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decorate your walls

Add a shot of color and graphic impact to any room with these unexpected wall treatments: rugs and quilts.



method 1: attach with Velcro.

Put your lightweight quilt front and center—with no visible hooks or clamps. This method works best for kilims, flat-woven rugs, and crib-size quilts, as Velcro might not support the weight of heavier pieces. Try positioning your hanging on a focal wall—that is, the first wall your eyes fall on when you enter a room, says designer Erinn Valencich.

Step 1: Cut a length of 2-inch-wide adhesive-backed Velcro (available at most hardware stores) the same length as the top edge of your quilt. Unpeel the protective backing and stick Velcro (the fuzzy side) along the back of the quilt's top edge. Set quilt aside.

Step 2: Velcroing your quilt to a strip of plywood, instead of directly onto the wall, creates an even mounting surface and prevents the Velcro adhesive from stripping paint or

plaster from your wall. Cut a plywood strip to the same length and width as the Velcro (many hardware stores will do this for you). Use a pencil to mark the spot on the wall where the top edge of the quilt will be (using a level to be sure it's even), then drill the plywood to the wall (one screw at each end should do the trick).

Step 3: Attach the other half of the Velcro strip (the hooked side) to the plywood, then hang the quilt by joining the halves of the Velcro [see above right]. Adjust slightly for straightness, if necessary.





tip

Hang a traditional colorful rug in a modern room for a contemporary look, suggests Valencich.

method 2: use a compression rack.

A large colorful piece on a wall with no furniture (such as an entryway) makes a bold visual statement—and a compression rack (see page 278 for sources) will sandwich the fibers of even the heaviest rug firmly and evenly, supporting the entire side to prevent damage from uneven weight distribution. For larger pieces, position the top edge 1½ to 2 feet from the ceiling, suggests designer Christopher Lowell, author of *Christopher Lowell's One-of-a-Kind Decorating Projects*. A smaller piece (less than 4x6 feet), on the other hand, can start closer to eye level.

Step 1: With a friend's help, hold the back bar against the wall where the top of the rug will go, then drill screws through the mounting holes to fasten to the wall. Use a level to make sure the bar is even.

Step 2: Place the front bar on top of the back bar and screw in the fastening knobs partway to hold top bar in place.

Step 3: Slide top edge of your rug in between compression bars and tighten knobs [see right].



method 3: drape over a curtain rod.

This method works especially well on a wall with no windows, since the rod and finials dress up the plain space as a window treatment would, says Valencich. Because the quilt is simply draped over the rod, making length adjustments (or swapping in a different quilt each season) is simple.

Step 1: Choose a rod length that allows for an inch of room on each side of your folded quilt.

Step 2: Allow for a bit of visual "breathing room" between furniture and the quilt: If the quilt will hang above a seating area, for instance, position the rod so that the bottom edge of the folded quilt hits the wall a foot above the top of the sofa.

Step 3: Follow the installation instructions that come with your curtain rod, and fold your quilt in half over the rod. Every six months, air out and refold the quilt to prevent permanent creases in the fabric.



tip

Protect your rug or quilt from damage by displaying it in an area that doesn't get direct sunlight (which will fade the dye).

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