

LIVE THE LIFE...LOVE THE STYLE

# COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

*Celebrate the*  
**NEW YEAR**

**COME TOGETHER IN A HOME  
MADE FOR HAPPY TIMES**

*Let's have a*  
**PARTY!**

**OH-SO STYLISH  
ENTERTAINING GUIDE**

**THE COOLEST  
COCKTAIL CABINETS**

**CRAFT SPIRITS  
& OPTIONS FOR  
A SOBER BAR**

**TIME FOR A REVAMP?**

*Guest bedroom  
inspiration; the carpets  
to choose now*

*A fresh start in the*  
**COUNTRY**

❖ RESTORED SHEEP SHED ❖ REBUILT COTTAGE ❖ CONTEMPORARY  
COTSWOLD HOUSE ❖ NEW ENGLAND-STYLE RENOVATION

FUTURE

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£4.80



Sisal Bubbleweave,  
from £60.80sq m,  
Alternative Flooring

### WOVEN STYLE

This chunky sisal bubbleweave not only has a beautiful tactile knitted texture and nuanced earthy tones on the surface, it's softer underfoot too. That's thanks to the weave, which is not as tight as finer sisal styles. It can also be used with underfloor heating. However, do discuss your type of underfloor heating with the carpet installer. Available in five natural shades.

# PUT ON A FLOOR SHOW

SOFT, SOUND-ABSORBING AND STYLISH,  
THESE CARPETS AND RUNNERS WILL KEEP YOUR  
COUNTRY HOME COSY AND CALM





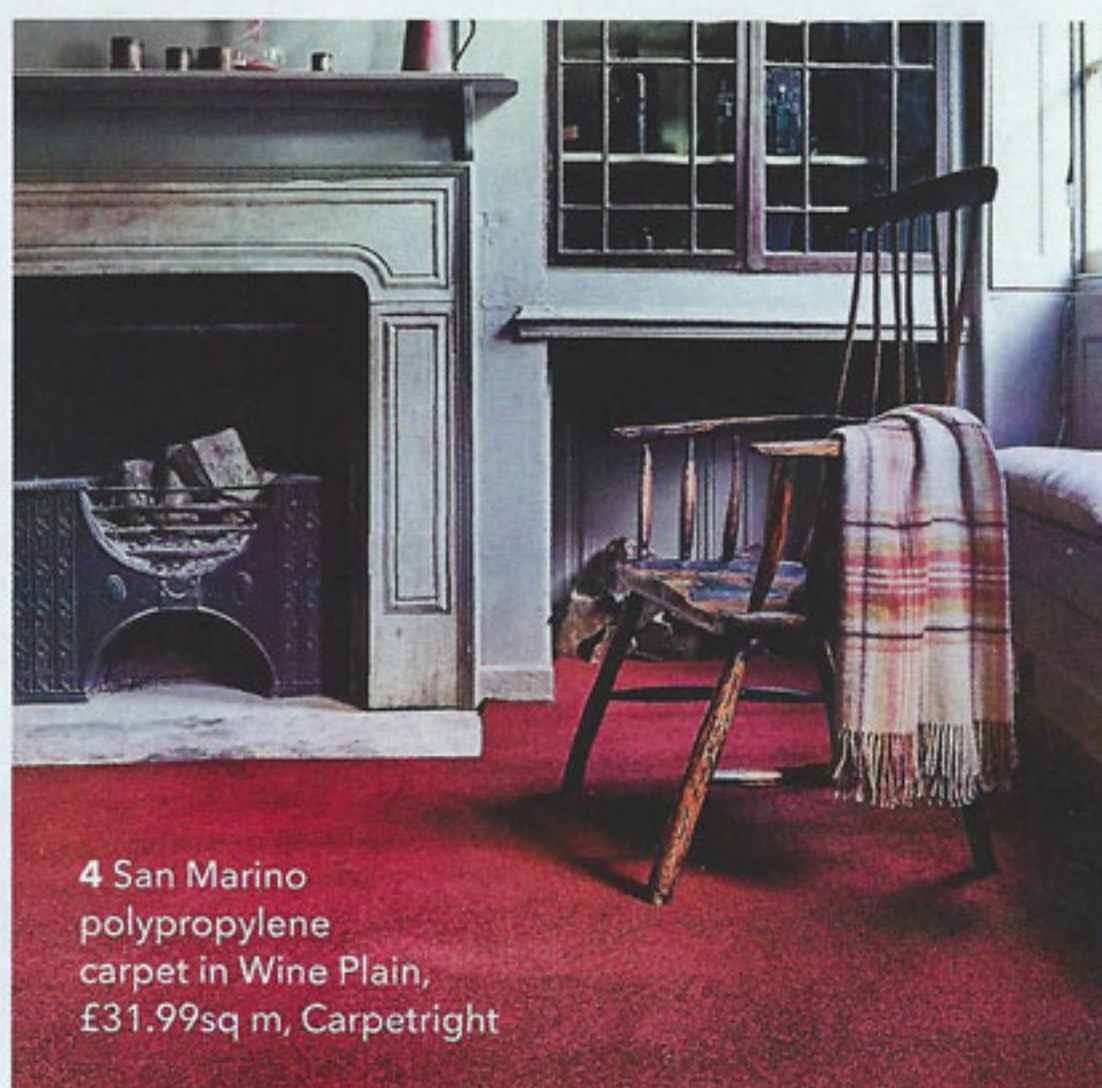
**1** Coir bouclé in Natural, from £27.50sq m, Kersaint Cobb



**2** Sisal Sumatra in Java, £46.80sq m, Fibre Flooring



**3** Elements 100% wool carpet in Pebble, £65sq m, Brockway



**4** San Marino polypropylene carpet in Wine Plain, £31.99sq m, Carpetright

## 1 PLANT BASED

Hardwearing coir is made from the fibres of coconut husks, which are soaked, spun and woven into this rustic-style matting. Ideal for hallways, it's a cosier option than wooden, tiled or stone flooring, without the maintenance required of a soft carpet or runner. Choose from six earthy tones.

## 2 AU NATURAL

Fibre Flooring is renowned for its expertise in sustainably sourced, natural floor coverings, including sisal, wool and seagrass. This textured Sumatra sisal, available in five shades, is tough enough for use

in hallways and on stairs, and a stylish choice for main living areas. Treating with Intec stain protection is recommended, as sisal should never be wet- or steam-cleaned, although a specialist sisal cleaner can be used on wet or dry marks.

## 3 PALE AND INTERESTING

This pale loop-pile wool carpet makes a sumptuous choice for the bedroom. It's soft underfoot and in a room with less traffic than other parts of the home, it's easy to keep it pristine. 'Always buy new underlay, it improves a carpet's performance and life, and ensures it sits properly and wears evenly,' says Rupert

Anton, of The Carpet Foundation. 'If you get mud on a wool carpet, let it dry and vacuum as usual. Never scrub or wipe, or use detergents. Only use carpet care treatments that are Woollsafe approved.'

## 4 GO BOLD

A bright carpet in a neutral room is a bold way to introduce colour. Consider your choice carefully and ensure that it's a shade you can live with. Flooring is likely to have the longest life span in an interior, so it's important to get this right and to invest in quality. Remember it's easier and less expensive to refresh walls than re-cover floors.



“GET YOUR ROOM PROFESSIONALLY MEASURED. DOING IT YOURSELF COULD RESULT IN ORDERING TOO MUCH, TOO LITTLE OR A MISALIGNED PATTERN”

RUPERT ANTON, THE CARPET FOUNDATION



5 Plato 100% wool carpet in Cloud, from £75.99sq m, Brintons



## 5 TRADITIONAL TWIST

Our sister brand *Country Life* has teamed up with heritage UK manufacturer Brintons for its first carpet collection. Featuring four subtle designs in a choice of natural shades, the carpets are made with premium British wool, renowned for its spring and resilience, which makes it resistant to flattening over time. Combining cut-pile (where a knife shears across the top) and loop pile, the result is a tactile texture with a distinctive three-dimensional effect.

## 6 WARM WELCOME

Nothing sets the tone of a home more than a suitably stylish entrance. The wonderful thing about this striped flatweave runner from Roger Oates is that it not only oozes style, but its joyful pastel colour combination offers a cheerful welcome to everyone that crosses the threshold. What's more, these stylish runners are crafted using traditional techniques on Hattersley looms using a British Cheviot wool blend, which is spun and dyed in Yorkshire.



6 Kyoto in Blossom 100% wool runner, 70cm wide, £132 lin m, Roger Oates

## NEED TO KNOW... BUYING CARPET

### FIRST THINGS FIRST

'Think about how much wear your carpet will receive. Halls and stairs need tougher carpets than a bedroom,' says Rupert Anton of The Carpet Foundation. 'Expect to pay £25sq m for a good-quality carpet in areas of heaviest wear.'

### PILES OF CHOICE

Twist pile has a bobbly look and can be used anywhere in the home, while velvet pile, such as Saxony, has a smooth luxurious appearance, suited to bedrooms. Loop pile resembles coir or sisal. The latter two are best avoided on stairs.

### ANIMAL VS VEGETABLE

Wool provides insulating comfort underfoot. It absorbs sound and is naturally fire resistant. Sisal is naturally moth and dust mite-resistant and little pesticide is used in its production. If you go for a synthetic carpet, choose recycled plastics.

### TOGS AND WARMTH

The higher the tog rating, the more heat your carpet will retain. This goes for underlay too. With an underfloor heating system, insulation of 2.5 tog is now considered to be a realistic maximum limit for carpet and underlay combined.