



PLANT FIBRES

Plant-fibre floorcoverings such as coir, sisal, jute and seagrass will introduce a rustic, natural feel. They tend to vary in colour, so always sample test first with your existing furnishings and, as they differ in durability, select the right one for the right room. Jute is the softest and only recommended for bedrooms, while seagrass is medium in strength - good for living rooms and kitchens. Coir and sisal are the toughest, so are suitable for areas of heavy use such as halls. Available in a range of fine weaves and textured boucles, they are a great way of adding a touch of coastal-style elegance.

- Plant fibres react to high levels of moisture by expanding or absorbing water, which leads to buckling and shrinking, so avoid using in high-moisture rooms such as bathrooms.
- Never clean with water - it will cause the fibres to go mouldy. Instead, vacuum or clean using a specially formulated dry-cleaning solution.

ABOVE LEFT Squares of rush matting sewn together to fit the floor size and shape are an adaptable, inexpensive option
ABOVE RIGHT Seagrass suits most areas of the home (except stairs, as its slightly glossy finish can be slippery)
RIGHT Rush matting softens a hard floor



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRENT DUBBY; KRISTA KELMEN; RENEE FRIBBING; EUGENIA DANHEIM; FEATURES & MORE: BILLY NEE; IAN NIXON; ZARA DARRAS; NICOLA P. BITEBORS; HELENE JOBE; SCOTTIER; REINIE LE SCALUND; MINNA MERCKE SCHMIDT; HOUSE OF PICTURES; LUCY FERRY; CATIE BINE; CRAWFORD; AMY BEARDS; GUY LOUIS; NAIL BALDWIN; ALVIN CALLENDER; HOLLY JOLLY; ROBERT SANDERSON; VERTY WELSTEAD; VARIAN; CLARE INCH; RUSCON; HENRY VAN BELDON; ANHRIEL; KEMP; PONDIC; TONASCON; MICHEL WHITING