what the seller is saying.

Spending some time familiarizing yourself with the more common terms associated with Oriental rugs will give you a better understanding of their significance. Besides, it will make for some great conversations as you impress your friends with your knowledge of these terms.







## **Step #8 - Decide Whether You Are Looking For A Decorative Piece Or An Investment**

If you are looking to buy an Oriental rug purely as a decorative piece, your preferences will guide your choice of rug. You don't need to worry about things like knot count or the age of the rug. However, if this is an investment, you will need to take several factors into consideration – the age, knot count, place of manufacture and material of the rug. Some signed rugs have a higher value so that's something else to consider.



## Step #9 – Get A Certificate Of Authenticity

All Oriental rugs do not come with a certificate of authenticity but you may need one if you are planning on getting yours insured. Make sure you ask the dealer before you make the purchase.





## Step #10 – Don't Buy A Rug From the First Store You Visit



In buying from the first store you visit, whether offline or online, you could very well miss out on a fantastic rug at a great price from another store. Take time to look around and explore the choices available with different dealers so you can make a more solid decision. Going to different stores allows you to compare quality, prices and so much more. Put as much care into the decision as you would when purchasing any big ticket item in your home.

Catalina Rug is a great place to start when you are looking for authentic, hand-knotted rugs that are directly sourced. Catalina Rug has been in the rug business for three generations and has built an impressive reputation for their expertise and honesty. Experienced customer support is always on hand to help you pick out the best rug for your needs. Your rug will be shipped free of charge and should you change your mind at any time, you can avail of their free returns and 30 day money back guarantee.





You've just read ten very useful tips for what to consider when buying an Oriental rug. When you are looking to purchase an expensive item like an Oriental rug it pays to be well informed so that you can get the rug that's a perfect fit for your space at a price that's a good fit for your budget.

When you are looking for an Oriental rug that meets all your requirements as well as your budget, the best place to start your search is at Catalina Rug. Catalina Rug has been in the business for three generations and has built a formidable reputation for honesty and reliability. In addition to the wide range of fabulous Oriental rugs, here you will also get the help and information you need to make the right choice. With rugs available at several price points, you are sure to find one that is the perfect choice for you in every way.



