



FLORIDA QUILTING CENTER

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Top Ten Steps

Prepare Your Quilt Top for Machine Quilting and Avoid Add-on Charges and Time Delays

Top Ten Steps for preparing a quilt top and backing for longarm machine quilting and avoiding time delays and/or add-on charges:

1. Thoroughly press your quilt top and backing.
2. If your top or backing is directional, mark the top by safety pinning and advise the FQC staff.
3. If you pre-wash your fabrics, pre-wash them all, including the backing. If fabrics used in the top were pre-washed and you are purchasing a wideback here, we can wash and press the wideback for an additional charge.
4. Clip all those loose threads on the quilt top, front and back. That will keep dark threads from showing through a neighboring light fabric after the quilting is complete.
5. Square up the backing. Don't miss this important step toward a great finish. We can square it for you, but we have to charge for the service.
6. Your batting and backing must be at least 8" longer than both the width and length of the top. For example, if your top is 54" (w) x 68" (l), your batting and backing should each be a minimum of 62" x 76"
7. Do not baste, pin, spray or tack any of the layers. Just fold each separately.
8. Remove the selvages from any seams on your backing, but not from the outside edges.
9. Understand that puckers and fullness can't be quilted out. If they are pieced in, they'll be quilted in as well.
10. Any embellishments should be added after the quilting is completed. Add those buttons, beads and ribbons after the quilting is complete.

Tips for Better Borders:

Straight borders keep their shape better if cut from the length of the grain (parallel to the selvage) than if cut the width of fabric or on the bias. Straight borders will lay flatter.

Try to avoid handling the borders after they are attached. This will keep them from stretching and becoming wavy.

If your quilt requires preparation prior to quilting, the following charges will apply:

Clip loose threads	\$10 - \$20
Squaring the Backing	\$10
Washing Backing	\$10
Pressing	\$10 - \$20 (determined by size)
Piecing backing	\$10 per seam
Repairs	Price determined by number of repairs
Adding strips	\$10 per strip
Removal of embellishment	Price determined by amount to be removed

If you have any questions about preparing your top or backing for longarm quilting, please let us know!