



mighty mac

it's beary clean

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Rug Storage

Whether it is a family heirloom or recent purchase, your rug should be cleaned thoroughly before you store it away. Dirt and soils weaken a rug's fibers and increase the risk of carpet beetles and moth infestation, even when it is packed away.

Once clean and dried, roll your rug around an acid free tube. This is to prevent crushing of the stored rug. If the pile is weak, missing knots, delicate, or if the rug is made of silk, roll it with the pile facing in. If the foundation of the rug is frail or brittle, shows multiple cracks, has an extra lining sewn into it or a thick pile, roll it with the pile out.

Whether you roll the carpet with the pile facing in or out, always roll it in the direction of the lay of the pile. If you are unsure of the lay of the pile, run your hand lengthwise down the carpet, then run it the opposite direction. If you are running against the natural lay, the fibers will give some resistance, and appear darker when you step back and look at it. If you are running with the natural lay, the fibers will tend to lay down, and appear lighter when you step back.

Next, wrap the rug in a sheet of cotton muslin or polyethylene that is slightly wider than the length of the rolled carpet. Hold the covering in place with fabric twill tape. Store the rug upright and if possible, on a surface that is metal rather than wood, as this will reduce the potential for insect infestation.

Mighty Mac can bag your rug in plastic after cleaning, if you would like. Do not store those in an attic or garage as drastic humidity changes can result in condensation inside of the plastic. This leads to mold issues as well as dye migration (bleeding) issues.

Choose a dry, cool place such as a closet. Attics, basements and garages are not good spots, since they often undergo dramatic temperature and humidity changes. Even an unwrapped rug suffers damage in that environment.

A rug should be unrolled every six months to check for pests and to allow it to breathe. Spring and fall cleanings are ideal because you can lay the rug out on a tarp on the driveway. Vacuum it if necessary and let it air out on a sunny afternoon before returning it to storage.