

# How To Care For A Sheepskin Rug

*Thank you for purchasing from Bulkley Canyon Ranch. We are an off-grid permaculture farm located just outside of New Hazelton, BC.*

*Our sheepskins are naturally prepared, using traditional methods including finishing in a wood-fired smoker. No chemicals or dyes have been used. This skin belonged to a Shetland ram, who lived happily in a flock free-ranging and grazing at will on 20 acres, eating hay in the winter also grown on this land.*

Your sheepskin rug is a glorious home accessory which will stand the test of time with the right kind of care once. Sheepskin is a natural product which will take a bit of wear and tear. Follow these simple tips to preserve the natural beauty of your new rug.

## In the Home

Don't place the rug in direct sunlight as this can cause fading and sunspots. Remember that sheepskin does not fare well in damp conditions. Lengthy exposure to damp can lead to the formation of bacteria which will damage the fleece and could make it rather smelly.

## On-going Care

Your rug spends a lot of time on the floor and so it will inevitably pick up dust and debris over the course of time. A regular shake and brush will keep the fleece looking good and feeling great. Use a wire brush or comb to gently restore your rug and be careful not to work too vigorously or to tug and pull the fibres.

## Cleaning

From time to time you may need to give your rug a more thorough clean. Since this sheepskin has not been dyed, this can be done by hand or by machine. To **wash your rug** use cool water or a cool, delicate cycle on your machine and wash with a mild detergent that does not contain bleach or enzymes. A gentle hand dish washing soap is a good choice. Once the skin

has been washed use the spin cycle on your machine to clear the excess water or if cleaning by hand then you should gently press away the water. Give the rug a gentle brush whilst still wet as this will help to make the final brushing much easier when the rug is dry. To dry the rug, lay it out and reshape it and then leave it flat or carefully hang it to dry naturally. It is important to reshape your rug while it is still damp, as this is when it is most pliable. When partially dry give the rug a further brush. You should never use a tumble dryer or hang your rug over a radiator. Sheepskin will not respond well to direct heat sources and can harden and shrink.

## Finishing

Once your rug has been cleaned and dried, the wool may look a little curly and flat. This is no cause for panic as this is what the fibres looked like when they were still on the sheep. All you need to do is brush the fleece with your wire brush or comb using gentle strokes to restore your rug to its fluffy appearance.

**If cared for properly** your sheepskin rug will give you years of pleasure and will certainly stand the test of time. Just a little TLC every so often makes all the difference and is well worth the effort.

*Adapted from <https://www.workinghomeguide.com/17450/how-to-care-for-a-sheepskin-rug>, Sally Stacey, 2014.*