

Design Resource

Carpet Weaving - Bhadohi

The Art of Weaving

by

Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar with Ashish Yadav,

M. Des.

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi>



1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

Introduction

Beautifying one's house has been an ancient tradition since ages; the rich do it with expensive materials while the lower income households too decorate their homes in their own creative ways. When it comes to decoration, carpets are one of the highly listed priorities in Indian homes with their stupefying designs.

Carpet weaving continues to be a source of livelihood for many artisans in India. The carpet weaving industry in India, is highly labor intensive and it forms a considerable chunk of the handloom industry. It has been providing a huge boost to India's export and has been contributing significantly to Indian economy. The industry provides livelihood to approximately 2.5 million artisans and earns significant foreign exchange for the country. Export earnings from carpet industry have been increasing over the years especially from 1996 onwards and touching over USD 621 million during 2005-06. Presently, India exports carpets worth over Rupees 2600 crores.

A major part of arts and handicrafts, this profession continues to be very popular in the region of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kashmir. Major centers of production are Bhadohi, Agra, Jaipur and Kashmir. During the last few decades, hand-tufted carpets have emerged as one of the major categories apart from hand knotted woolen carpets. The different types of carpets include tufted woolen carpets, GABBE woolen carpets, handmade woolen durries, pure silk carpets, staple or synthetic carpets and chain stitch rugs. Due to proximity to home furnishing products, Panipat has emerged as another major center for carpet manufacturing.

The domestic market size is about Rs 200 crores. Many Industry players think that Indian market will expand rapidly based on current retail boom. Over the years carpet weaving center has emerged across India. Each has its own distinct competitiveness. These centers employ millions of people.

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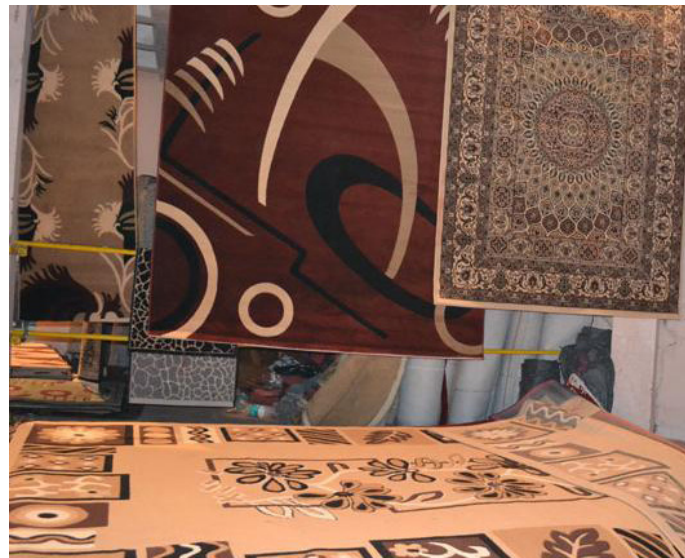
2. Bhadohi

3. Tools and Raw Materials

4. Making Process

5. Finished Products

6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction

2. **Bhadohi**

3. Tools and Raw Materials

4. Making Process

5. Finished Products

6. Contact Details

Bhadohi

Bhadohi, famous as a carpet-weaving centre, gets its name from Bhar Raj of the region, which had Bhadohi as its capital. Traces of its origin can be found in the names of ruined mounds and old tanks named after the Bhar rulers who were part of the Kannauj kingdom. The Bhadohi district is the biggest carpet-manufacturing centre in India, mostly known for its hand-knotted carpet. Known as the 'Carpet City', the Mirzapur-Bhadohi region is the largest handmade carpet-weaving cluster, engaging around 3.2 million people in the industry. Bhadohi alone employs 22 lakh rural artisans in its 100 percent export-oriented industry, which accounts for about 75 per cent of the Rs 4,400 crore total carpet exports from India, exporting carpets worth Rs 2,500 crore (approx) in 2010. Carpet weaving in the region dates back to the 16th century, during the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar. It is believed that weaving in this region was established centuries ago by Iranian master weavers while travelling in India, stopped at Madhosingh village, near Khamaria, in Bhadohi and set up looms here.

Each manufacturing region across India has its own specialty in carpet designing. Kashmir specializes in weaving elegant hand-knotted silk and woolen carpets. Agra specializes in producing high quality hand-knotted Persian, Turkish carpets using natural dyes. The Bhadohi-Mirzapur belt in the state of Uttar Pradesh produces maximum number of carpets in India. This region also produces carpets of all designs and quality. Majority of the carpet weavers are established in this area.

Bhadohi - Mirzapur, Panipat, Jaipur and Agra form the prime carpet manufacturing areas in recent times. The growth and the spread of this industry are partially attributed to the caste and village system unique in rural India. This industry is primarily rural in nature with minimal requirements. From the early times, carpet weaving had been traditionally done by the Muslim community and was practiced besides agriculture. The households had a loom at its disposal where in the family members tried their hands whenever they were left with spare time.

With passage of time, this industry has modernized itself with the introduction of technology and discarding the primitive handmade tools, which used to absorb a lot of time and labor.

In 2010, the carpets of the UP region received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which means carpets manufactured in nine districts of the region, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Ghazipur, Sonebhadra, Kaushambi, Allahabad, Jaunpur and Chandauli would be tagged with 'handmade carpet of Bhadohi'. The production of the Bhadohi carpets is aimed at exporting to foreign countries.

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1. Introduction
2. **Bhadohi**
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/tools-and-raw-materials>

Tools and Raw materials

Machinery and Hand Tools:

The type of machinery & equipment used in the production process are hand looms, broad looms, dyeing machine, Finishing Machine, Washing Equipments like scrapping machine. Loom is a wooden frame supporting the warp on which weaving of the carpet is done. Various types of hand tools like knife for cutting the yarn while tying the knots, a comb like tool for packing down the knots of weft while weaving, a pair of shears for trimming the yarn, tufting machine which resembles a large scissor are required for the process of carpet making. Majority of the machinery suppliers exist outside the cluster.

Wool:

The major raw material used for the carpet making is the yarn which is made of wool. Yarn is either procured from local spinning mills or from Bikaner and Surat through traders. The Tibetan wool has a strong, good fibre length, good luster and a high resilient value. The New Zealand wool is of 36 micron, 100 mm barb length and is identified as type 128. British wool meeting regulatory standards have also started being made available in the market. More than 90% of the yarn is purchased, dyed and supplied to weavers/tiny manufacturers by Merchant Export Firms (MEFs) and Manufacturing Export Firms (MAFs).

Dyes and Chemicals:

Dyes used for the dyeing of wool also forms one of the important raw materials. Nowadays, weavers make use of synthetic dyes like mordant dyes, vat dyes etc. and vegetable dyes. But, in earlier times weavers used natural dyes derived from indigo plant, cochineal insects, wild roses, fruits. Wool can be dyed in mechanized dyeing plants or manually by soaking in dyes and then steaming. Chemicals used in chemical and mechanical finishing are supplied through dealers and distributors operating in the cluster.

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. **Tools and Raw Materials**
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. **Tools and Raw Materials**
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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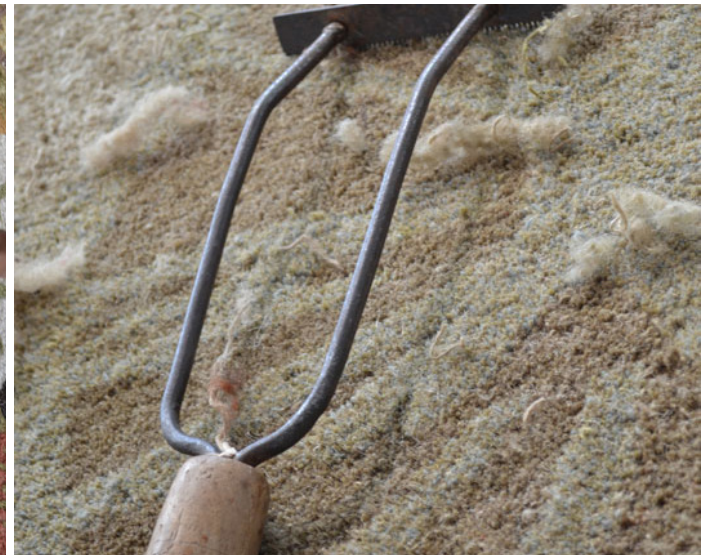
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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. **Tools and Raw Materials**
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. **Tools and Raw Materials**
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. **Tools and Raw Materials**
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. **Tools and Raw Materials**
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/making-process>

Process

The process of carpet weaving goes through following stages:



1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. **Making Process**
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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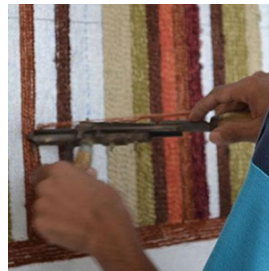
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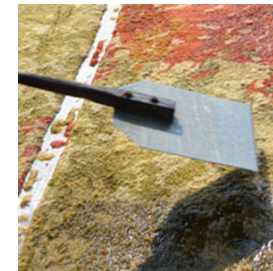
Washing to Dyeing



Drawing



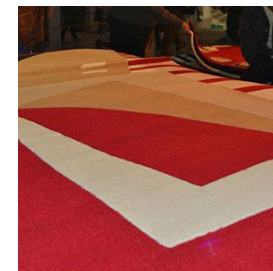
Warping to Trimming



Chemical Finishing or Washing



Latexing and Finishing



Quality and Marketing

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. **Making Process**
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/making-process/washing-dyeing>

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. **Washing to Dyeing**
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

Washing of dyeing

The wool to be used for carpet weaving goes through following process before designs on carpet are drawn.

These are:

- Washing and Drying of the wool
- Carding
- Spinning
- Dyeing / Coloring

Washing and Drying of the wool:

The wool to be used for carpet weaving carries dust, grease which has to be removed and it is done by thoroughly washing and drying in the sun for 2-3 days.



Carding:

It is a mechanical process that disentangles, cleans and intermixes fibres to produce a continuous web. It breaks up locks and unorganized clumps of fiber and then aligns the individual fibers to be parallel with each other. This process ensures that the fiber strands flow smoothly while spinning. This process is also used to blend different wools.

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. **Washing to Dyeing**
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



Spinning:

The carded wool is spun on a Charkha or the spinning wheel to produce the yarn. The thickness of the yarn depends on the quality of the carpet and usually a 3 ply yarn is used.

Design Resource

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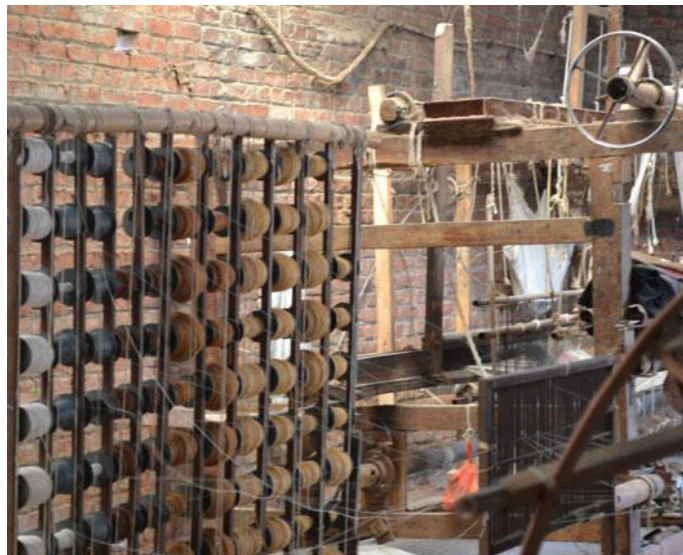
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DoD, IIT Guwahati

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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/making-process/washing-dyeing>

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. **Washing to Dyeing**
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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Dyeing / Coloring:

Wool to be used for carpet weaving, is dyed using various dyes and chemicals like mordant dyes, vat dyes, sulphuric acid, soda ash, cabinet or carrier type dyes.

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. **Washing to Dyeing**
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. **Drawing**
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

Drawing

Drawing the Design on a graph paper:

After dyeing the wool with required colors, the designing process is followed. The designs are drawn on graph paper with proper measurements, so that it appears more accurate on the carpet. Each square on the graph represents a knot..



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Warping to Trimming

Once the designs are decided and drawn, the wrapping i.e. arranging of the yarn for lengthwise weaving and finally knotting, weaving and then trimming of the carpet is done.

Warping:

Warping is arranging of the yarn so that it runs lengthwise in weaving. Twisted thread is used for fine and exact weaves and jute is also used for rougher patterns. In warping operation, all the warps for the carpet weaving are brought to the thick iron rod and then transferred to a thin steel rod. Then it is folded and taken to the loom for mounting on the loom and the process of weaving is carried out.



1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. **Warping to Trimming**
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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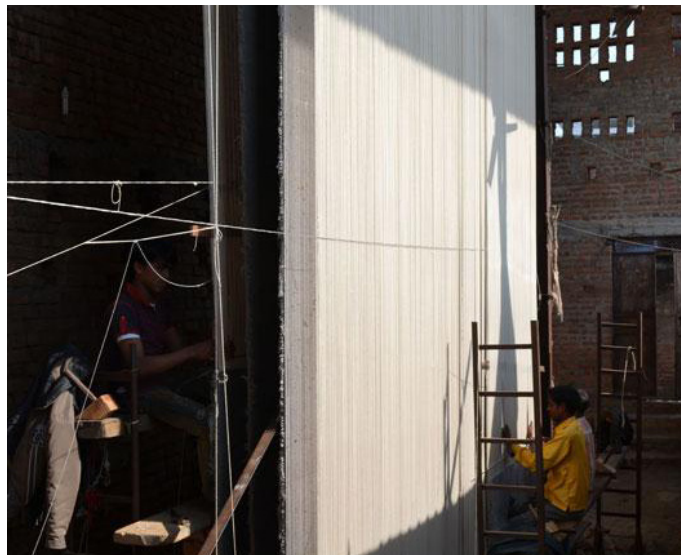
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DoD, IIT Guwahati

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. **Warping to Trimming**
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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Knotting and Weaving:

In this process the pile yarn is introduced into the carpet by tying knots. Depending on size of the carpet, one or more weavers work on a loom. The number of knots is around 60-200 knots per square inch. Higher the quality of the carpet, greater is the number of knots per square inch. The graphic designs that are drawn on a graph are instructed by a map reader or another weaver to the weavers knotting the carpet. Tying of these knots is a skilled job and each weaver ties knots row after row speedily with great dexterity. Two types of knots tied are:

- a) Ghiordes or Turkish knot and
- b) Sehna or Persian knot.

Insertion of any type of knot is done in such a manner that the tuft lies at an acute angle to the back. The weaver can choose from the large number of different tufts to give a variety of patterns and colors to his carpet and he thus creates an unparallel work of art. Tools used for weaving are scissors, iron rods, levers and comb beaters.

1. Introduction

2. Bhadohi

3. Tools and Raw Materials

4. Making Process

4.1. Washing to Dyeing

4.2. Drawing

4.3. **Warping to Trimming**

4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing

4.5. Latexing and Finishing

4.6. Quality and Marketing

5. Finished Products

6. Contact Details

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. **Warping to Trimming**
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
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3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. **Warping to Trimming**
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. **Warping to Trimming**
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



Trimming:

The finished carpet is taken from loom and trimming is done for proper designs and patterns.

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. **Warping to Trimming**
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
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1. Introduction

2. Bhadohi

3. Tools and Raw Materials

4. Making Process

4.1. Washing to Dyeing

4.2. Drawing

4.3. **Warping to Trimming**

4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing

4.5. Latexing and Finishing

4.6. Quality and Marketing

5. Finished Products

6. Contact Details

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Chemical Finishing or Washing

The finished woven carpet is then goes for washing i.e. Chemical Finishing. Washing removes dust, fine particles, swelling of fibers, soft fibre and finally, the required softness and luster are achieved. Washing is done with water mixed with soap, bleaching powder and other natural chemicals. Washed carpet is dried in sunlight for 4-5 days.



1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. **Chemical Finishing or Washing**
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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Carpet Weaving - Bhadohi

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Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar with Ashish Yadav,

M. Des.

DoD, IIT Guwahati

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/making-process/chemical-finishing-or-washing>

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. **Chemical Finishing or Washing**
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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2. Bhadohi
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4. Making Process
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 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
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 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
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2. Bhadohi
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 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
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2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
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2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. **Chemical Finishing or Washing**
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
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6. Contact Details



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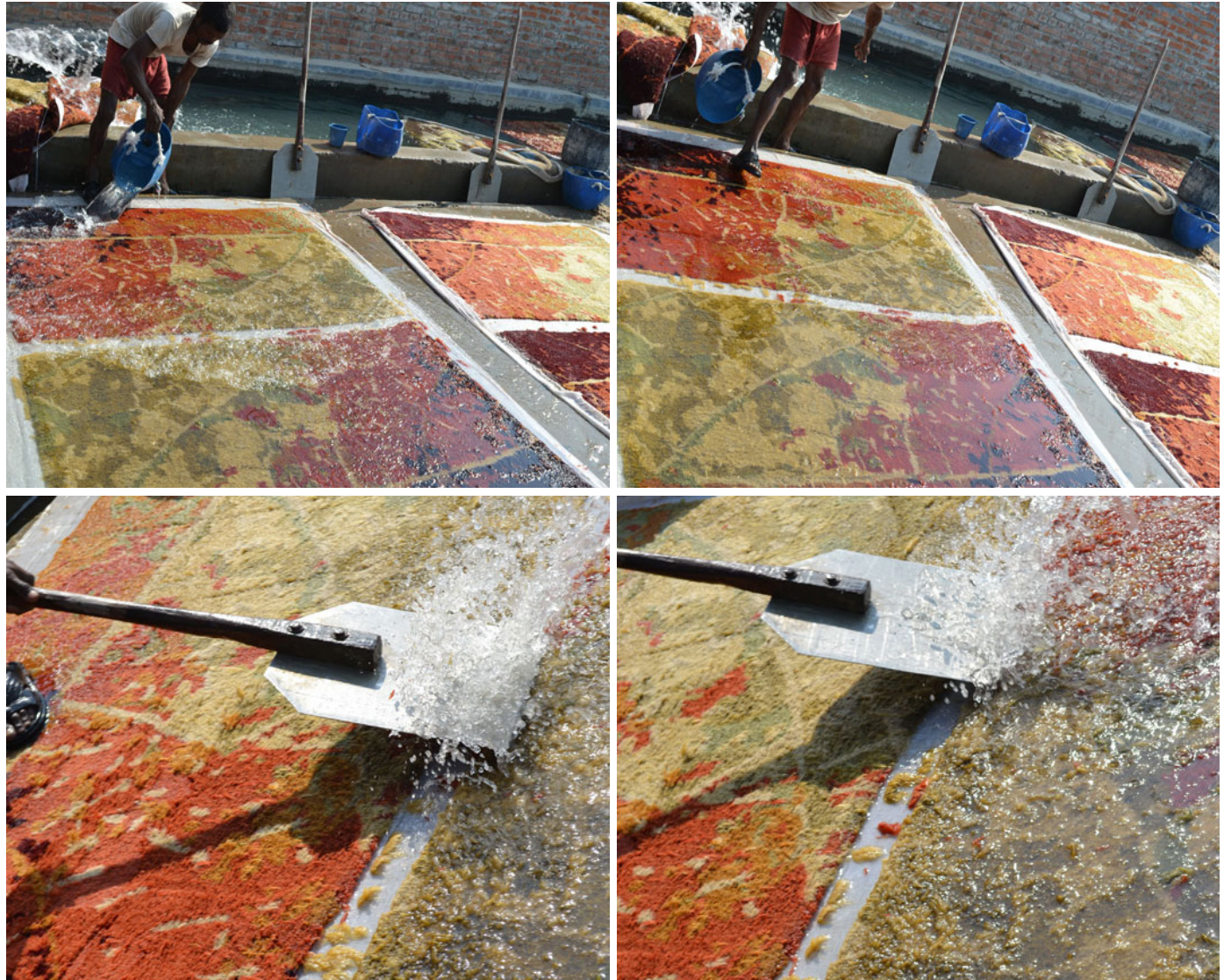
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2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. **Chemical Finishing or Washing**
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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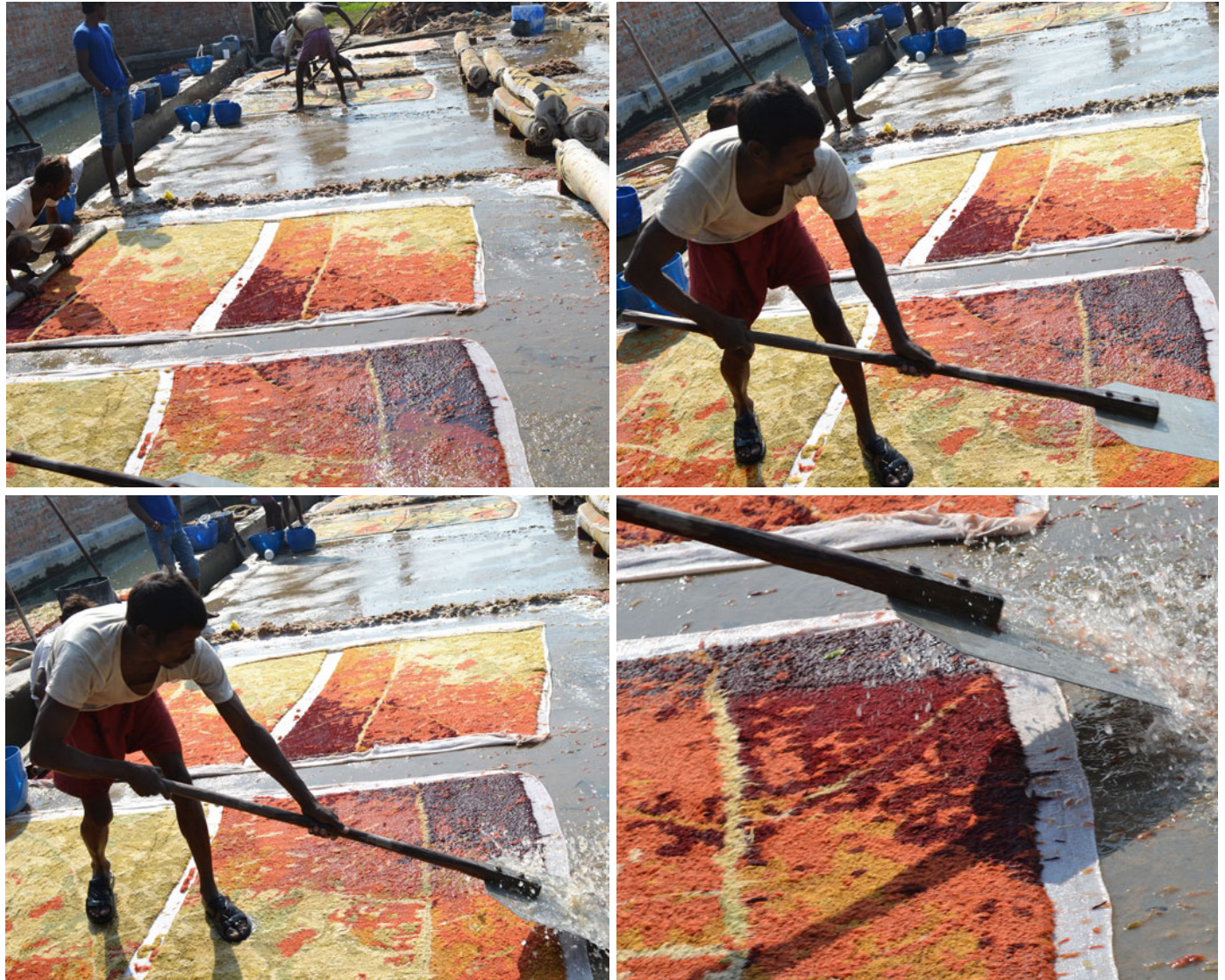
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2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. **Chemical Finishing or Washing**
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction

2. Bhadohi

3. Tools and Raw Materials

4. Making Process

4.1. Washing to Dyeing

4.2. Drawing

4.3. Warping to Trimming

4.4. **Chemical Finishing or Washing**

4.5. Latexing and Finishing

4.6. Quality and Marketing

5. Finished Products

6. Contact Details

Design Resource

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Latexing and Finishing

After washing Latexing is done along with final touches.

Latexing:

Rear part of the carpet is covered with rubber so that it gets longevity and durability.



1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Carpet Weaving - Bhadohi

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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Finishing Touches:

The final look of a carpet comes after clipping and chemical finishing. The art of clipping reflects on the finish in the final carpet. Carpets are given finishing touches by re-trimming, brushing, steaming and stretching. The intention is to bring the woven fabric in level at the surface.

1. Introduction

2. Bhadohi

3. Tools and Raw Materials

4. Making Process

4.1. Washing to Dyeing

4.2. Drawing

4.3. Warping to Trimming

4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing

4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**

4.6. Quality and Marketing

5. Finished Products

6. Contact Details

Design Resource

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Source:

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. **Latexing and Finishing**
 - 4.6. Quality and Marketing
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

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Quality and Marketing

Quality and Marketing of the finished product is finally done once the final carpet product is completed.

Quality Checking & Packing:

Every carpet is carefully inspected for uniformity of color, type and quality of material used, piles per inch, height and strength of the pile etc. After quality checking the carpet is rolled and wrapped separately in polythene sheets and finally wrapped with jute fabric or Hessian cloth and sewn.

Marketing:

The finished off carpets are transported in trucks to local market for selling or are exported to different countries.

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. **Quality and Marketing**
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. **Quality and Marketing**
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details



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1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
 - 4.1. Washing to Dyeing
 - 4.2. Drawing
 - 4.3. Warping to Trimming
 - 4.4. Chemical Finishing or Washing
 - 4.5. Latexing and Finishing
 - 4.6. **Quality and Marketing**
5. Finished Products
6. Contact Details

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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/finished-products>

Products

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
5. **Finished Products**
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/carpet-weaving-bhadohi/finished-products>

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
5. **Finished Products**
6. Contact Details



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Contact Details

This documentation was done by [Prof. Ravi Mokashi Punekar](#) and Ashish Yadav, M. Des. at [Department of Design, IIT Guwahati](#) .

You can get in touch with him at [mokashi\[at\]iitg.ernet.in](mailto:mokashi[at]iitg.ernet.in)

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator

Project e-kalpa

Department of Design

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

North Guwahati

Guwahati 781039

Assam,

India

Phone: +91-361-2582500, +91-361-2582451

Fax: +91-361-2690762

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

1. Introduction
2. Bhadohi
3. Tools and Raw Materials
4. Making Process
5. Finished Products
6. **Contact Details**