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RENOVATION STYLE[®]

50 Best Ideas

*Create the Character
You Crave*



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RemodelingCenter.com

New Life
For an Old Kitchen
p. 14

14 Gorgeous Rugs for Your Stairs p. 31



1. Medici in Blue from Brintons Limited. Beginning at \$110/square yard, runners available in 3-foot width and any length. brintons.net 2. Le Poeme in Chocolate from Ballard Designs. \$149 for a runner 2 feet 3 inches x 8 feet. ballarddesigns.com 3. Adobe Ticking from Dash & Albert. \$78 for a runner 2 feet 6 inches x 8 feet. dashandalbert.com 4. Envy in Rain Drops from Bliss Flooring by Beaulieu. Beginning at \$3.66/square foot for carpet only. blissflooring.com 5. Halsted from IKEA. \$14.99 for a runner 2 feet 7 inches x 6 feet 7 inches. ikea.com

Stair Runners

The right rug can elevate the experience of getting from one floor to another in your house.

Stair runners add style and comfort. They also preserve architectural detail on stairways.



Above This subtle allover botanical print on a dark background flows gently down the stairs. Installed with waterfall method (the runner is attached only where the tread meets the riser), the flowing lines of the print contrast with the crisp lines of the wall paneling.

Above Right Diamond-pattern carpets such as this one are popular choices for stair runners because they have strong lines for visual interest in both directions, often without the pattern breaking awkwardly at the nose of the stair tread. *Opposite* A strong stripe separates the stairs from the floor carpet in the entry area and accents the contrast between dark woodwork and light walls. Installed to wrap each step, the runner emphasizes the room's formal look.



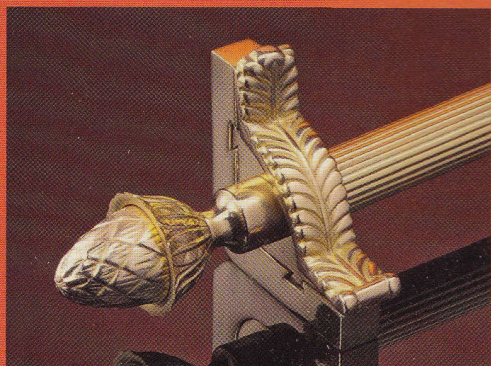
Staircases can be elegant affairs of fine woodwork and great design. The treads, however, bear the daily burden. Stair runners protect wood treads, muffle footsteps, and accentuate the style of the house.

Almost any rug or carpet design can be made to serve as a runner, but some patterns work better than others. Allover patterns, stripes, and textured solid colors work well on any staircase because the pattern won't break unevenly as it flows over the treads.

Large, blocky prints; asymmetrical patterns; and large-scale, geometric patterns are more difficult to work with, as getting the pattern to break in a pleasing manner at every step might not be possible. Allowing for turns and landings adds to the difficulty in making these patterns work well.

A trim border adds definition to solid or subtly colored runners. Otherwise the edges of runners cut from carpet can be finished with a simple overstitch. Runner carpet that's woven to a standard width, usually 27 or 31 inches, will have finished edges and perhaps a border. Runner rugs can be sewn together end-to-end to create a stair runner.

ADVERTISEMENT



STAIR RODS

While no longer used to hold the runner in place, ornamental stair rods still need to be sturdy to stand up to foot traffic. Choose a heavy-gauge rod of high-quality metal to avoid dents and pitting. Rods come in a range of metal colors and textures—from bright gold to matte silver, and smooth finishes to twists and braided looks—with finials and brackets to match.



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STAIR RUNNERS

**Rigatoni***bloomsburgcarpet.com*

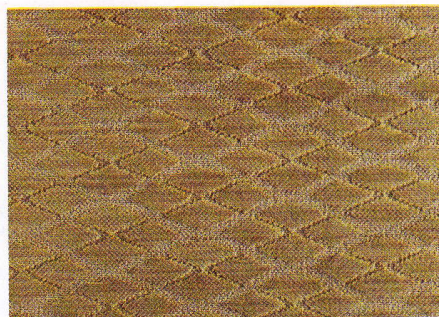
Thin and tightly woven with simple patterns in medium repeats, runners in this wool blend will hug the steps, hide footprints, and resist dirt. From Bloomsburg Carpet. \$10/square foot.

**Renate***ikea.com*

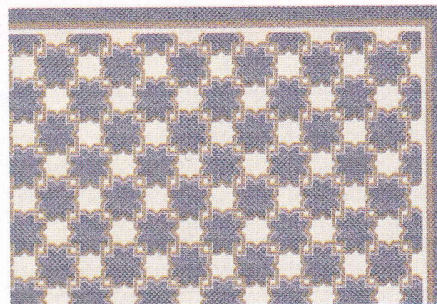
While stripes are always a good choice, think outside the lines with casual cotton rugs sewn together end-to-end. This horizontal stripe will highlight alternate risers. From IKEA. \$27.99 for a runner 2 feet 7 inches x 5 feet 11 inches.

**Starflowers***odegardinc.com*

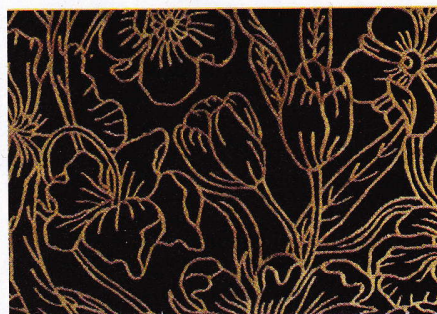
A small, all-over floral looks like a field flowing down the stairs. Good for narrow steps, the pattern adds interest without becoming overwhelming. From Odegard Inc. Starting at \$120/square foot.

**Opening Event***shawfloors.com*

This small sculpted pattern in neutrals adds a slightly formal tone without making a strong statement. The durable blend will hold up to heavy traffic. From Shaw Flooring. \$43.50/square yard plus \$1/linear foot for edging.

**Moorish***starkcarpet.com*

Having a runner custom-made in this detailed geometric pattern will take time, but the proportions are a sure fit for your stairs, large or small. From the Barry Goralnick collection at Stark Carpet (to the trade).

**Floral Silhouette***capelrugs.com*

Bold and contrasting, this big, all-over pattern will adapt easily to turns and landings and is suited to a large staircase. Made of wool and viscose, it's soft underfoot and will absorb sound. From Capel Rugs. \$1,499 for a 5 x 8-foot rug; can be cut to make a custom runner.