

# No 12

## TOP OF THE PILE

A FUTILE SEARCH FOR LOCAL SHEEPSKINS WITH WHICH TO DECORATE HER APARTMENT LED EMMA SHORTT TO LAUNCH **THE SOUTH AFRICAN SHEEPSKIN COMPANY.**

**A** lunchtime conversation about the shortage of local sheepskins led Emma Shortt to embark on a journey of discovery for superb quality product and the establishment of The South African Sheepskin Company, which specialises in luxurious wool-on-skin rugs, throws and decor accessories. "I was able to find lots of rugs imported from New Zealand and Australia, but it was impossible to find local sheepskins of the quality I required," says Emma.

She turned to hide specialists Richard Kane and Company for advice. "The MD himself very kindly gave me the name of a factory that still produces wool-on sheepskins, and after I met with them they agreed to produce unshorn sheepskins for me."

The collaboration between Emma and the tannery led to the creation of a range of luxurious deep-pile sheepskins that can be used as rugs and decor accessories.



"It's my hope that by growing the awareness of this fabulous product we can help to sustain and grow the local sheepskin industry. Who knows? Perhaps we can even reverse the trend of importing sheepskins from overseas, not to mention the sale of so many synthetic rugs and blankets that ultimately contribute to plastic pollution."

• [facebook.com/TheSAsheepskinCo](https://www.facebook.com/TheSAsheepskinCo)

### MATTER OF FACT

- Each SA Sheepskin Company sheepskin is hand-selected and carries a unique number on the reverse.
- Sheepskin is a natural, sustainable material. Unlike synthetic materials, these rugs will naturally degrade and will not add to either sea or landfill pollution.
- Sheepskin is naturally hypoallergenic.

WORDS TRACY GREENWOOD