BEST IN CLASS | UPDATED NOV. 1, 2023

The Very Best Washable Rugs For households with toddlers, pets, gardeners, messy chefs, and more.

By Erin Schwartz, a Strategist writer covering décor, gardening, and garment care.

Photo: Marcus McDonald

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- Best indoor/outdoor
- Best carpet tiles

If you have children, pets, or one of the messier hobbies, you know that the fancy rugs of your dreams are often better left in those dreams. For real life, where preventing mess and spills is impossible, consider a washable rug, which are designed to look good as new after a cycle in the washing machine (or, for some indoor-outdoor rugs, a quick rinse with a hose). To find the best available, I tested options as well asked interior designers, pet owners, and parents of toddlers for advice on rugs that can handle grime and that you can throw straight in the washing machine.

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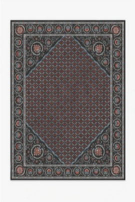
What we're looking for

Material +

Textile type +

Size range +

Best washable rug overall



Ruggable Samira Raspberry Rug

From $89

BUY AT RUGGABLE

Material: *Polyester with polyurethane barrier* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven chenille* | ***Size:*** *Ten sizes*

Ruggable makes one of the most popular washable rugs on the market. Several experts we spoke to are fans — they are "without question the best washable rugs we use," says Sherri Monte, co-owner of the interior-design and home-organization company Elegant Simplicity. The rugs have two parts: a washable, printed cover treated with a water-resistant polyurethane barrier that lets you wipe up smaller spills before a stain forms, made from a synthetic chenille fabric with a nubby texture that mimics a pile rug. Underneath is a black polyester and rubber pad that grips and holds the rug in place, similar to Velcro. When there's a spill, you remove the cover, roll it up, and toss it in the wash. "As the owner of an elderly dog that occasionally pees inside, I can easily throw the whole rug in the washing machine, which keeps me from freaking out over occasional accidents," says Strategist senior writer Liza Corsillo. Lesley Suter, travel editor at Eater, has a neutral runner in her kitchen that "gets disgusting, and I'm very glad I can wash it."

The Ruggable system works well at its intended purpose: It makes cleaning up messes and grime in heavily trafficked areas much less annoying. It's easy to remove the cover and easier than I expected to smooth it back onto the rug pad. A couple caveats: The print quality isn't amazing, so I would avoid making it the focal point of a room; the rugs make more sense in less formal, high-traffic areas like kitchens and hallways. I'd also advise against the larger sizes. Since Corsillo had already tested a smaller Ruggable runner, I tried an XL 9-by-12 foot rug in my living room, which fit in the largest industrial machine at my local laundromat but not the dryer, so it drip-dried in my apartment for three swampy days. (The brand has a helpful guide to which rug sizes will fit which washing machines.) Still, the smaller sizes are a worthwhile purchase if you're looking for a non-fancy rug that can handle stains.

Best washable rag rug

Safavieh Rag Rug Collection Handmade Cotton Area Rug

From $25

~~$29~~ now 14% off

Photo: Retailer

Material: *Cotton* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *16 sizes*

If you prefer a lower-tech washable rug, most of the experts we spoke to mentioned cotton rag rugs, a style made by tightly weaving strips of recycled textiles on a loom. They're lightweight, they can be thrown into the washing machine, and their marbled patterns are great for camouflaging stains. Maine interior designer Kelly O'Connell especially loves rag rugs, like this one from Safavieh, "for the kitchen and playrooms, where they get the most abuse."

FROM $25 AT AMAZON

Best bargain washable rag rug

Ikea Tånum Rag Rug

$8

Material: *Cotton* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *Two feet by two feet and 11 inches*

Amory Wooden, a marketing executive at StreetEasy, house flipper, mother of four and dog owner, is a fan of rag rugs for their versatility. "The door to our backyard sees a lot of mud-filled foot traffic. While it would make the most sense to use an outdoor rug at this door, they aren't easily washable. So instead, I use rag rugs from Ikea," she says, which are woven from the company's textile scraps. "It's easy to toss them into a load of laundry and clean in a few hours. As an added bonus, we use it to mop up under the water dish from our slobbery bulldog."

$8 AT IKEA

Best splurge washable rag rug

Revival Rugs Strauss Washable Rug

From $199

Material: *Cotton* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *Four sizes*

Revival, one of our favorite DTC rug brands (when she tried out the brand's overdyed vintage Turkish rugs, former Strategist contributing editor Margaret Rhodes praised their quality), makes a line of washable rugs, including this option woven from denim remnants. With its geometric pattern and marled denim blues, it's nicer-looking than the average rag rug and could easily live somewhere more prominent than a laundry room or mud room.

FROM $199 AT REVIVAL RUGS

Best organic-cotton washable rug

Willaby Hand-Loomed Rug

From $64

Photo: Retailer

Material: *Organic cotton* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *Eight sizes*

These minimalist, organic-cotton rugs from Willaby were enthusiastically recommended by two of our experts: Francesca Santi, owner of Playdate Goods, a children's store in Asheville, North Carolina, and Laura Fenton, author of *The Little Book of Living Small*. Santi loves that these rugs are dyed with nontoxic materials and says that the runner she has is "very soft on bare feet." Fenton used the small cotton-rag rug in her son's nursery. "It was very handy to be able to wash it when he was crawling (and in the spitting-up-and-exploding-diapers phase of life)," she says.

FROM $64 AT WILLABY

Best patterned washable cotton rug

Joinery Lapa Rug

From $128

Photo: Retailer

Material: *Cotton* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *Five sizes*

Joinery's lightweight, machine-washable rugs have a simpler, more grownup pattern than many other hard-wearing rugs, and can also be used as blankets or as a nice-looking couch cover to protect against pets. Singer-songwriter Melaena Cadiz works from home, so finding the right mix of form and function was important: “We have a toddler and, needless to say, have lots of mishaps, so we wanted practical but beautiful rugs,” she says. Joinery fit the bill and, “They’re awesome for folks with kids and pets.”

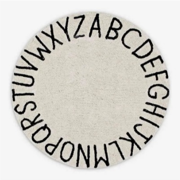
FROM $128 AT JOINERY

Joinery Lapa Rug

From $310

BUY AT JOINERY

Best washable rug for kids’ rooms



Lorena Canals ABC 5’ Round Area Rug in Natural/Black

$225

Material: *Cotton* | ***Type:*** *Pile* | ***Size:*** *Five-foot circle*

Washable rugs from Lorena Canals for nurseries are an industry favorite — interior designers Devin Shaffer, Cathie Hong, and Becca Casey all recommend them — because they’re super-soft, come in a variety of cute patterns, and have a reputation for durability. “They’re easy to incorporate into many design styles, machine washable, and soft enough to be placed in a nursery,” says Shaffer. Lamb likes that their low pile gives them a “cozier texture than most washable options on the market,” and the brand’s washable wool line “has some beautiful, colorful options that would brighten up any playroom and encourage imagination.”

$225 AT WAYFAIR

$225 AT POTTERY BARN KIDS

Lorena Canals Monstera Leaf Rug

$239

BUY AT NORDSTROM

$239 AT URBAN OUTFITTERS

Lorena Canals Milky Way Washable Area Rug

$319

BUY AT BURKE DECOR

Best washable rug for repelling pet hair

Hook & Loom New Ashford Eco Cotton Rug

From $28

Material: *85 percent cotton; 12 percent polyester; 3 percent other clothing fibers* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *Ten sizes*

If you spend hours every week cleaning up pet hair, consider a rug with a dense weave. "The tightly woven surface prevents pet hair from getting embedded into the surface," Matt Clayton, the founder of Pet Hair Patrol. Galina Holechek, an interior designer in L.A., recommends the brand Hook & Loom, also mentioned by Lamb, because it has some "pretty fantastic machine washable rugs in the flat-weave eco-cotton line," which include a ton of marled patterns in natural hues you can color-match to your pet to disguise fur. (Holechek mentions that the rugs are also hardy enough for areas with lots of foot traffic.)

FROM $28 AT HOOK & LOOM

Hook & Loom Solid Flatweave Eco Cotton Rug

From $22

BUY AT HOOK & LOOM

Best indoor-outdoor washable rug

Dash and Albert Tattersall Flatweave Indigo Indoor/Outdoor Area Rug

From $58

Material: *Polypropylene* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *11 sizes*

Indoor-outdoor rugs are often made of polypropylene (a form of plastic), which makes them incredibly easy to clean — they can be hosed down — and resistant to staining. Interior designer Andrew Howard recommends Dash and Albert indoor-outdoor rugs for their designs, like this tattersall plaid option. If a plastic rug sounds less than eco-friendly, Casey recommends Dash and Albert's line of indoor-outdoor rugs made from recycled plastic.

FROM $58 AT WAYFAIR

FROM $58 AT ANNIE SELKE

Best washable rug tiles

Flor Patterned Carpet Tiles

$21

Photo: Retailer

Material: *Nylon, PET, and nylon blends* | ***Textile type:*** *Woven* | ***Size:*** *19.7-inch-by-19.7-inch tiles*

Monte, who has a young son and a golden retriever, recommends using carpet tiles as an alternative to a traditional rug — if a mess is limited to one or two tiles, it saves you the hassle of washing the entire rug. She especially likes these Flor carpet tiles, which are easy to clean, durable, and come in a range of styles and finishes.

$21 AT FLOR

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- Matt Clayton, founder of Pet Hair Patrol
- Laura Fenton, author of *The Little Book of Living Small*
- Galina Holechek, interior designer
- Cathie Hong, interior designer
- Andrew Howard, interior designer
- Melissa Maker, home-organization YouTuber
- Sherri Monte, co-owner of Elegant Simplicity
- Kelly O'Connell, interior designer
- Margaret Rhodes, former Strategist contributing editor
- Francesca Santi, owner of Playdate Goods
- Devin Shaffer, interior designer
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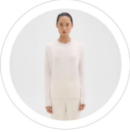

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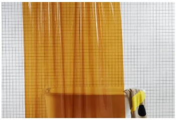

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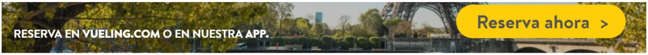

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