

## QUILT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

The better a quilt top is prepared before quilting, the better the finished result will be. In order to guarantee the best possible product, please consider the following as you prepare your quilt for quilting:

- During the quilting process, the backing and batting may “shrink” or draw up, depending on the density of the quilting. Because of this, your backing should be **at least 4”** larger than the quilt top on all sides. For example, if your quilt measures 60” x 80”, your backing should be at least 68” x 88”. If you are providing your own batting, it should also be at least 4” larger than the quilt top on all sides.
- Please leave any selvages along the outer edges of the backing - they’re great for pinning to the canvasses! If backing is seamed, please be sure to remove the selvage edges inside the seams, after completing the seam(s).
- If the quilt top or backing is directional, or you plan to hang the quilt, please indicate the top of the piece(s) with a marked piece of paper, attached with a safety pin.
- Do not baste, pin or tack your layers together - we load each layer separately on the longarms. If we have to remove it before quilting your quilt, there will be an additional charge.
- Iron your top and backing well, with all seams pressed either to one side or open.
- You may provide your own good quality batting. Off-brand or low quality batting should not be used. We have several types and widths of batting available if you would prefer.
- Be sure all seams and stitches are secure. Examine your quilt top and backing for any gaps in your seams.
- Trim all loose threads. They can get caught in the quilting and may show through light fabrics.
- Please correct any wavy or ruffled borders. If you’re unsure how to do this, please ask for our handout on “Adding Borders Properly.”
- Make sure that the quilt top, the backing and the batting are all square and have straight edges, otherwise they will not mount properly on the rollers of the machine and may develop puckers or tucks because of uneven tension.
- The quilt top should be free of embellishments such as buttons, charms, pins, yoyos, etc.
- Fullness and puckers pieced into the quilt top cannot necessarily be quilted out. We will do our best, but quilt tops with these problems may still have the problems once quilting is completed.
- If you have a pieced border or bias edges on the outside of your quilt, please stay-stitch 1/8” in from the edge of the quilt to provide more stability. This will keep the seams from “popping” and prevent stretching when the top is mounted on the machine.
- Your choice of backing for your quilt is very important. Patterned fabrics make more interesting quilt backs than solid fabrics. If you wish to have an unseamed back, we have a selection of extra-wide backings available for sale. Bed sheets may be used for backing, as long as you are aware that the higher thread counts can cause skipped stitches.