

## How To Wash A Quilt

These are useful instructions to include when you gift a quilt to someone. They may not be familiar with hand-made quilts, or how to care for them.

Quilts, for the most part, are made to be used!

Most people use them on their beds, or while lounging on a couch or chair with kids and pets, or as warmth in the car, or for picnics.

All this means a quilt will have to be cleaned.



Quilts should be cleaned **in a washer**, large enough for the quilt to move around freely. Avoid washing with garments or items that have zippers or other hardware that may catch on the quilt or cause abrasion.

**Cold water** is often recommended, but warm water (not hot) is ok too. If you have a water-saver machine, use the deep-fill option so that the quilt is not too bunched up.

Most quilts will shrink at least 3% (100" becomes 97") the first time it is washed. Stick to cold wash if worried.

Use a **mild soap or detergent**, preferably clear, with no scent. But if you use it on your good clothes, it is ok for your quilt.

It is highly recommended to toss a **COLOR CATCHER** in the washer with the quilt. There are several brands. Local grocery stores are the first place to look, but several showed up in a recent Google search, from various big-box sources and mail order too. You may have received one with the original copy of these instructions.

A color catcher actually traps "spare" color that is floating around in the water during the washing. It attracts the color to the color catcher so it is less likely to land back on the quilt. They are reusable, so don't pitch it just because it looks grey when you pull it out after the first wash.

Dry your quilt in the **dryer, on medium to low**. Remove before completely dry allowing to finish drying flat.

If storing a quilt, try to fold it in different ways each time, so that the batting doesn't develop permanent creases.

Enjoy your quilt. Don't be afraid to wear it out! There are more quilts waiting to be made & adopted! ;)



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