

22 tips for picking the perfect area rug

By **Alyson Ward** Updated 3:26 pm, Tuesday, April 5, 2016



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Don't shy away from bold prints, but don't try to match your rug and furniture exactly. This space, designed by Pamela O'Brien, uses different patterns that complement one another.

Rugs are a basic part of our homes; they make our floors softer and help define our living spaces. But many of us don't have a clue how to buy one.

How do you get the right size, the right color and the right quality? It takes a little planning and a lot of measuring. Don't be intimidated by rug shopping. A few quick tips:

Get a sense of your space: Before you shop, narrow down what you need

Decide how much you want to spend: You can go high-end or low-end, and there are good reasons to do both.

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Get the right size: Rugs can become a way to define spaces.

Consider your colors: A neutral rug can add texture; a colorful rug can offer a pop of brightness to a drab room.

Choose your materials: Your rug's material will tell you how long it'll last.

See how it works: If you're buying a more expensive rug, you can try it before you buy.

Browse the slideshow above for some inspiration, tips and a look at some rugs that really work. You can find in-depth home decorating advice from Houston experts [at houstonchronicle.com](#).

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