

Straw mat (reed mat) making

Buryobofi or Straw-mat making is a craftsmanship, which has changed very little with the passage of time and is still being practiced today. There are very few tools required and the raw material is reed, wicker or straw. It is one of the old forms of crafts among Tajik people. Straw mat in Tajik is called *buryo* and it is made exclusively from the reed. The size of the reed mats is usually 1x1.5 m.

For making reed mat certain amount of reed is taken and soaked overnight in water than it is cleaned from any leaves left and afterwards smashed by a heavy object to make it flat. Then

the strips are taken to weave a mat by hand.

Reed mat is used in houses as an under-mat for carpets to protect them to get humid and also are used to give feeling of softness on the floor. It is also widely used for construction purposes. In modern days when people do not use reed mats for covering the floors they have become a decorative material for making dividers in the restaurants or to cover the roofs during the summer to provide shade.

Related to reed mat that is *buryokubon* – another name for the housewarming party often celebrated when people move into a new house.

