

# Rug Size Guide

*Choose the right rug for every room. Never buy the wrong size again.*

## #1 RULE

The most common — and most costly — decorating mistake is buying a rug that is **too small**. When in doubt, always size up. A larger rug makes a room feel bigger, more designed, and more intentional. It is almost impossible to go too large.

### STANDARD RUG SIZES AT A GLANCE

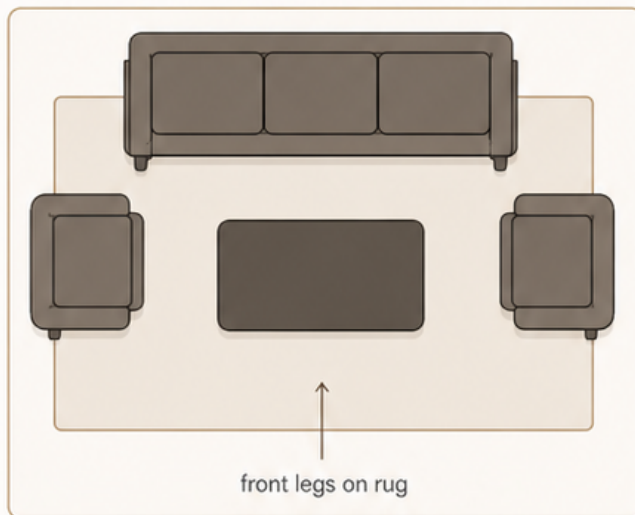
SIZE	NICKNAME	BEST FOR	AVOID IF...
2×3'–3×5'	Accent / Mat	Entryway mat, bath vanity, small accent	You need to anchor furniture
4×6'	Small	Entryway, reading nook, accent under coffee table	Room is larger than 10×10'
5×7' / 5×8'	Mid-size	Twin bedroom, small office, small living room	You have a queen+ bed
6×9'	Medium	Medium bedroom, small-to-mid living room	King bed or large sectional
8×10'	■ Most popular	Queen bedroom, medium living room, 6-seat dining, large rooms or king bed	Very large rooms or king bed
9×12'	Large	King bedroom, large living room, 8-seat dining	Room smaller than 12×15'
10×14'	Grand	Large open-plan, big sectionals, formal dining	Standard-height ceilings (can overwhelm)
Runners 2'–3×6'–12'	Runner	Hallways, kitchen, bedside, staircase	Anchoring a full seating area

# Living Room Rug Sizing

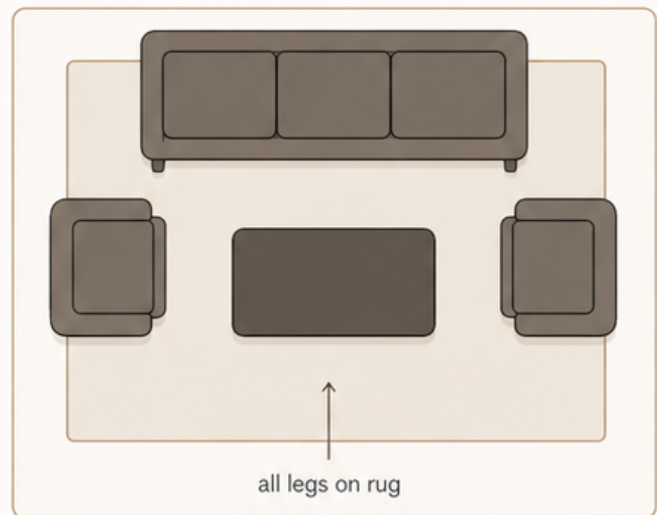
The living room rug anchors the seating area, defines the conversation zone, and sets the tone for the entire space. Getting the size right is the difference between a room that looks designed and one that looks unfinished.

## THE THREE PLACEMENT OPTIONS

OPTION A Front Legs On	OPTION B All Legs On	OPTION C Floating (avoid)
<p>At least the front two legs of every sofa and chair rests on the rug. The most common and forgiving approach. Works in most living rooms.</p>	<p>Every piece of furniture sits fully on the rug. Best for open-plan spaces and large rooms. Creates the most anchored, cohesive look.</p>	<p>Rug floats under the coffee table only, with no furniture on it. Rarely works — the room feels disconnected and the rug looks like an afterthought.</p>



OPTION A • Front Legs On (most common)



OPTION B • All Legs On (large / open-plan rooms)

## RECOMMENDED SIZES

ROOM SIZE	RECOMMENDED RUG	NOTES
Up to 12×15'	8×10'	Front legs on — works in most living rooms
12×15' and larger	9×12'	All legs on or front legs — large rooms
Open-plan / sectional	10×14' or larger	Size up to contain the full seating group
Small / apartment	6×9'	Floating under coffee table acceptable if space is very tight



**DESIGNER  
TIP**

Make sure your rug is at least 6” wider than your sofa on both sides — 8” is ideal. A rug that is narrower than the sofa looks like an afterthought. Measure your sofa first, then choose your rug.



**COMMON  
MISTAKE**

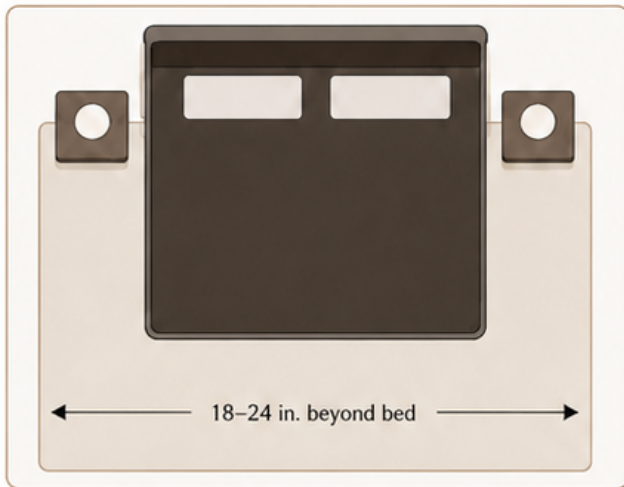
Avoid pushing all furniture against the walls and placing a small rug in the center. The rug should connect the furniture, not sit alone in the middle of the room.

# Bedroom Rug Sizing

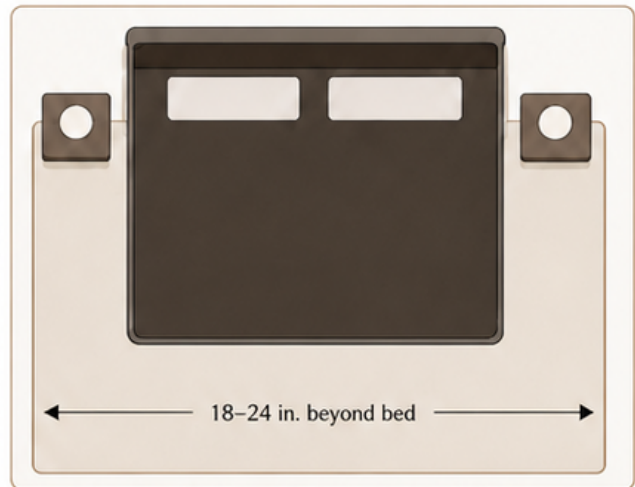
In the bedroom, the rug frames the bed, adds warmth underfoot on cold mornings, and makes the room feel luxurious. The bed size determines the rug size. The rug should extend at least 18–24” beyond both sides and the foot of the bed.

## RUG SIZE BY BED SIZE

BED SIZE	PRIMARY RUG	BUDGET OPTION	PLACEMENT RULE
Twin	5×7’ or 5×8’	Runners on sides	Extends 18” past sides · 18” past foot
Full / Double	6×9’	5×7’ + runner at foot	Extends 18” beyond each side and foot
Queen	8×10’	Two 2×7’ runners	Extends 18–24” beyond sides · 18–24” at foot
King / Cal King	9×12’	Two 2×7’ runners	Extends 18–24” beyond sides · 18–24” at foot
King (grand look)	10×14’	—	Nightstands fully on rug — hotel-suite effect

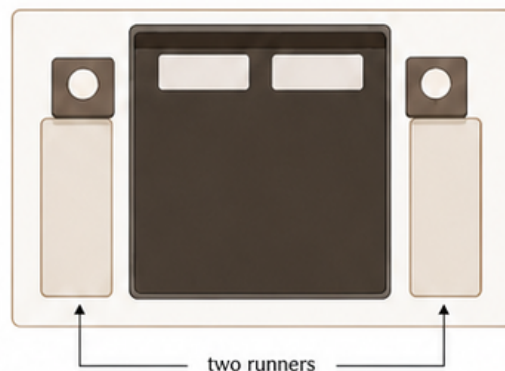


QUEEN BED • 8’×10’ recommended



KING BED • 9’×12’ recommended

## BUDGET OPTION: TWO RUNNERS



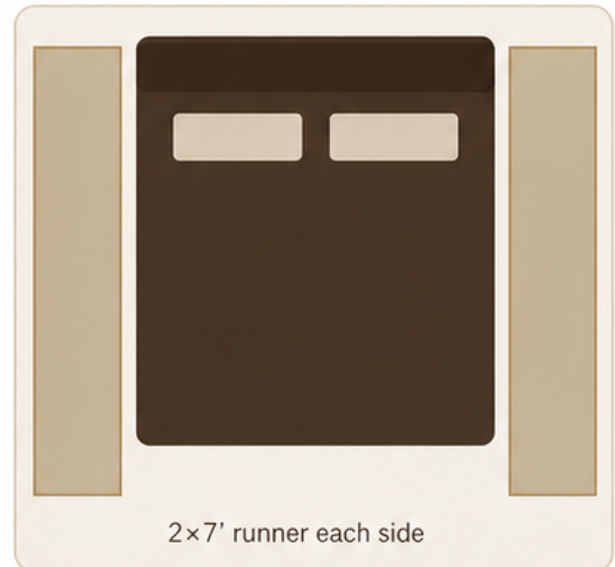
## BEDROOM

# Budget Option: Two Runners Alongside the Bed

Two runners — one alongside each side of the bed — is the most affordable way to add warmth and softness to a bedroom. Works beautifully in tight spaces where a large rug would feel too close to the walls.

**Best runner sizes:** 2×6' · 2×7' · 2.5×7'

**Placement:** Extend 18" past the foot of the bed and 18" alongside. Nightstand can sit on or off the runner.



### DESIGNER TIP

*In a primary suite, a 9×12' rug with the nightstands sitting fully on it creates a true hotel-suite feeling. The extra coverage on all sides makes the entire sleeping area feel intentional and luxurious.*



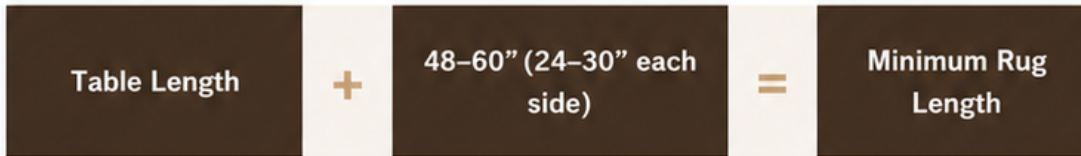
### COMMON MISTAKE

*Never buy a rug that is the same width as the bed or only slightly wider. It will look like a bath mat and make the room feel smaller. Add at least 18" on each side for the rug to read as intentional.*

# Dining Room Rug Sizing

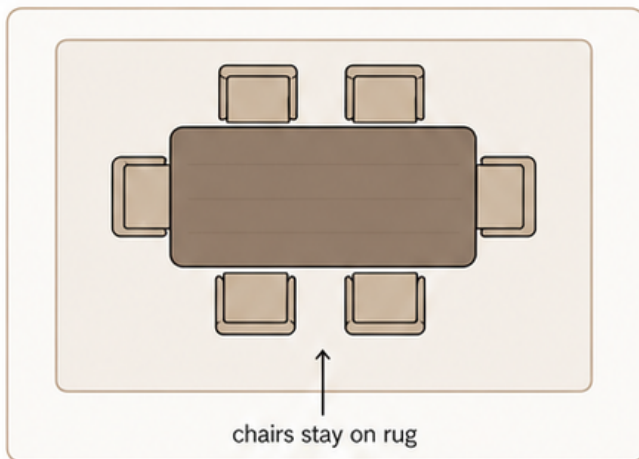
The dining room rug has one non-negotiable rule: chairs must stay fully on the rug even when pulled out. This means adding at least 24–30” beyond the table on all sides. A too-small rug will catch chair legs every time someone sits down — both frustrating and damaging to the rug.

## THE NON-NEGOTIABLE RULE

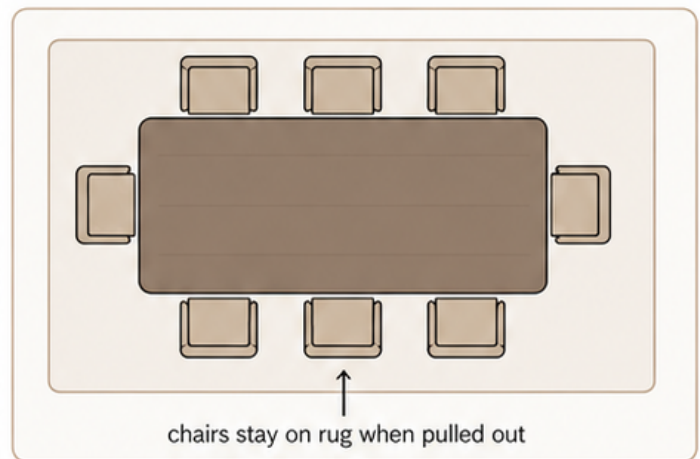


## RUG SIZE BY TABLE SIZE

TABLE SIZE	SEATS	RECOMMENDED RUG	KEY RULE
Up to 48” long	4	5×8’ or 6×9’	Min 24” beyond each end
60–72” long	6	8×10’	Most popular — works for rect. and oval
84–96” long	8	9×12’	All chairs remain on rug when dining
Over 96”	10+	10×14’ or custom	Scale up; leave 12–18” of floor showing
Round table	4–6	8’ round rug	Round rug under round table — elegant pairing



**6-SEAT TABLE • 8’×10’ recommended**



**8-SEAT TABLE • 9’×12’ recommended**

**DESIGNER TIP**

*Low-pile or flatweave rugs are essential in dining rooms. High-pile catches chair legs and makes sliding in and out uncomfortable. Save the plush pile for the living room and bedroom.*

# Dining Room Rug Sizing

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**COMMON  
MISTAKE**

*The #1 dining room mistake: buying an 8×10' rug for a 6-foot table and finding the chairs catch the edge every time someone sits. Always measure table + 24–30" on each side before ordering.*

# Hallways, Offices & Buying Tips

## OTHER ROOMS AT A GLANCE

SPACE	RECOMMENDED SIZE	DESIGNER TIP
Hallway	Runner: 2×6' to 3×12'	Leave 4–6" bare floor on each side. Runner should be 4–6" shorter than hallway.
Home Office	5×7' to 8×10'	Front legs of desk chair on rug. Choose low-pile (under 0.5") for chair mobility.
Entryway	3×5' to 4×6'	Leave 18" of floor visible around the rug. A runner works in long, narrow entries.
Kitchen	Runner or 3×5' at sink/island	Flatweave or washable only. Keep clear of stove and refrigerator door swing.
Nursery / Kids'	5×7' to 6×9'	Washable is non-negotiable. Low-pile for easy cleaning. Center in play area.
Powder Room	2×3' or 3' round	A bold pattern here makes a statement. Small space = big personality opportunity.
Outdoor	Match size to seating group	UV- and moisture-resistant material essential. Same sizing rules as living room apply.

## BEFORE YOU SHOP — MEASURE THESE

■ Room length × width	<i>The boundaries of your space</i>
■ Seating group / dining table / bed size	<i>Determines your minimum rug size</i>
■ Wall-to-sofa front / wall-to-bed foot	<i>How much rug shows on each side</i>
■ Any obstacles: vents, hearths, door swings	<i>A rug can't cover vents or block doors</i>
■ Gap you want between rug edge and wall	<i>Aim for 12–18" in most rooms</i>
■ Existing furniture leg heights	<i>High-pile can prevent doors opening or chairs rolling</i>

## 5 RULES EVERY DESIGNER FOLLOWS

**1** | **Always size up when in doubt**  
 A rug that is slightly too large always looks more intentional than one that is slightly too small. You can manage visual weight with furniture placement — but you can't add rug you don't have.

**2** | **Tape it out before you buy**  
 Use painter's tape on the floor to mark the exact rug dimensions before purchasing. Live with the tape for a day. Walk through it. Sit with it. This one step prevents the most expensive rug mistakes.

**3** | **Leave 12–18” of floor at the walls**  
 This is the visual “frame” around your rug. Too little and the room feels wall-to-wall carpet. Too much and the rug floats without grounding anything. 12–18” is the designer sweet spot.

**4** | **Low-pile for dining and desk chairs**  
 High-pile traps chair legs and makes rolling chairs nearly impossible. In dining rooms and home offices, choose flatweave or low-pile (under 0.5”). Save plush pile for bedrooms and living rooms.

**5** | **Always use a quality rug pad**  
 A rug pad prevents slipping, adds cushion underfoot, extends the life of the rug, and protects floors. Size the pad 1” smaller than the rug on all sides so it doesn't peek out.

## MATERIAL QUICK GUIDE

MATERIAL	FEEL	DURABILITY	BEST FOR	AVOID IF...
Wool	Soft, luxurious	★★★★★	Living rooms, bedrooms, formal spaces	Heavy pet traffic
Jute / Sisal	Natural, textured	★★★★■	Casual rooms, layering, dining	High-moisture — can mildew
Cotton	Casual, washable	★★★██■	Kids' rooms, kitchens	Heavy daily use
Polypropylene	Stain-resistant	★★★★■	High-traffic, outdoor, families with kids, pets	For ultra-luxurious spaces
Washable rugs	Practical, easy	★★★★■	Dining rooms, kids' rooms, kitchens	Very plush or high-pile look
Viscose / Silk	Silky, lustrous	★★███■	Low-traffic accent areas	Anywhere that gets wet or sees spills



### Need help with your design style and color direction?

Take the free Style Quiz at [interiorsbyterrell.com/style-quiz](https://interiorsbyterrell.com/style-quiz) — includes your personalized style profile, color palette, and room-planning starter guide.