

Quilters Dream Batting University



One of the biggest advantages to choosing Quilters Dream Batting is that we make so many types of quilt batting (ten and counting) that there is always a perfect Dream Batting for whatever quilt you want to make. We are thrilled to be able to offer you so many great options in various lofts! However, the more choices available, the harder it can be to choose the perfect batting for your quilt!

Not every batting is perfect for every quilt, and your choice for the foundation of your quilt will affect not only the warmth, but how the finished quilt will look, wash, hang, drape and feel. Not everyone has the same goal in making a quilt. A quilt that will be traveling to the quilt shows will need different specifications from a quilt that will be snuggled by a pizza eating toddler!

I am often asked which type of quilt batting is best, and I answer with a lot of questions, such as: Will you be hand-quilting, machine quilting (longarm or shortarm), or will your quilt be tied? How will your quilt be used? Do you want to emphasize your quilting? Do you want a more traditional look or a modern look? Do you need the quilt to keep you very warm? Keep you cool? Be easy to wash and dry? How important is flame retardancy?

There are distinct advantages and disadvantages to every batting, and an advantage to one quilter may be a disadvantage to another! To help you find the perfect batting for your quilt, Quilters Dream Batting has created this "Batting University".

Batting University is about choices, and helping to make sure your finished quilt is perfect for whatever goal you have in mind because every quilt (even that pizza stained one on the back of my couch) is a treasure!

QUILTERS DREAM COTTON

The original Quilters Dream batting that put us on the quilting map! We introduced Quilters Dream Batting at Charlotte Quilt Spring Market in the mid 1990's -- a new type of high quality 100% cotton batting unlike any other.... and the response from shop owners, professional quilters, and teachers was incredible! When we arrived at Charlotte the name of our batting was "Quilters Cotton" - but thanks to a well known teacher and hand quilter swooning "this just Quilts like a Dream".... the name Quilters Dream Batting and our tag line "Quilts Like a Dream" were born! Listening and learning from our quilters is what we do... and the variety of having four lofts of Quilters Dream Cotton Batting (along with our other great battings) are the results of your requests!

Available in four lofts:

- *Request: Natural or White. A lightweight and consistent batting developed especially for hand quilters - ideal for fine micro-stitching with an excellent drape. Handle gently for making lovely domestic machine quilts. Can be used on the longarm when floating the top. Excellent for light-weight summer quilts, hand quilted projects, and wearables.*
- *Select: Natural or White. Our most popular loft-versatile for both hand and machine quilting with a soft lovely drape. The perfect batting for most quilting projects, mid-weight drapeable quilts, and wearables.*
- *Deluxe: Natural. Provides superb warmth and weight offering extra emphasis for quilting. Great for machine quilting weighty quilts, wall-hangings, bags, and craft projects.*
- *Supreme: Natural. A hefty, very warm, and dense batting that has 1/2 pound of cotton per square yard! Great for machine quilting special projects that require thickness, weight, and volume. Excellent for very weighty quilts, crafts, wallhangings.*

Advantages:

- Some **shrinkage (1-3%)** upon washing/drying for the slightly puckered look.
- **100% natural** renewable cotton fiber, grown by **U.S. farmers**.
- There are no scrim, glue, resins or binders in Quilters Dream Cotton - nothing to resist your needle so it quilts like butter.
- Available in **4 lofts** from very light weight to very heavy weight.
- **Beautiful drape** – the Request and Select lofts are especially huggable.
- **Breathable** – there are no scrims or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- **Very warm** – cotton has a high thermal value, so it is a great insulator. The Deluxe and Supreme lofts are extra-extra warm.
- One of the many natural advantages of 100% cotton is that the fibers **naturally absorbs moisture** to wick moisture away from the body to keep you cool in the summer.
- We use one of the **longest and highest grade USA staple cotton fiber** available. Using high quality long fibers and state of the art needlepunch manufacturing enables you to **stitch up to 8" apart** (giving you great design freedom) or you **can stitch very close together** and keep an exceptional soft lovely drape – excellent for **stippling**.
- Since we use the long fibers, they **won't lint** up your machine.
- Curly natural soft cotton fibers are cohesive and **resist poking through and bearding**.

Disadvantages

- Natural **color** of cotton can give beige undertones to white fabric (we recommend using white Dream Cotton or Dream Poly for white fabrics).
- **Cost** compared to man-made fibers.
- Need to use a **light hand**, especially with the request and select weight, or batting may stretch.
- **Shrinkage/puckering** effect may not be desirable for your quilt style.
- **Not** recommended for **tied quilts**.
- Does **not dry as quickly** as polyester battings.

QUILTERS DREAM POLY

You won't believe it is polyester! With the invention of fine denier microfibers (one of the biggest breakthroughs in polyester) came new advantages to using polyester fibers. In Dream Poly there are over 60 million soft silky microfibers per pound (standard polyester batts uses about 5 million fibers per pound). Our exclusive blend and needlepunch processing of these revolutionary microfibers gives Dream Poly softness, beautiful drape, warmth, breathability and comfort.

Available in three lofts:

- *Request: White. A lightweight and consistent batting developed especially for hand quilters - ideal for fine micro-stitching with an excellent drape. Handle gently for making lovely domestic machine quilts. Can be used on the longarm when floating the top. Excellent for light-weight summer quilts, hand quilted projects, and wearables.*
- *Select: White and Midnight Black. Our most popular loft-versatile for both hand and machine quilting with a soft lovely drape. The perfect batting for most quilting projects, mid-weight drapeable quilts, and wearables.*
- *Deluxe: White. Provides superb warmth and weight offering extra emphasis for quilting. Great for machine quilting weighty quilts, wall-hangings, bags, and craft projects.*

Advantages:

- Needlepunched poly microfibers **mimic cotton fibers**, so you get the look and feel of cotton batting.
- Available in **3 lofts** from very light weight to heavy weight - choices for both hand and machine quilters.
- **No shrinkage**, so quilting will look the same after washing, and maintain the just quilted look. (Excellent choice for **modern quilters** and modern quilting).
- **Will not hold a crease**, even if it is folded up for months.
- Does not absorb moisture, so it **dries very quickly** and will not hold a stain.
- **Inexpensive.**
- **Breathable** – there are no scrims or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- **Very long fine denier fibers** – no lint on the machine or in the air!
- **Fine denier microfibers** bend when in contact with fabric, so they resist bearding.
- Available in **Midnight Black**.
- Can be tied.

Disadvantages:

- **Not a natural** fiber (man-made).
- **Does not** impart a puckered, antiqued look.
- Does not wick moisture away from the body like cotton.

QUILTERS DREAM GREEN BATTING

Dream Green batting is a soft, cozy, and cuddly batting that is 100% made from recycled bottles. Each pound of Dream Green rescues 10 bottles that could be added to the landfills! The polyester microfibers are indistinguishable from virgin poly fibers, so it has all the advantages of Dream Poly with added environmental benefits.

Advantages:

- Made **100% from recycled bottles** for the environmentally sensitive quilter.
- Needle punched poly microfibers mimic cotton fibers, so you get the **look and feel of cotton**.
- **No shrinkage**, so quilting will look the same after washing.
- Excellent for both **hand and machine quilting**.
- **Will not hold a crease**, even if it is folded up for months.
- Does not absorb moisture, so it **dries very quickly** and will not hold a stain.
- **Breathable** – there are no scrim or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- **Fine denier microfibers** bend when in contact with fabric, so they resist bearding.

Disadvantages:

- **Green in color**, so test when using under white or very light colored fabrics.
- **Does not shrink**, so you will get no puckering.
- Does not wick moisture away from the body like cotton.
- Is not a natural fiber (man-made).

QUILTERS DREAM BAMBOO BATTING

Dream Bamboo is the softest batting available, made from an elegant blend of sustainable bamboo, luxurious silk, botanic Tencel® and strong, stable cotton. One touch and you will be hooked!

Advantages:

- The very **softest and best draping batting** there is, even when stitched very closely.
- Slight shrinkage (1-3%) upon washing/drying for the **slightly puckered look**.
- Excellent for both **hand and machine quilting**.
- **Wicks moisture** away from the body to keep you cool in the summer.
- **Breathable** – there are no scrim or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- Fine denier fibers bend when in contact with fabric, so they **resist bearding**.

Disadvantages:

- Slight **Shrinkage** (1-3%) after washing.
- **Higher cost** compared with other battings.
- Not recommended for tied quilts.
- Bamboo fibers are short, so can be a bit linty if over-handled.
- Fibers are not 100% from the USA, however, Dream Bamboo (like all Dream Battings) is **made in the USA!**

QUILTERS DREAM BLEND BATTING *For Machines*

"Soft to hug, yet takes the tug!" Dream Blend is the only batting we make that has a scrim base (similar in look/feel to a cheesecloth) that adds stability for tugging, pulling, and general abuse. It consists of 70% cotton and 30% polyester that is needle punched through the ultra-light scrim base. Dream Blend was developed for machine quilters who need more strength and stability, especially for use on the longarm machine.

Advantages:

- **Some shrinkage** (1-3%) for the slightly puckered look.
- Has a **light scrim**, so it will not stretch at all nor leave hand prints from pulling.
- Can be **stitched up to 12" apart!**
- We used the lightest weight scrim available so it still has **a nice drape** and does not feel stiff.
- 70% cotton, so it will **wick moisture** away from the body to keep you cool in the summer.
- Very long fibers – **no lint** in your machine or in the air!

Disadvantages:

- Slight **Shrinkage** (1-3%) after washing.
- Scrim can reduce the breathability of the batting slightly.
- Holds a slight **crease** over time (can be fluffed in the dryer).
- Not a 100% natural product (some **man-made** fibers).
- Due to reinforcing scrim layer, Blend is **not recommended for hand quilting.**

QUILTERS DREAM ANGEL BATTING

Dream Angel is heavenly because it is made 100% from **flame retardant** fibers. The fibers are specially engineered to be flame retardant without bromides or other harmful chemicals. Dream Angel Batting is needle punched to create a soft, cozy, breathable batting with a natural look and feel.

Advantages:

- Made from proprietary blend of two different flame retardant fibers. **Has passed the California 604 test for flammability** (A cotton sheet is placed on top and on the bottom of the batting. The top was set on fire, and the bottom remained undamaged).
- Needlepunched man-made fibers mimic cotton fibers, so you get the **look and feel of cotton**.
- Available in **2 lofts** (Request or Select) for hand and machine quilting.
- **Some shrinkage** (1-3%) for the slightly puckered look.
- Will **not hold a crease**, even if it is folded up for months.
- Does not absorb moisture, so it **dries very quickly** and will not hold a stain.
- **Breathable** – there are no scrims or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- Very long fibers – **no lint** on the machine or in the air!
- Fine denier microfibers bend when in contact with fabric, so they **resist bearding**.

Disadvantages:

- **Some shrinkage** (1-3%) for the slightly puckered look.
- Does not wick moisture away from the body like cotton.
- Is a **man-made fiber**.
- **Cost**.

QUILTERS DREAM PUFF BATTING

Dream Puff is 100% polyester batting that has been thermally bonded for a wonderful loft and warmth. It is lightweight and breathable, but has a high thermal value making it even warmer than down.

Advantages:

- **1 1/3-1 1/2" of loft** to show off your quilting, designs “pop” out at you!
- **Very warm, yet light weight.** (For even more warmth and weightiness, double the Puff or layer the Puff on top of the Dream Cotton or Dream Poly – WOW does it ever make a warm and absolutely gorgeous quilt).
- Cozy and cuddly – **children and teens** especially love this batting.
- Loft is excellent for **T-shirt quilts** or quilts made with varying material types.
- Loft can hide some of the imperfections in piecing.
- Can be stitched closely and holds the drape, then pops out in less quilted areas for a **faux trapunto** look.
- Although it is lofty, it flattens out for ease in **hand quilting**!
- Does not absorb moisture, so it **dries very quickly** and will not hold a stain.
- **Inexpensive.**
- **Breathable** – there are no scrims or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- Very long fibers – **no lint** on the machine or in the air!
- Fine denier bonded microfibers bend when in contact with fabric, so they **resist bearding**.

Disadvantages:

- Thermally bonded, so it can become stiff if put into contact with heat (Even on low heat, the drum of some dryers become hot enough to cause a problem), so we recommend air drying or drying with **no heat. Absolutely no ironing!**
- Does not wick moisture away from the body (like cotton).
- On occasion, holds a slight crease over time (can be fluffed in the dryer on cool setting).
- Is a **man-made fiber**.

QUILTERS DREAM WOOL BATTING

Dream Wool is another warm and lofty batting that has been thermally bonded- it is one of my favorites for cozy snuggling on cold nights! The U.S. wool is scoured and super-washed for cleanliness and to eliminate shrinkage, then blended with low melt poly fibers for thermal bonding. Our unique processing creates wool batting that is light weight, machine washable, has very little shrinkage, and resists bearding.

Advantages:

- **1/3-1/2” of loft** to show off your quilting, designs “pop” out at you!
- Uses the soft and silky wool of **U.S. raised merino and domestic sheep**.
- **Very warm, yet light weight.**
- Wool wicks moisture away from the body to **keep you cool** in the summer.
- Cozy and cuddly – **children and teens** especially love this batting.
- Loft is excellent for **T-shirt** quilts or quilts made with varying material types.
- Loft can hide some of the imperfections in piecing.
- Can be stitched closely and holds the drape, then pops out in less quilted areas for a **faux trapunto** look.
- Although it is lofty, it flattens out for ease in **hand quilting!** (Dream Wool is the favorite of many hand quilters).
- Does not absorb moisture, so it **dries very quickly** and will not hold a stain.
- **Breathable** – there are no scrims or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- Bonded fibers **resist bearding**.
- Very long fibers – **no lint** on the machine or in the air!

Disadvantages:

- Thermally bonded, so it can become stiff if put into contact with heat (Even on low heat, the drum of some dryers become hot enough to cause a problem), so we recommend air drying or drying with **no heat. Absolutely no ironing!**
- Occasionally holds a slight crease over time (can be fluffed in the dryer on cool setting).
- Wool fibers used, but also includes a man-made poly fiber, so it is not flame retardant.

QUILTERS DREAM FUSIBLE 80/20

With Quilters Dream Fusible, enjoy the wonderful quality and consistency of Quilters 80/20 cotton/poly blend with the convenience of a one sided fusible. Unlike most fusibles, Dream Fusible does not become stiff and sticky when used - it stays soft, supple, and drapeable so it is great for jackets and other clothing, bags, quilt-as-you go, embroidery, etc. (Fuse the backing to the batting, and only lightly pin because you can quilt without worrying about pleating or puckering "back there".)

Advantages:

- One sided fusible adds **stability and ease** for use in small projects.
- Uses a fusible webbing (rather than glue) that is needlepunched into the cotton or poly fibers so it **does not become stiff**.
- Can machine quilt or embroider at high speed **without gumming the needle**.
- Is **soft, smooth, and consistent** - just like our Dream Cotton and Dream Poly, but with an added soft fusible web.

Disadvantages:

- Because the webbing is needlepunched into the batting (not sprayed on as a glue), it is only available on **one side**.
- Is not a 100% natural batting since it does incorporate the fusible webbing.
- Can be difficult to tell which side is fusible - so pay close attention to the sticker!

QUILTERS DREAM 80/20 BATTING

Quilters Dream 80/20 is our newest Dream Batting, which debuted at Spring Quilt Market 2016. It is made with 80% high grade long staple USA cotton fiber blended with 20% fine denier poly microfiber for a soft, silky batting that drapes beautifully and breathes well. The long staple cotton fiber reduces shrinkage and adds stability so that the stitches can be up to 8" apart. The poly microfibers add a loft and resistance to creases/wrinkles. There are no scrims, glues, or other binders to resist the needle, so this fine batting can be hand or machine quilted with ease. It is available in natural and white.

Advantages:

- **Some shrinkage** (1-3%) for the slightly puckered look.
- Available in both natural and white.
- Can be **stitched up to 8" apart!**
- Soft and silky, with an **excellent drape** that hugs and flows.
- Excellent for both **hand and machine quilting**.
- **Wicks moisture** away from the body to keep you cool in the summer.
- **Breathable** – there are no scrims or other barriers that would inhibit airflow.
- Fine denier fibers bend when in contact with fabric, so they **resist bearding**.

Disadvantages:

- Slight **Shrinkage** (1-3%) after washing in cool.
- Can hold a very slight **crease** over time (can be fluffed in the dryer).
- Not a 100% natural product (some **man-made** fibers).
- Not recommended for tied quilts.

All of our battings are proudly made in the USA, and each batting is hand cut and hand inspected to insure superb quality and consistency. Quilters Dream does not sell to big box chain stores and always encourages our customers to support their locally owned quilt shop or quilting business! There are a lot of advantages to using Quilters Dream Batting, and with the wide variety of lofts, fibers, colors & sizes available, we hope that you find the choices to be to your advantage when choosing the perfect type of batting for your quilted treasure!