

ETHICAL RUGS

Many rug makers are increasingly choosing ecologically sound and ethical production methods... eschewing child labour, using fast-growing fibres or other natural materials and dyes, and giving back to the local communities and embracing Fair Trade policies.



1. Alternative Floorings' Nurture in Cream from the Eco range is ethical and environmentally friendly. This 100% natural wool carpet is hand woven on traditional carpet looms. The woollen thread is woven on to a base of cotton and jute, and then a cotton backing is secured with a natural latex layer. Available as wall-to-wall carpeting or custom made rugs and runners, at £45 (\$75) per metre.
Tel.: +44 (0)1264 335 111
www.alternativeflooring.com

2. Following on from the huge success of her Stella rug, Michelle Mason's latest addition to the collection is the Stella Peony Felt rug. Made from felted 100% merino wool, the rug is produced locally in the UK and is available in un-dyed cream or in sky blue, which is dyed with environmentally friendly, water-based colour. £350 (\$525) from Love Eco.
Tel.: +44 (0)1223 244 710
www.love-eco.co.uk

3. Hand woven in Indonesia, Abaca fibre is almost exclusively plantation grown and does not ravage forests. Abaca is the strongest plant fibre and an Abaca tree is harvested in less than a year and a half. Abaca rugs are available from Alton-Brooke Ltd at £300-£400 (\$450-\$600) per square metre.
Tel.: +44 (0)20 7376 7008
www.alton-brooke.co.uk

4. Luke Irwin's rugs are made from 100% wool and silk and are entirely hand made in Kathmandu, Nepal. Luke does not allow the use of child labour in the manufacturing of any of his rugs, and an extra sum is donated from every square metre ordered towards an educational fund for the children of the weavers. Prices start from £300 (\$450) per square metre.
Tel.: +44 (0)1725 553 000
www.lukeirwin.com

5. Felt's wool 'Shyrdak' rugs are hand made by tribal women in the remote Tien Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan from 100% wool, and many are coloured with 100% natural dyes made from nuts, fruits and plants. Felt has a Fair Trade Policy and is committed to ethical commerce, returning an additional 5% of the UK selling price to support the wider Shyrdak-making community in Kyrgyzstan.
Tel.: +44 (0)20 8772 0358
www.feltrugs.co.uk

6. The Rug Company has joined RugMark, an independent inspection and monitoring programme that confirms rugs are manufactured without the use of child labour and provides educational opportunities for children in India and Nepal. Swirl by Paul Smith is in hand knotted Tibetan wool and costs £2,890 (\$4335) or £575 (\$860) per square metre.
Tel.: +44 (0)20 7229 5148
www.rugcompany.info www.rugmark.org

7. Jacaranda Carpets use traditional hand operated wooden looms, so there is no need for electricity. Several designs are created by grading the wool by colour, eliminating damaging dyes from the production process, and the carpets are latex backed by hand and dried naturally in the sun. The hemp collection is particularly sustainable; growing hemp requires little fertiliser and no pesticides. The 120x180cm hemp rug costs £156 (\$235); made to measure price £58.85 (\$90) per square metre.
Tel.: +44 (0)1858 464 144
www.jaracandacarpets.com

