



INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARE FOR LONG ARM QUILTING

To assure a quality finished product, please follow these guidelines:

- Keep quilt top, backing and batting (if supplied) separate – I will make the quilt sandwich.
- No need to provide batting as it is part of the price of long arm quilting. Four options available.
- If you would like to supply your own batting, ensure it measures 6" longer and wider than the quilt top. Regardless of batting type, I recommend buying off a roll rather than packaged batting as the bagging process results in uneven loft and intermittent tension issues. If you have bagged batting, let it fluff up in a warm dryer for 10-15 minutes (no need to wet it).

Ensure the Quilt Top is:

- PRESSED and lays flat to prevent puckering when quilted.
- SQUARED - Measure your quilt to check the length of each side and the center are equal. A discrepancy of more than an inch or so among these three measurements can result in pleats or puckers in the body or borders of the quilt.
- CLEAR of excess or long threads as they may show through, especially if the fabric is light coloured. Loose threads can cause uneven stitching, snagging, damage our machine or even damage your quilt.
- FREE OF foundation paper, pins, buttons, snaps, sequins as they could damage your quilt or the machine.
- LABELLED if the top is directional (use pencil on a piece of paper).

Ensure the Backing is:

- OF SIMILAR COLOUR to the quilt top so that it won't show thru if the top is a lighter colour.
- SQUARED - ripping the fabric will help to ensure the fabric is on grain. Check that the top and bottom edges are parallel with each other and the corners create a 90-degree angle.
- MEASURED – it must be at least 8-10 inches longer and 6-8 inches wider than the quilt top to enable the backing to be connected to the machine leaders.
- OF EQUAL QUALITY to the quilt top (cotton with cotton, minky, fireside or cuddle that have low stretch, anti-pill fleece). Why spend all time and \$ on the top only to have the backing fall apart, shrink, bleed or pill.
- PREWASHED if the fabric is flannel, heavily starched, digitally printed or a dark/intense color to prevent bleeding.
- PRESSED to prevent wrinkles from being quilted into the stitching.
- Notes when PIECING backing: cut off selvages in the areas that will be inside the quilted area to prevent skipped stitches and needle breakage. Ok to leave selvages on sides that will be trimmed after quilting. If you need to piece, please try to make the seams horizontal rather than vertical as there is little give when the quilt is loaded and it can cause tucks or puckers.