



QUILT MEASUREMENT GUIDE

Make Sure Your Quilt Fits Before You Sew a Single Stitch

If you've ever finished a quilt only to discover it doesn't quite cover the bed (hello, sheets waving... and yes, the occasional midnight bum breeze), this guide is your new best friend.

Before cutting your fabric, take a moment to measure the bed you're sewing for. Every mattress is different — depth, toppers, frames, and personal preferences all matter.

Here's the quick, quilter-friendly way to get it right.

1. Measure Your Mattress

Width (W) Side to side across the top surface.

This is the anchor measurement for your entire quilt.

Length (L) Top to bottom.

If you plan a pillow tuck, include the height of pillows in this measurement.

Depth (D) The troublemaker.

Modern mattresses are often 12–18" deep (more than patterns assume).

The Depth determines how much your quilt needs to “drop” down the sides of the bed.

2. Decide Your Preferred Drop - How far do you want the quilt to hang?

Choose your look:

Comforter

Small drop, clean-lined, modern. Just enough to cover the mattress.

Coverlet

Covers mattress and box spring. Neat and traditional without reaching the floor.

Bedspread

Full drape to the floor. Classic and elegant — hides everything beneath.



3. Use These Easy-Quilter Formulas

These formulas use your real measurements so you can size any pattern for any bed.

Comforter Formula

Width = $W + 2 \times \text{desired drop}$

Length = $L + \text{foot drop (typically 10–15")}$

Coverlet Formula

Width = $W + 2 \times D$

Length = $L + D$

Bedspread Formula

Width = $W + 2 \times (D + F)$

Length = $L + D + F$

Where F = floor drop (distance from box spring to floor).

4. Quilter's Tips for Accurate Sizing

- Measure your bed twice
- Add more drop than you think you need
- Write your numbers in your project notebook
- Check the size before quilting
- Trust your instincts — if it looks small laid across the bed, it probably is

Keep This Sheet Handy

Tape it inside your sewing cabinet, slip it into your project journal, or save it with your cutting instructions.

With these measurements in hand, you can confidently resize any pattern — and avoid those “why is this so small?” moments forever.

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