

## PREPARATION FOR MACHINE QUILTING

### Quilt Top

One-piece borders - cut on lengthwise grain where possible; measure through centre of quilt  
Pieced borders – stay stitch (one-eighth inch) if edged is on bias or pieces less than 3 inches wide  
Square quilt top – use 12 or 15 inch square ruler for corners  
Remove loose threads, embellishments; ensure all seams are secure  
Binding may be applied in advance, but check with machine quilter  
Press quilt; ensure all seams are flat (especially pinwheels, star centres, etc)

### Backing

Must be at least 3-6 inches wider and longer on each side – easiest is to add 10 inches to quilt measurements; check with machine quilter (i.e. – 90 X 100 quilt would need backing minimum of 100 X 110)  
One-piece backing is easiest; measure selvedge edges for width of quilt (smaller measurement) if quilt less than 100 inches long  
If pieced, seams should be horizontal rather than vertical to avoid bulk on quilting frame  
Leave selvedge edges on top and bottom of backing, but remove along inner seams  
Square backing, especially if pieced  
Press backing

### Batting

Must be at least same size as backing  
May be pieced; butt seams rather than overlap to avoid bulk  
High/medium loft polyester batts may result in pinched quilting

### Thread

Cotton recommended  
Check with machine quilter for weight, colour, specialty threads  
Best results if top and bottom threads are same weight and colour

### Pattern

Choose quilting design – pantograph, free motion, custom

### Finished Product

Choose whether to trim your own quilt or ask machine quilter to trim  
Apply your own binding or to be done by machine quilter

### Estimate

Ask for an estimate; also ask about method of payment (cash, cheque, debit, etc)

### Allergies

If you have allergies, ask your machine quilter if anyone smokes, has a cat/dog, scents, etc. If your machine quilter has allergies, she should mention them to you.