

## SOFT OPTIONS



## WOOL &amp; COTTON

Carpet adds instant comfort and colour, whether it's a bold floral, classic plaid design or a plain understated natural shade. Opt for a lively pattern in a country cottage for personality and visual warmth. For narrow corridors or stairs, experiment with runners in stripes of different widths to create a feeling of space. Pure wool and felt make a particularly warm option due to the insulating qualities of the natural fibres. Carpet is a great sound insulator, too, making it an ideal choice for upstairs bedrooms in older country homes with creaky floorboards. Large flatweave cotton rugs offer a simple, movable solution that can add warmth and style, and cleverly define different living spaces in open-plan areas. They are also great for adding a dash of colour, pattern and texture to an otherwise plain room without the cost of committing to a whole new floor.

- For the best results, always choose the best underlay you can afford - the better the quality, the less a carpet will show signs of wear and the longer it will last.
- Ensure you select the right carpet or rug for the job - check the label for its durability and suitability, particularly for heavy-traffic areas and stairs, where a wool-mix option (incorporating hardwearing man-made fibres) might be worth considering. ➔



TOP LEFT A striking striped runner, like this one from Roger Oates, looks effective on stairs or in a hall or landing ABOVE A pale-striped flatweave rug is more economical than carpet and covers large areas easily LEFT Carpet feels warm and cosy, which is beneficial in rooms where you are likely to be barefoot