

Batting Characteristics
Sugarplum Quilts
Source: peoplequilt.com

BATTING TYPE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	CHARACTERISTICS
100% Cotton	Natural fiber so batting breathes. Resists fiber migration. Readily available.	May have seeds and plant residue that can release oils that stains the quilt. Often cannot be prewashed. It can shrink 3-5% when washed (depending on brand).	Can give a puckered appearance if washed after quilted. Good for experienced quilters, fine, hand-quilting stitches or machine quilting.
Cotton/Poly Blends 80/20, 50/50	Some natural fibers so batting breathes. Resists fiber migration. Easy for beginning hand quilters to needle. Readily available.	Some shrinkage, which can be avoided in many cases, if prewashing is desired.	Low to medium loft. Drapable. Good for hand and machine quilting.
Wool and Wool Blends	Natural insulator. Preshrunk. Available in black.	May have inconsistent loft.	Blend of fibers from different animal breeds. Resiliency enhances quilting stitches. Soft, drapable. Good for hand and machine quilting.
Silk	Good choice for quilted garments. Does not shrink. Can be washed.	Expensive. Not widely available. Damaged by exposure to direct sunlight.	Has excellent body and shape. Lightweight. Good for hand and machine quilting.
Flannel	Lightweight alternative to traditional batting. Readily available.	Extremely low loft limits quilting pattern development.	100% cotton. Lightweight and thin. Good for machine quilting.
Polyester	Resilient and lightweight. Cannot be harmed by moths or mildew. Readily available. Available in black.	Synthetic fibers lock breathability.	Available in many lofts. Suitable for hand quilting and machine quilting. High loft is good for bed quilts and comforters.
Fusible	No need to pre wash. Eliminates need for basting. Good choice for small projects.	Limited batting options and sizes. Adds adhesive to quilt. Difficult for hand quilters to needle.	Good for machine quilting. Eliminates need for basting.

