

BATTING

TYPES OF BATTING (and when to use them):

100% Cotton – Used for warmth and breathability. Some shrinkage will occur when the quilt is washed, giving it that old-fashioned quilted look. “Warm and Natural” is my favorite for 100% Cotton batting, and I keep plenty in stock (off-white in Twin, Queen and King-sized, and white in Twin-sized).

100% Polyester – Retains its loft and shape, with little to no shrinkage, after multiple washes. It dries quicker than cotton batting. It comes in various lofts, from low loft to high loft. High loft will give more of a comforter look. My longarm machine can handle up to medium-loft batting, but high loft batting will cause the quilt top to get pushed around by the hopping foot (presser foot) as it is getting quilted.

80% Cotton / 20% Polyester Blend – This has been the most-requested batting from my clients. It is great for Florida quilts, since it is light-weight and drapes well. It is thinner than both 100% Cotton and Low-Loft Polyester batting.

Wool – Also used for warmth, it is lightweight and naturally flame resistant, but should not be laundered often. Extra care is needed when washing a quilt with wool batting, to prevent excessive shrinking. I do not carry wool batting, and have only used it a few times on client quilts here in Florida.

Silk – Lightweight and breathable, it is better for quilted clothing than bed quilts. Extra care is needed when washing a quilt with silk batting, to prevent excessive shrinking. I do not carry silk batting.

Bamboo – Lightweight and breathable. I do not have information on its shrinkage. You would need to check the package for this. I do not carry bamboo batting.

“Green” – Eco-friendly and lightweight, made from recycled plastic bottles. I do not have information on its shrinkage. You would need to check the package for this. I do not carry “green” batting.

TYPES OF BATTING I CARRY:

100% Cotton – packages (72”x90” Twin, 90”x108” Queen, 120”x124” King)

100% Cotton – on a roll, 90” wide

100% Polyester – on a roll, 90” wide

80% Cotton / 20% Polyester Blend – on a roll, 93” wide, 96” wide, and 120” wide

MORE ON BATTING:

Baby quilts – I don't know which batting is best for baby quilts. You can check the internet to see what other people say about that. For baby quilts that will be thrown on the floor for a baby to lay on, I would suggest using a polyester batting, since it is cushy and can be washed a lot. For a baby bed quilt, I'd recommend an 80/20 blend.

Pre-washing batting – I don't prewash batting, even if the fabric for the quilt top has been pre-washed, because I like the way it shrinks up a bit when the quilt is first washed, and gives the quilt that "quilted" look.

Stitching Distance – The package the batting comes in should say how far apart the quilting lines can be and still hold the layers together without the batting shifting and bunching.

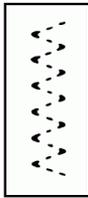
- If the package states that the quilting distance is 10 inches, then that batting is pretty stable and you can quilt it very loosely, which is great for a comforter-type feel. If you quilt it more densely, it could end up pretty stiff.
- Keeping the quilting lines farther apart creates air spaces that form insulation pockets to keep you warm. Quilts that are densely quilted will not keep you as warm, since the air space has been removed.
- For a soft and cuddly quilt, look for batting where the quilting distance is more like 3-5 inches apart, and go for a medium-density quilting pattern.
- For a comfy and warm quilt, choose batting with a little loft (like wool or polyester to trap body heat).

Store-bought batting – One of the problems with the less-expensive store-bought batting is that it doesn't have a scrim. A scrim is a thin layer on the back of the batting that holds the fibers in place. This way, when I tug on the batting to line it up under the quilt top to eliminate the batting fold lines, the batting doesn't stretch apart and end up with a hole in it. I prefer batting with a scrim, and that is what I keep in-stock.

Piecing batting – Many people piece together leftover batting for charity quilts. This is a good use of leftover pieces that are too small for a baby or lap-quilt, but large enough that 2 pieces sewn together can be big enough for a charity quilt.

- You can butt the 2 pieces together, then sew them together with a zig-zag stitch, preferably the Multi-Stitch Zig-Zag stitch for extra stability. This method would require that both pieces have a nice straight line where they butt together.
- You can also use batting tape (like “Wet and Gone Tacky”), especially if the quilting is of medium density. I would not recommend this piecing option for quilts with loose quilting density, since the batting could separate after one washing and form flat spots where the batting pieces have shifted apart.
- Rather than piece the 2 batting sections using a straight line, a trick I learned a few years ago is to overlap the 2 edges a bit, then cut through both layers using a wavy, wandering line. Remove the parts that were cut off, butt the 2 pieces together which now will look like piecing a jigsaw puzzle, then stitch them together with that multi-stitch zig-zag stitch. This helps to prevent the quilt from ending up with an obvious foldline where the batting was seamed together after the quilt has been folded and left on a shelf.

Multi-Stitch Zig-Zag Stitch – A strong stitch for mending tears and joining pieces together; joins and reinforces without bulk. Makes multiple short stitches where the normal zig-zag makes only one.



STANDARD BED AND BATTING SIZES:

BED SIZE	MATTRESS SIZE (Width x Length)	SUGGESTED QUILT SIZE (with 12" drop on 3 sides) (Width x Length)	BATTING SIZE (Width x Length)
Crib	23" x 46"	39" x 54"	45" x 60"
Twin	39" x 75"	63" x 87"	72" x 90"
Full / Double	54" x 75"	78" x 87"	81" x 96"
Queen	60" x 80"	84" x 92"	90" x 108"
King	76" x 80"	100" x 92"	120" x 120"
California King	72" x 84"	96" x 96"	120" x 120"