



## Islamic Prayer Rug

During Islamic prayers, worshippers bow, kneel, and prostrate on the ground in humility before God. The only requirement in Islam is that prayers be performed in an area that is clean. Prayer rugs are not universally used by Muslims, nor are they specifically required by the Islamic faith, but they have become a traditional way for many Muslims to ensure the cleanliness of their place of prayer, and to create an isolated space within which to pray.

Prayer rugs are usually about one metre long, just enough for an adult to fit comfortably when kneeling or prostrating. Commercially produced rugs are usually made of silk or cotton.

While some rugs are made in solid colours most are adorned. In geometric, floral or arabesque designs or depict Islamic landmarks such as the Ka'aba in Mecca.

When the time for prayer comes, the worshipper lays the rug on the ground, so that the top points towards the direction of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. After prayer, the rug is immediately folded or rolled, and put away for the next use. This ensures that the rug remains clean.

