

# Choosing the right Doormat

## Which door mat should I choose?

### The Basics.

The primary function of a doormat is to take **dirt** and **moisture** from shoes and hold onto it so that the mess doesn't make its way into your house. Doormats can also **look great** too and provide the perfect finishing touch to your entrance, but the most important thing is how well they **clean**. Good quality matting is a worthwhile investment as it protects your interior floor coverings from dirt and damage and reduces the amount of time you have to spend cleaning.

In an ideal world **each entrance needs 2 doormats**. Your 1<sup>st</sup> barrier matting should be a **scraper mat** such as a coir mat, to scrape off dirt and debris, followed by your 2<sup>nd</sup> barrier matting, an **absorbent mat** such as a washable doormat to soak up the excess moisture from shoes. You can either have one outside the door and one inside, or put both inside. If you can only purchase one mat then choose coir as it has an excellent scraping action and is still absorbent, but less so than a washable mat.

### Size Matters.

Choose the biggest mat that your budget and available space allow. If your mat is too small, people who walk straight in without wiping their feet will only place one foot on the mat and the next one will land on the other side of it, without having been wiped at all!

A large mat inside the house big enough to stand on while you remove your shoes can be the ideal cue to encourage people who sometimes need a gentle reminder that you'd like them to remove their shoes.

You can even turn your mat around and have it running in a portrait rather than landscape orientation to ensure that both feet make contact with the mat as many times as possible.

Many people use cut to size coir matting to carpet the entire floor of an enclosed porch and this is a brilliant way to ensure your mat is big enough.

### Thickness.

A long, thicker pile is not always better. Shorter pile mats tend to have a firmer brushing action and can remove dirt more effectively. (Think about how bristly very short cropped hair feels!)

Check the clearance of your door to ensure that it will still open with the mat in place.

## Choosing the right Doormat

The best mat for each location:

### *Outside (exposed to elements)*

An open backing is required to allow moisture to run away, PVC backed mats left outside will not dry out properly which will result in a bubbling effect and reduced lifespan of your mat. Printed designs placed outside will have a much shorter life expectancy than if they were kept inside.

**Best choices:**

- Traditional Hand Stitched Coir (not PVC backed)
- Standard Sized Coir Mats (woven backing)
- Rubber Doormats

### *Outside (under covered porch)*

As this will offer some protection from the elements a printed design would last longer here and PVC backed matting could be used if kept well in away from the risk of rain.

**Best choices:**

- Traditional Hand Stitched Coir
- Standard Sized Coir Mats (woven backing)
- Rubber Doormats

### *Mat Wells*

PVC backed coir is excellent for mat wells as it can be cut to size to your requirements, even if the mat well is an unusual shape, and comes in a range of thicknesses, (17mm, 20mm, 23mm, 28mm), which can cater for most depths of well. If your mat well is deeper than this simply have a piece of plywood of the appropriate thickness cut to size to put into the bottom of the mat well and sit your coir mat on top. As most mat wells are indoors a printed design to personalise your mat is also possible. Our traditional hand stitched mats are also good for use in mat wells too, their beautifully hand crafted appearance means that they are well suited to period homes and would always be the choice for an external mat well.

**Best choices:**

- PVC Backed Coir Matting – Plain
- PVC Backed Coir Matting – Personalised
- Traditional Hand Stitched Coir Mat – Plain
- Traditional Hand Stitched Coir Mat – Personalised

## Choosing the right Doormat

### Indoor Mat (*NOT in a mat well*)

All of our mats are fine for use indoors, but if you can follow the advice above to have 2 mats, a scraper mat followed by an absorber mat then you will have the cleanest possible floors.

#### Scraper mats:

Our personalised mats are fun and we have message mats such as “remove your shoes”, for those who need to be told! We have mats with various decorative designs from patriotic flag doormats to those with cat, dog and even rabbit designs for pet lovers. If your mat is going to be loose laid on the floor rather than going into a mat well, designs featuring a tied or sealed edge have a more attractive finish than PVC backed mats.

#### Absorber mats:

Our machine washable doormats come in a choice of colours and sizes to suit every situation. Their super absorbent cotton pile soaks up moisture brilliantly keeping your floors clean. They can be washed in the washing machine or with a carpet cleaner to keep them looking tip top. Choose the biggest size that will fit for maximum protection.

### Patio Doors / Double Doors

The same advice applies as to your front door, to have a scraper mat and an absorber mat. We have specially sized extra long mats for patio doors available in Coir scraper mats for outside, and machine washable mats for inside.