

Batting Matters

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As an avid researcher and longarmer, I have experimented with a variety of batting types. My preferences depend on the quilt backing type, density of quilting and customer preference. I also find that cotton batting tends to behave itself better with cotton thread and poly batting with poly thread. Go figure, right? :-) *I have allergic reactions to Warm and Natural so I limit my use of their natural batting only for that reason.*

Here's how I recommend batting to my customers:



bed, quilt & batting sizes

bed size	mattress size	quilt size	batting size
crib	27" x 52"	36" x 54"	45" x 60"
twin	39" x 75"	54" x 90"	81" x 96"
full	54" x 75"	72" x 90"	90" x 108"
queen	60" x 80"	90" x 108"	120" x 120"
king	76" x 80"	108" x 108"	120" x 120"

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Weighty quilt that enhances the quilting? Hobbs 80/20 or Quilters Dream Deluxe Loft

Wall hangings? I enjoy Warm and Natural cotton batting or Quilter's Dream Poly Select Loft.

Large quilts and or desire to lift the images or designs created in quilt blocks? Quilters Dream Puff or Quilters Dream Washable Wool.

Baby quilts or lap quilts that will be washed often? Any batting that is machine washable. Choice also depends on the density of the quilting. Fire retardant batting is also available.

Minky backs? Cotton or high cotton to poly ratio. I find that the high poly batting slides more on the slippery wrong side of Minky.

*I typically add 3-4 inches of batting on all four sides. The chart above references common batting sizes purchased as packaged batting.

Common Batting Terms:

Loft: Thickness of quilt batting. Higher loft batting is lighter and resists creasing and wrinkling.

Scrim: The light layer or grid of woven fibers added to some cotton battings. It acts as a stabilizer and helps to hold the batting together while quilting. It keeps it from stretching out of shape.

Right and Wrong Side: Batting that has been needle punched during its formation has a right side. Look at the batting and search for small pin holes or dimples in the batting. That is the right side. You want your machine's needle to penetrate the batting in the same direction as the needle-punching machine. The wrong side of the batting will have more slubs, which are tiny balls of batting. It looks like a sweater that has been worn one too many seasons. Source: APQS. *I also find that the wrong side holds to the backing better. It acts a bit like the hook and loop of Velcro.*