

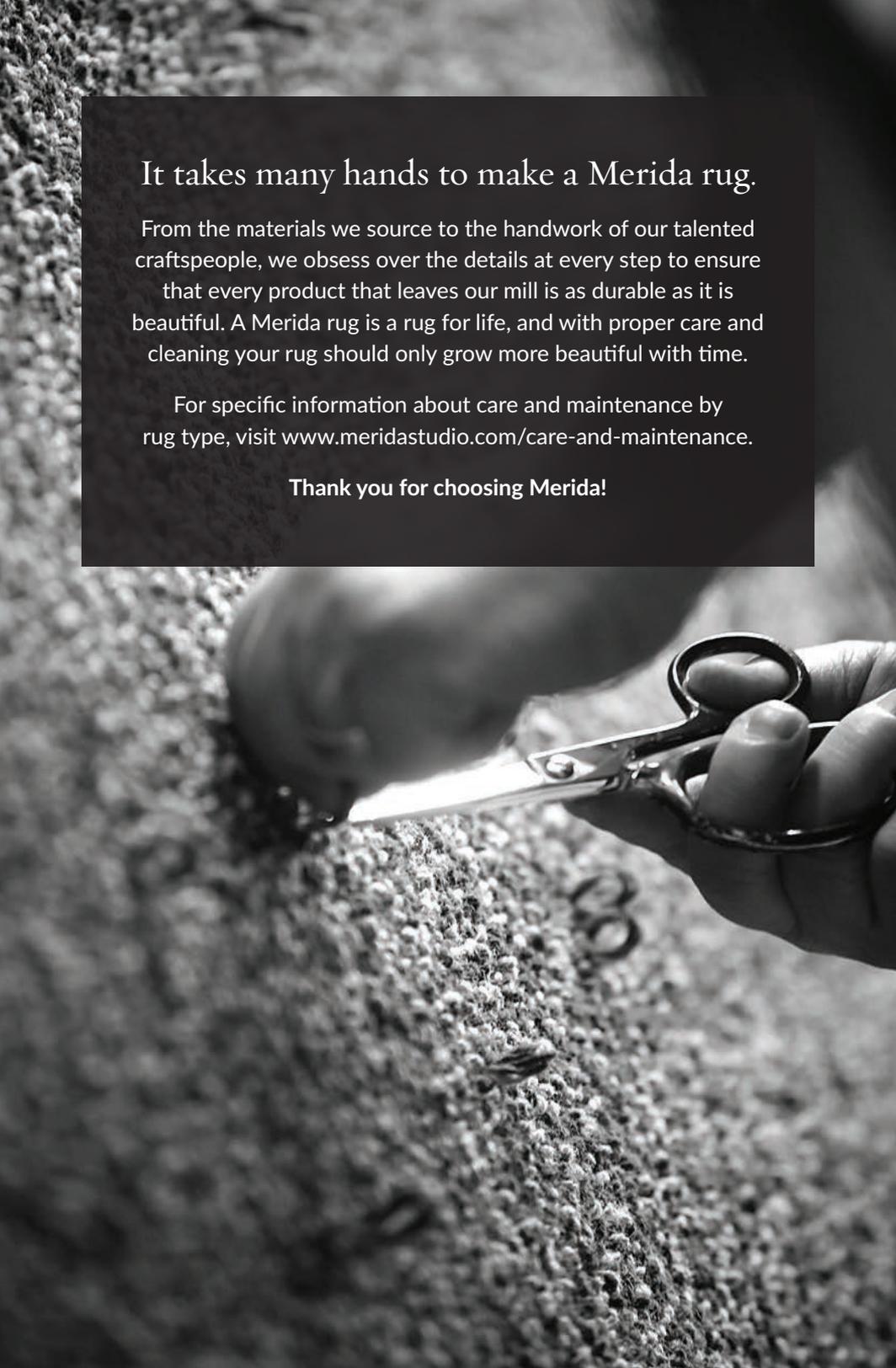
 M E R I D A

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# Rug Care and Maintenance

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CUSTOMER GUIDE



It takes many hands to make a Merida rug.

From the materials we source to the handwork of our talented craftspeople, we obsess over the details at every step to ensure that every product that leaves our mill is as durable as it is beautiful. A Merida rug is a rug for life, and with proper care and cleaning your rug should only grow more beautiful with time.

For specific information about care and maintenance by rug type, visit [www.meridastudio.com/care-and-maintenance](http://www.meridastudio.com/care-and-maintenance).

**Thank you for choosing Merida!**

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# Receiving Your Rug

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Our rugs are delivered wrapped around a corrugated core to protect them from bending during shipping. Before removing the packaging, we recommend that you first position the rug in the room where it will be laid out. Rugs should never be bent or folded: if you need to transport a rug without the core, roll the rug from end to end but do not bend or fold it.

Do not use a knife or a sharp cutter to cut open the packaging. Use a scissors with the sharp edge up so as not to cut the rug.

When laying out the rug, set the rug pad first, and then unroll the rug over it. To straighten your rug, do not pull it by the borders, but rather lift and reposition it.

Merida rugs are rolled face in or face out, depending on the finish:

- Serged rugs are rolled face out
- Rugs with a binding application are rolled face in
- Rugs with folded edges are rolled face out

Rugs that are rolled face out will lie flat as soon as they are laid on the floor. Rugs that are rolled face-in will need time to relax on the floor to lie perfectly flat. Allow 24 to 48 hours for the rug to settle into its original form. If the ends of the rug curl up, try rolling them in reverse while the rug settles.

When moving furniture into position, be careful to lift pieces and place them carefully on the rug. Do not drag furniture over the rug as this may cause irreparable damage to the rug.

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## PERFECTLY IMPERFECT

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All Merida abaca and jute rugs are spun, woven, and finished entirely by hand. Slight variations in fiber hue are typical, even in our flatweave wool rugs. It's those small imperfections that give a rug its character and integrity—and make every Merida rug unique.

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# Maintaining Your Rug

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## THE BASICS

- Rotate your rug periodically, ideally every six months to a year. This will ensure the rug wears evenly and maintains a uniform appearance.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight as it will fade the color of your rug; close shades when direct sunlight hits the rug. This also applies to other textiles such as in upholsteries and pillows.
- Avoid placing your rug right at the entrance from outdoors. If you do, place a soil-removal mat over it to catch dirt from shoes, etc.

## VACUUMING

- Vacuum at least once a week, twice if possible. If your rug is placed in a high traffic area, you should make an extra effort to vacuum it at least twice a week.
- We recommend the use of suction vacuum cleaners only. We do *not* recommend beater bar vacuums, as they may damage the floor covering material.
- Loose yarn balls on the carpet or in your vacuum cleaner are normal. Shedding typically occurs in the best quality yarns, as short fibers come loose in the spinning process and will shed with normal wear and cleaning.
- Stray fibers on woven and braided jute products may “sprout” as a result of vacuuming and normal foot traffic. While we take the ultimate care to catch stray fibers before your rug is shipped, occasionally loose fibers get trapped in the rug during the tufting or shearing process. Do not pull fibers; just trim them carefully with a sharp scissors.

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Regular preventive maintenance will keep your rug looking great for years to come.

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### **PROFESSIONAL CLEANING**

- In addition to regular care and maintenance, we recommend having your Merida rug professionally cleaned every 12 to 18 months.
- For sisal, jute or abaca rugs, use a professional cleaning service with experience cleaning plant fiber rugs. (*Consult a Merida expert for recommendations.*)
- Plant fiber rugs should never be steam cleaned or wet-shampooed. Use a dry extraction cleaning system such as Host® Spot Remover (recommended).

### **SUEDE AND LEATHER TRIM**

- For mud or salt stains, simply brush with a coarse bristled brush. Brushing stains with a mix of Woolite® detergent and lukewarm water takes care of normal wear. Do not use any topical treatment and never apply silicone to our suede.
- Our leather bindings should be dusted, non-vigorously, with a soft cloth every month or so. Any spilling or soiling should be wiped as soon as possible with a dry or lightly moistened piece of soft cloth. Use a cleaner only for stubborn spots. Never use saddle soap, bath soap or water solutions. You should condition the leather once or twice a year to restore its natural moisture, preserve its softness, and provide protection from dust and liquids.

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# Spills and Stains

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Spills are unavoidable. The key is to react quickly, especially with liquids that can penetrate the material and cause discoloration or buckling.

- When a spill occurs, immediately blot the area with a clean, absorbent white towel. Do not rub, as rubbing can cause damage by working the liquid deeper into the fibers or spreading it to a larger area.
- Rugs made of plant fibers—e.g. sisal, jute, abaca, and linen—should be completely dried as quickly as possible. Excessive dampness may cause irreparable damage to the fibers. Use a hairdryer if necessary.
- Stains should be removed immediately. See *Stain Removal Chart* on page 5 for details on how to remove specific stains.
- Do not use bleaches, mildew removers, or other strong chemicals as they can discolor or damage carpet fibers.
- Do not use stain-resistance sprays such as Fiber-Seal or any other topical treatment. Most topical treatments contain chemicals that can alter yarn colors and damage fibers over time.

## PRE-MIXING SOLUTIONS

Mix cleaning solutions in a spray bottle and mist them lightly onto the soiled area (unless otherwise instructed). Dab the stain repeatedly with a clean damp cloth, so the cloth picks up the stain. Do not rub the stain back and forth or it will spread. Blot the stain with a clean dry cloth, then repeat with the damp cloth until stain is removed.

Mix cleaning solutions as follows:

- **Detergent Solution**  
Mix 1 teaspoon clear dishwashing liquid with 1 cup lukewarm water.
- **Vinegar Solution**  
Mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup white vinegar with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water.
- **Ammonia Solution**  
Mix 1 tablespoon clear household ammonia with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water.

Proven methods for removing  
spots and stains.

<b>Beer/alcohol</b>	Apply detergent solution then blot; ammonia solution then blot; lukewarm water then blot.
<b>Blood</b>	If the stain is fresh, dab with <i>cold</i> water and salt, then blot. If older, dab with a mix of cold water plus 20% detergent and 5% ammonia, then blot. Then dab vinegar solution and blot. Never use warm water.
<b>Chewing Gum</b>	Freeze with ice cubes until gum becomes brittle, then crumble with a spoon or the back of a knife and vacuum up chips. Apply spot remover* then blot.
<b>Chocolate</b>	Apply detergent solution then blot; ammonia solution then blot; vinegar solution then blot; detergent then blot; water then blot.
<b>Coffee/tea</b>	Apply detergent then blot; vinegar then blot; detergent then blot; water then blot.
<b>Glue</b> <i>(polystyrene, epoxy)</i>	Apply acetone/nail polish remover (non-oily) then blot; repeat.
<b>Glue</b> <i>(white)</i>	Apply detergent then blot; ammonia then blot; detergent then blot; water then blot.
<b>Ink</b> <i>(ballpoint)</i>	Apply detergent then blot; ammonia then blot; vinegar then blot; detergent then blot; water then blot.
<b>Ink</b> <i>(marker)</i>	Apply spot remover* then blot; detergent solution then blot; water then blot.
<b>Jam/honey</b>	Dab with lukewarm water then blot.
<b>Lipstick</b>	Apply spot remover* then blot; detergent solution then blot; water then blot.
<b>Mud</b>	Let dry, then scrape carefully and vacuum. If necessary, apply ammonia solution then blot.
<b>Oil/sauce</b>	Apply spot remover* then blot; detergent solution then blot; water then blot.
<b>Paint</b> <i>(latex)</i>	Apply detergent then blot; ammonia then blot; water then blot; spot remover* then blot.
<b>Paint</b> <i>(oil)</i>	Apply spot remover* then blot; detergent solution then blot; water then blot.
<b>Pet accidents</b> <i>(feces)</i>	Apply detergent then blot; ammonia then blot; detergent then blot; water then blot.
<b>Pet accidents</b> <i>(urine)</i>	Apply detergent then blot; ammonia then blot; vinegar then blot; detergent then blot; water then blot.
<b>Red wine</b>	Apply detergent then blot; ammonia then blot; vinegar then blot; detergent then blot; water then blot.
<b>Soft drinks</b>	Apply detergent solution then blot; vinegar solution then blot; detergent solution then blot; water then blot.
<b>Wax candle</b>	Freeze with ice cubes, then crumble with a spoon or the back of a knife and vacuum up chips. Apply spot remover* then blot.

\*Merida recommends Host® Spot Remover for many stubborn stains, including blood, coffee, grease, gum, candy, pet accidents, wine and blood.

QUESTIONS?

Visit [www.meridastudio.com/care-and-maintenance](http://www.meridastudio.com/care-and-maintenance)  
or consult a Merida expert by emailing us at  
[info@meridastudio.com](mailto:info@meridastudio.com) or calling 1.800.345.2200.



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