



CARING FOR QUILTED TEXTILES

Quilts are valuable, whether a family quilts, antiques you have collected, or one you have just finished making. They should be appraised and insured. Homeowner's policies are not uniform. For your protection, always consult with your agent to see exactly what your policy covers.

- ❖ Avoid direct sunlight exposure on quilted textiles.
- ❖ A stable environment of 50% humidity and 60 to 70 degrees is recommended. Minimal handling is recommended to avoid damage from body oils.
- ❖ Use gloves or wash hand before handling your quilts.
- ❖ Quilts should be aired or vacuumed with a low suction hand vacuum before storing. Cover the quilt with a soft nylon net to reduce harmful pull. When airing, be sure quilt is lying flat and is protected from soil and direct sunlight.
- ❖ Quilts should be carefully examined before cleaning is attempted. When in doubt about at-home cleaning, don't do it. Dry cleaning is never recommended unless it is wool and in stable condition.
- ❖ The ideal storage is a flat surface, preferably a bed, covered with a white sheet.
- ❖ Avoid wooden chest, drawers and shelves. To stop wood acid from leaching into the quilt, line chest, drawers or shelves with aluminum foil or cover with several layers of 100% cotton. When folding is necessary, use a diagonal fold (like a paper envelope) padded with crumpled acid-free tissue in the folds for support and store in a white pillowcase or acid free box. Fold with the pattern side out. Acid free materials have a shelf life. Check the packaging for expiration date, usually 3-5 years.
- ❖ Refold every three to six months.
- ❖ Covers of pre-washed 100% cotton, muslin, pillowcases or acid-free tissue paper are strongly recommended. These materials allow air to pass through and keep light and dust out.
- ❖ If possible, do not stack more than two quilts on top of each other. The weight will cause creasing.
- ❖ The herb Artemisia (southern wood variety) is a natural pesticide. Hang in storage area or in a small bag with quilts. Do not allow to touch quilts.
- ❖ When hanging a quilt for display, it should be evenly supported with a cotton sleeve attached with secure stitching. The sleeve should be doubled so that the rod does not come in contact with the quilt. Special care should be taken when hanging an antique quilt and it should not be hung for long periods of time. If the antique quilt is fragile, DO NOT HANG, gently lay over the display and make certain it is supported.
- ❖ Keep accurate record of your quilt quilts. Label quilts with name of quilt, name and location of quilt maker, and the date quilt was finished.
- ❖ Have your quilt documented by your state documentation project so a national record may be kept for our posterity.



Quilts are an artistic expression of their maker.
With care, they can be used and appreciated for generations to come.

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*Info from "Protecting Your Quilts" American Quilter's Society