



# CARING FOR AND CLEANING YOUR HANDMADE RUG



**FAIR  
TRADE**



**COMMITMENT**



**SIMPLE**



**NATURAL**

# DID YOU KNOW?

For ages, pure wool rugs have been companions to humankind. They protect us from the cold and the heat and reduce the noise around us. Their softness and texture calm and relax us. They define a space and characterize an atmosphere. They are also **fireproof, biodegradable and eco-friendly** and the lanolin provides an element of water resistance.

These features, combined with the fact that they are **entirely hand-woven** by weavers and craftspeople who work according to Fair Trade standards and that they are unique and one-of-a-kind pieces that incorporate undeniable beauty into their designs, most likely contributed to your decision to introduce them into your life.



**TRADITION**

**RESPECT**



**WARMTH**

**SUSTAINABLE**



**DESIGN**



**ONE OF  
A KIND**



**HAND  
MADE**



# THANK YOU!

Elementos Argentinos would like to thank you for choosing us!  
Following are some tips on how to keep your rug in good condition, as well as how to clean it and treat common stains so that you may continue to enjoy, cherish and use your rug for many, many years to come.



# **CARE & CLEANING**

# 01.

## VACUUM YOUR RUG ON A REGULAR BASIS



- At least once per month, do a more thorough cleaning of your rug by vacuuming both the front and the back side of the rug, and flipping it back over again to vacuum the front a second time. Remember to fully clean the surface where the rug is laid out, and only place the rug down again once the floor is completely dry.

# 02.

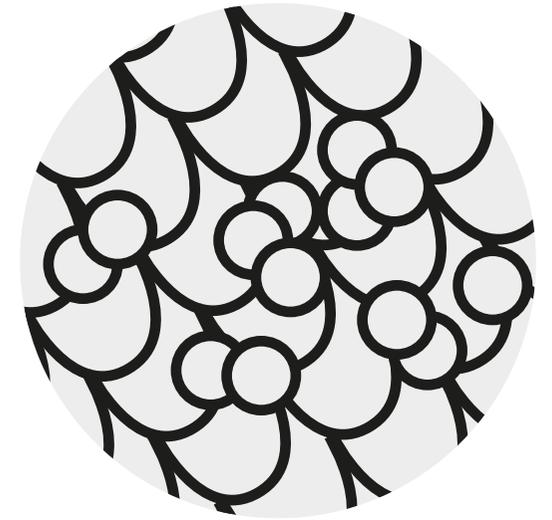
## NO FRICTION



- It is VERY important for the vacuuming to be gentle and with no friction. Use the largest attachment tool on the vacuum hose so that the amount of suction is not very strong and make sure that the attachment doesn't have any kind of brush. If your vacuum cleaner only comes with a brush attachment, we suggest you buy an additional accessory tool without bristles.

# 03.

## NO PILLING



### ATTENTION!

- Brushing, sweeping and using a broom or applying the vacuum hose directly to the rug will cause the rug fibers to loosen and start pilling, where the strands get tangled and frizzy and lint starts to form.

# 04.

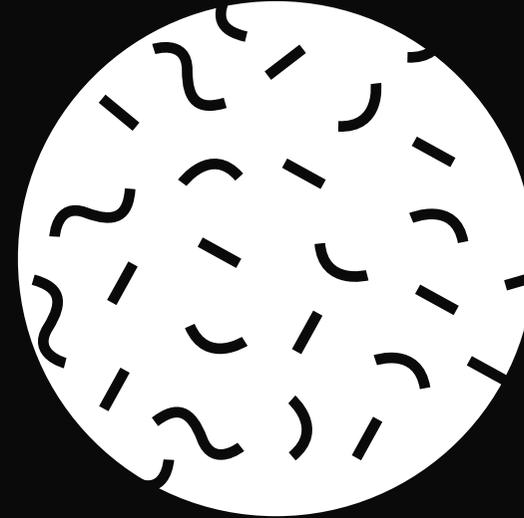
## EVERYONE INVOLVED



- It is essential that everyone involved with cleaning the house understand the proper way to vacuum and clean your pure wool rug woven entirely by hand.

# 05.

## SOME LINT DURING THE FIRST FEW WEEKS



- As with all rugs that are flat woven (the technique used by Elementos Argentinos and also for Oriental kilims, for example), yours may produce some lint during the first few weeks.
- This is completely normal for this type of textile and is quite characteristic of “handcrafted items.” If you want to speed up this process, we suggest that you vacuum more often until your rug settles in and gets more established.

# 06.

## PILLING TIPS



- As time goes by and depending on how you use your rug, it’s likely that there will be fibers that will come loose causing some pilling. Rug specialists should be able to solve this issue, or, another option would be to “shave” the rug by using a hair or beard trimmer, in which case you would need to trim flush with the rug in a **very careful** manner so as to not damage or ruin the structure of the weave.

# 07.

## ALWAYS USE A NON-SLIP PAD



- Always use a non-slip pad under handmade rugs. The non-slip pad, a mesh mat that is laid on the floor and simply placed underneath the rug without the need to stick it or sew it to the rug, is vital for the following reasons:

### SAFETY

- It secures your rug to the floor and prevents the rug from moving, providing more safety for everyday use.

### PRESERVATION

- It protects the rug from the weight of furniture and provides added thickness, making the rug more plush and comfortable.

### CLEANING

- It helps to keep the rug clean by sending dust and sand (which are abrasive and harmful to the fibers) through the weave and depositing them onto the floor underneath.



### IMPORTANT!

- Never place a non-slip pad or rug on top of floors that have been recently treated (e.g., flooring that has been laminated or polished with water-based stain, smoothed cement, etc.)

# 08.

## LAYING THE RUG



- Unfold the rug and lay it out in the space where it will be located.

- Your rug may have creases in the spots where it was folded. Once it is fully laid out and over a period of time, the weave will settle down and the creases will completely disappear. To speed up this process, the easiest thing to do is fold the rug along the same creases, but in the opposite direction, and apply a little pressure.

- Roll up the rug and set it aside.

- Carefully clean the floor where the rug will be laid out. Wait until the surface is totally dry.

- Place the non-slip pad (we suggest you use masking tape or another kind of tape to secure the pad while laying the rug and removing the tape when done).

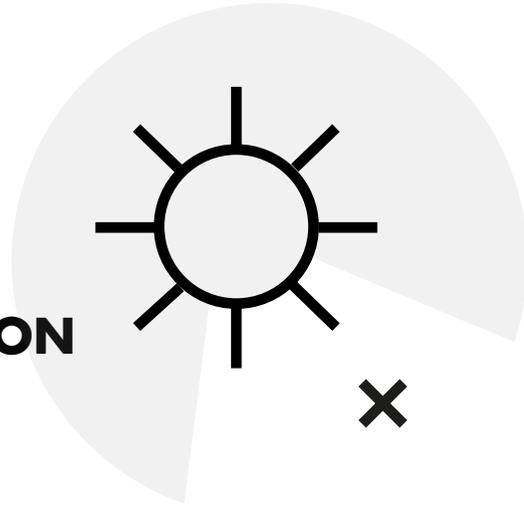
- Carefully rest the rolled-up rug at one end of the non-slip pad.

- Unroll the rug slowly so that the non-slip pad does not crumple up, which would cause folds or wrinkles in the rug itself.

- With a pair of scissors, carefully trim the exposed edges of the non-slip pad that are peeking out along the edges of the rug.

# 09.

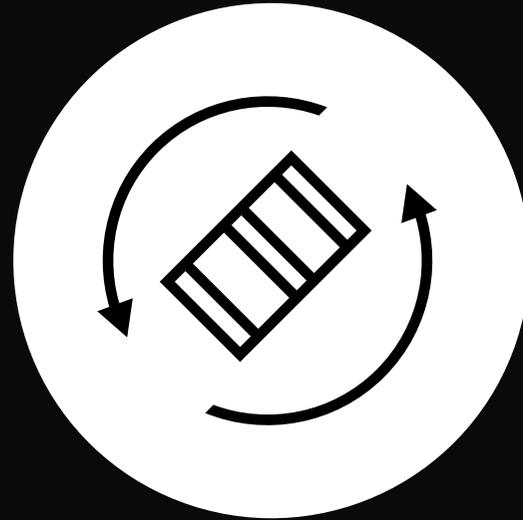
## DISCOLORATION



- Direct exposure to sunlight (or to any other intense light such as halogen bulbs) and/or extended periods of time can cause the textile to become discolored (both with your hand-woven rug and any other type of textile, leather, wood, etc.), which is why we suggest that you avoid any direct light exposure or try filtering it with the use of curtains, blinds, shades or screens.

# 10.

## ROTATE THE RUG



- We suggest that you occasionally rotate your rug so that it maintains an even or balanced appearance.

# 11.

## LOOSE STRANDS



- Due to the nature of rugs woven by hand on a loom, some wool strands will probably stick out between the weave. These can be carefully trimmed down with scissors or hidden inside the rug's structure by using a crochet needle.



# **RUGS WITHOUT STAINS**

# 01.

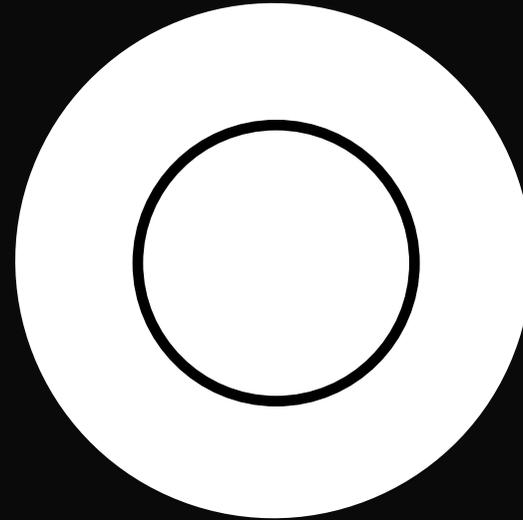
## NO STAIN REPELLENT



- Do not apply any stain-resistant products to your handcrafted rug.

# 02.

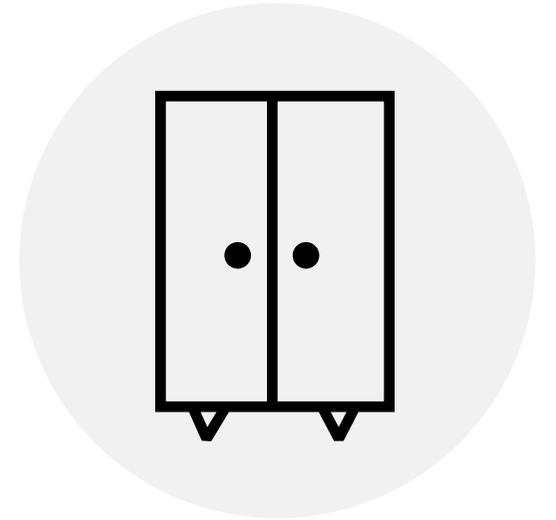
## DRY CLEAN ONLY



- If cleaning is necessary (over a period of time or as a result of stains), we suggest that you solely rely on rug specialists and dry cleaners experienced with and specialized in rugs.

# 03.

## STORAGE



- If you are going to store your rug for a period of time, it is important that it first be cleaned with all stains removed (preferably by a professional) and then placed in a dry, well-ventilated location.
- We also suggest that you include anti-moth products with your rug (lavender bunches or black peppercorns in small organza pouches or plastic bags with tiny holes for releasing the aroma can also be helpful).

# 04.

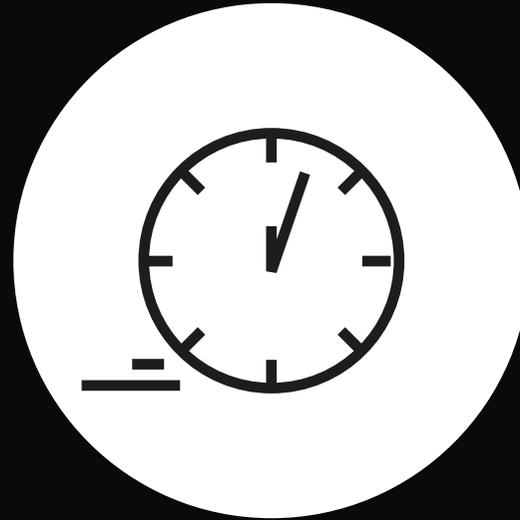
## NO WASHING MACHINE



- Never wash your rug in the washing machine or by hand. This can cause your rug to lose its shape or cause the colors to change, run or get ruined.

# 05.

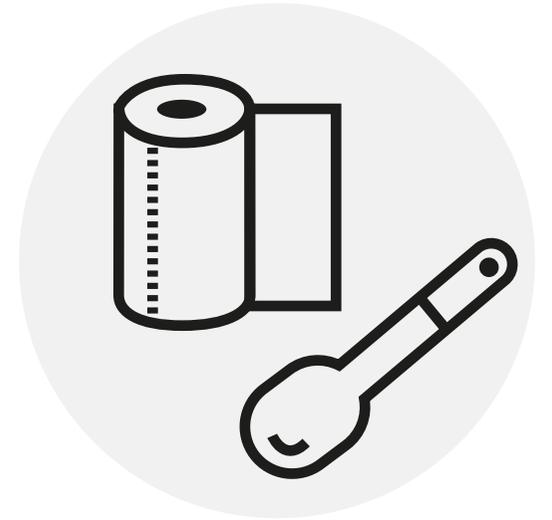
## REACT QUICKLY



- The first thing you should always do is react quickly to prevent the stain from drying.

# 06.

## STAIN REMOVAL



### LIQUID STAIN

- If the stain was caused by any kind of liquid, use white paper towels or a white cloth, going from the edges towards the center of the rug so that the stain doesn't spread.

### SOLID STAIN

- Use a spoon to scrape off and remove any solid stains.



## TYPES OF STAINS

# WATER-BASED STAINS



- RED WINE
- WHITE WINE
- SODA
- CHOCOLATE
- MILK
- FRUIT JUICE
- BEER
- COFFEE
- TEA
- BLOOD
- URINE

- Absorb the liquid quickly with paper towels or a cloth.
- Vacuum.
- Apply a solution of warm water, liquid soap and white vinegar with a damp sponge and then clean it with a clean cloth (white, if possible).
- Repeat these steps as many times as is necessary and if the stain persists we suggest a professional cleaning.



# OIL-BASED STAINS

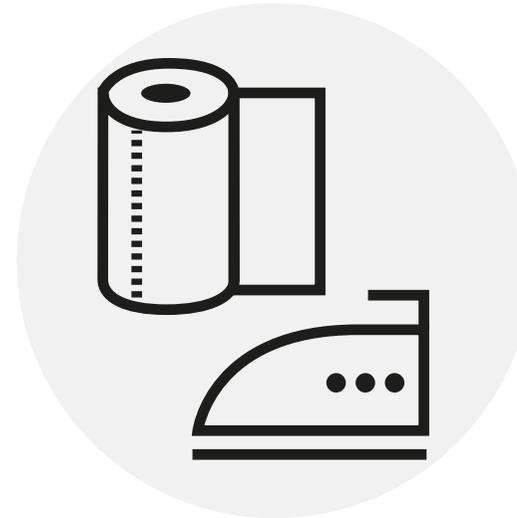
- OILS
- GREASE
- ICE CREAM
- MAYONNAISE
- CREAMS
- SAUCES
- DRESSING

- If there is any liquid, absorb it with paper towels or a cloth, and use a spoon to quickly remove any solid residue.
- Vacuum.
- Apply a solution of warm water and liquid detergent for woolens with a damp sponge and then clean it with a clean cloth (white, if possible).
- Repeat these steps as many times as is necessary and if the stain persists we suggest a professional cleaning.
- You can also use a dry cleaning solvent, taking the necessary precautions to test the color resistance in a hidden place or at the corner of the rug and always cleaning the stain right away with a plain white cloth.

# HOW TO REMOVE STAINS

## 03.

### WAX



- Lay a white paper towel over the stain and rest a hot iron on top of the towel.
- The paper will absorb the wax.
- Repeat this, changing the paper until it no longer shows any more wax.
- You can then use the same solution of liquid detergent for woolens and warm water that we suggested for oil-based stains.

## 04.

### MUD



- Once it has dried, remove as much mud as possible with a spoon.
- Vacuum both sides of the rug and then apply a solution of warm water and detergent for rugs with a damp sponge.
- Dry the rug with a clean cloth and vacuum the rug again once it has fully dried.

# HOW TO REMOVE STAINS

## 05.



### - PILLING AFTER HOUSEHOLD STAIN REMOVAL

- The friction caused while manually removing a stain will very likely cause some pilling (lint from fibers being raised), which can be easily removed by shaving the area with a hair or beard trimmer, in which case you would need to trim flush with the rug in a **very careful** manner so as to not damage or ruin the structure of the weave.

## 06.



### - PRODUCTS THAT CAUSE DEEP STAINS

- Products such as paint, nail polish, shoe polish, lipstick or glue will not respond well to these routine cleaning procedures that can be performed at home, and if you attempt to clean these kinds of stains, you might end up causing the stain to spread or permanently set into the rug.
- Under these circumstances, we advise you to consult a **dry cleaning professional**.