



Below are tips for preparing your quilt top for machine quilting.

1. Complete the quilt top

- ❖ Give special attention to the process of adding borders. Measure the quilt *lengthwise* **down the middle** and cut the border strips to that measurement. Next, find the center of the border strip and pin it to the center of the quilt top. Match the ends of the border strip to the ends of the quilt top. Pin the border to the quilt top, easing or stretching as necessary. Repeat for the top and bottom borders. This will help square up the quilt and eliminate wavy borders, which are difficult, sometimes impossible, to quilt.
- ❖ Trim all loose threads on front and back of the quilt top.
- ❖ Thoroughly press the top.

2. Prepare the backing

- ❖ Remove all selvages.
- ❖ Press all seams open.
- ❖ Make the backing 8"- 10" larger than the quilt top in length and width.
- ❖ Square up back.

3. Choose a batting

- ❖ The batting should be 8" longer and wider than the backing.
(you may bring your own or purchase through Windy City Quilting – 100% cotton, 100% polyester (various lofts) and poly-cotton blend are available.)

4. Think about thread color.

5. Call to make an appointment.

- ❖ We will discuss quilt pattern options to enhance the beauty of your quilt.
- ❖ You can choose from a large selection of overall designs, or describe custom features you would like.