

# MERIDA abaca collection

Thank you for choosing Merida Meridian as your source for distinctive floor covering designs. Your Abaca rug is handwoven in the Philippines of 100% Abaca. Let us introduce you to the unique characteristics of Abaca and provide some guidance on the care and maintenance of your rug.

## About Abaca:

Abaca fiber, indigenous to the Philippines and obtained from the Abaca, or Manila hemp plant (part of the banana family) is considered the strongest of natural fibers. Traditionally used for fibercraft and cordage due to its strength and heightened resistance to salt water decomposition, it is now more widely used in pulp and specialty paper manufacturers such as currency notes. We use Abaca in a more traditional sense due to its lustrous, long staple fiber and its dramatic range of fiber color. These qualities make abaca uncommonly beautiful as woven floor covering.

## Caring For Your Merida Meridian Floor Covering

### Receiving Your New Abaca Area Rug

In order to protect your rug from damage in shipping, we roll it with the face of the rug on the inside. Therefore, when you receive the rug you should open it, unroll it, and re-roll it in the opposite direction, with the face on the outside. Leave it rolled up in the room where it will stay, allowing the rug to acclimate to the humidity and temperature of its new environment. After 24 hours you may unroll the rug and put it in place.

- ◆ Natural vegetable fibers are quite absorbent; therefore they will shrink and expand a bit with changes in the humidity. As a result, Merida's abaca rugs are for **dry indoor use only**. They are not appropriate for excessively moist indoor areas; and are best used in dry, well ventilated or climate controlled environments. They should never be used in bathrooms, kitchens, basements, or other damp or humid environments.
- ◆ Exposure to direct sunlight is always a factor to consider when placing a rug in a room. All fibers, both dyed and un-dyed, will change over time, especially when placed in direct sunlight for several hours a day. If placed in a sunny location, your abaca rug should be turned occasionally.
- ◆ The use of a non-skid rug pad is highly recommended to protect against wear, and to prevent slipping on wood and tile floors. A rug pad will provide dimensional stability and extra cushioning underfoot. Ask about Merida's rug pad made from 100% natural rubber.
- ◆ Some of our abaca designs reflect a relatively open weave structure. Therefore they are not suited for areas where chairs will be frequently moved across them.

### Maintaining and Cleaning Your Merida Abaca Area Rug:

The first step is to use a coarse doormat or a walk-off mat at your front door. This will provide a great deal of protection for your new rug. The goal is to remove as much of the outside dirt as possible from the shoes of those entering you home.

#### Routine Maintenance:

- ◆ Vacuum regularly
- ◆ Remove spills immediately
- ◆ Use a professional carpet cleaner or a dry extraction carpet cleaning method for periodic deep cleaning.

To maintain the original beauty and to prolong the life of your Abaca rug, vacuuming once or twice weekly is very important. This will regularly remove the fine dirt particles that can lodge between the fibers and cause additional wear. For best results, we recommend the use of a vacuum with powerful airflow and adjustable brushes. Due to the heavy texture of this collection, do not use a beater-bar vacuum.

Do not steam clean or wet shampoo your abaca rug. Plant fibers are highly absorbent, so when exposed to liquids or excessive dampness, they are subject to some shrinking and puckering. Merida recommends using a dry extraction carpet cleaning system. These dry carpet cleaning systems are by far the most successful method of cleaning all natural fiber rugs. We recommend testing the cleaner on an inconspicuous section of the rug before trying to clean a more obvious area. Such dry extraction carpet cleaners as Host, Capture and others, are available at hardware stores, home improvement centers and the home care sections of most mass retailers.

## Removing Spills and Spots from Your Area Rug

Spills and spots on natural fiber rugs need immediate attention. A liquid spill left untreated will act as a magnet to any dirt particles that are in the rug, causing the dirt to rise to the surface. This dirt may cause a dark stain. To prevent this from happening, try to keep the rug as soil-free as possible with regular vacuuming. When a spill occurs, even if it is only water, it is important that it be removed immediately by blotting or pat-drying the area with a clean, absorbent white cloth. Never rub the area of the spill. Rubbing can work the liquid deeper into the fibers, making the spill more likely to stain the carpet. It can also spread the liquid to a larger area of the rug. To remove spots caused by solid substances, first remove any remaining material. Scrape it up with the dull side of a butter knife or a spoon, always working from the outside of the spot toward the center. For information on cleaning specific spots and spills please see below for a list of recommended cleaning solutions. This information is also available on our website, at [www.meridameridian.com](http://www.meridameridian.com)

### RECOMMENDED CLEANING SOLUTIONS

Use the mixtures and combinations described below according to the spill description chart at right. Always place the solutions in a spray bottle and mist them lightly onto the soiled spot.
<b>DETERGENT SOLUTION</b> Mix one teaspoon of clear dishwashing liquid with one cup of lukewarm water.
<b>SOLVENT SOLUTION</b> Use Host Spot Remover or any consumer-brand dry cleaning solvent.
<b>VINEGAR SOLUTION</b> Mix 1/4 cup white vinegar with 1/4 cup water
<b>AMMONIA SOLUTION</b> Mix one tablespoon clear household ammonia with 1/2 cup water.
<b>A.</b> Use Host Dry Cleaner for Carpets
<b>B.</b> Apply solvent then blot, detergent then blot, water then blot.
<b>C.</b> Apply detergent then blot, ammonia then blot, detergent then blot, water then blot.
<b>D.</b> Apply detergent then blot, vinegar then blot, detergent then blot, water then blot.
<b>E.</b> Apply detergent then blot, ammonia then blot, vinegar then blot, detergent then blot, water then blot.
<b>F.</b> Apply detergent then blot, ammonia then blot, water then blot, solvent then blot.
<b>G.</b> Freeze with ice cube then shatter with blunt object and vacuum out chips, apply solvent then blot. (For wax paper, place paper towel or paper bag over wax, iron with warm, <i>not hot</i> , iron to absorb.)
<b>H.</b> Apply cool water then blot, ammonia then blot, detergent then blot, water then blot.
<b>I.</b> Apply acetone polish remover (not oily) then blot; repeat.

### HOW TO CLEAN SPECIFIC SPOTS AND SPILLS

<b>BEER OR LIQUOR</b>	<b>A or D</b>	<b>LIPSTICK</b>	<b>A or B</b>
<b>BLOOD</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>MASCARA</b>	<b>A or B</b>
<b>BUTTER</b>	<b>A or B</b>	<b>MAYONNAISE</b>	<b>A or C</b>
<b>CANDY</b>	<b>A or E</b>	<b>MERTHLOLATE</b>	<b>A and E</b>
<b>CATSUP</b>	<b>A or C</b>	<b>MILK</b>	<b>A and E</b>
<b>CHEWING GUM</b>	<b>A or G</b>	<b>NAIL POLISH</b>	<b>I and A</b>
<b>CHOCOLATE</b>	<b>A or E</b>	<b>OIL – COOKING</b>	<b>A or B</b>
<b>COFFEE</b>	<b>A or D</b>	<b>OIL – FURNITURE</b>	<b>A or B</b>
<b>CRAYON</b>	<b>B and A</b>	<b>PAINT – LATEX</b>	<b>A or F</b>
<b>EGG</b>	<b>A or C</b>	<b>PAINT – OIL BASE</b>	<b>A or B</b>
<b>FECES</b>	<b>A or C</b>	<b>RUST</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>FOOD COLOR</b>	<b>C and A</b>	<b>SHOE POLISH (LIQUID)</b>	<b>A or B</b>
<b>FRUIT JUICES</b>	<b>A or E</b>	<b>SHOE POLISH (PASTE)</b>	<b>A or B</b>
<b>FURNITURE POLISH</b>	<b>A or B</b>	<b>SOFT DRINKS</b>	<b>A or E</b>
<b>FURNITURE POLISH WITH STAIN</b>	<b>A or C</b>	<b>TAR</b>	<b>A and B</b>
<b>GLUE / MODEL CEMENT</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>TEA</b>	<b>A or D</b>
<b>GLUE – WHITE</b>	<b>C and A</b>	<b>URINE</b>	<b>A or E</b>
<b>GRAVY</b>	<b>A or E</b>	<b>WATERCOLORS</b>	<b>A or F</b>
<b>HAIR SPRAY</b>	<b>A or B</b>	<b>WAX CANDLE – COLOR</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>HAND LOTION</b>	<b>A or B</b>	<b>WAX CANDLE – WHITE</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>ICE CREAM</b>	<b>A or B</b>	<b>WINE</b>	<b>A or E</b>
<b>INK – BALLPOINT</b>	<b>A or E</b>		
<b>INK – MARKER</b>	<b>A or B</b>		



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