



MCC comforter-making tips

Receiving beautiful handmade comforters brings much joy – both for those in the warehouses who help fold, bale and ship them, and for recipients around the world. Often, individuals and families receiving MCC comforters are facing disasters or crises and lack basic necessities. Comforters are used as bed covers, room dividers, carpets, curtains, wraps and more. MCC comforters provide not only warmth but are gifts of love and caring – a reminder that people and their needs are not forgotten.

We want to do our very best. Through partner feedback, we learned that some of our comforters are not warm enough. The updated guidelines address that limitation, so we can send high-quality warm comforters to areas of need around the world.

FABRIC

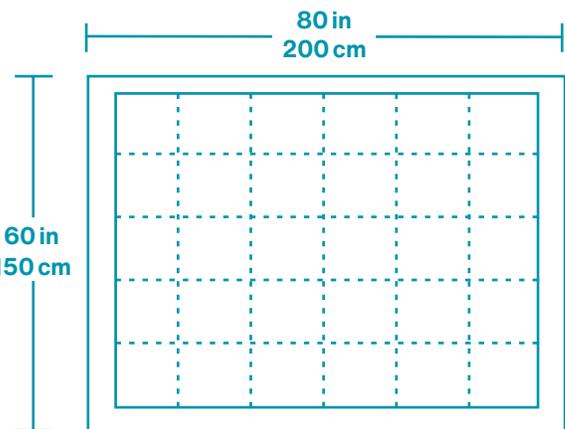


- Fabric should be sturdy and washable, and comforters should be pieced together with similar types of fabric.
- Flannelette or flannel are acceptable for the front and/or back of the comforter.
- Bright colorful combinations, darker shades and cheerful prints are preferred.
- Jogging fleece or polar fleece are acceptable for the front and/or back of the comforter.
 - ▶ Sewing with the stretchy fabric toward the feed dogs will help.
 - ▶ Use a walking foot.
 - ▶ Not necessary to turn under seam allowance.
 - ▶ Using a multiple zigzag can be helpful.

AVOID

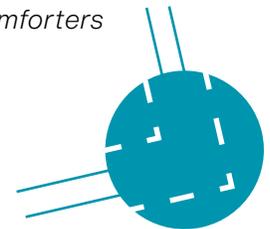


- ✗ Please avoid fabrics that are bulky, prone to shrinking, contain small holes, or are white or light-colored.
- ✗ Please avoid fabric with images of guns, military or war-related pictures, pigs, religious words or symbols, flags, or violent cartoon characters, camouflage or culturally inappropriate images (e.g. girls dressed in short skirts or with lots of skin showing).
- ✗ Please do not use lace, eyelet, loose knit, heavy corduroy, wool, silks, silky texture, jersey, double knit, velvet, canvas, heavy upholstery or heavy denim fabrics.
- ✗ Please avoid thin, stretchy knit and loosely woven fabrics in general.
- ✗ Please do not use slippery or light-colored fabrics as a backing.



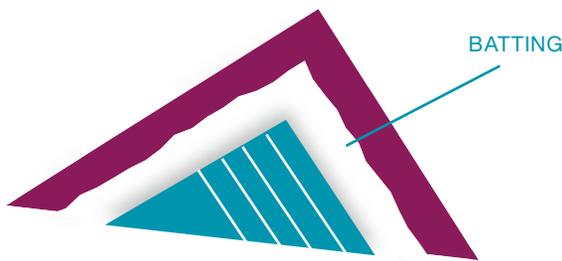
SIZE

60 in x 80 in (150 cm x 200 cm) is preferred, but larger sizes are also acceptable. *We do not send crib or baby-sized comforters out of country because larger comforters are requested.*



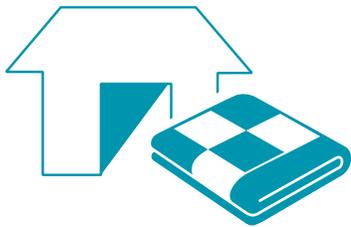
STITCHING

- Please ensure all corners are stitched completely closed and backstitch at the beginning and end of seams. *Insects are a problem in some countries and we don't want to give them a home in our comforters.*
- A comforter with smooth, uniform stitching, ample seam allowances, and good quality, strong thread will provide warmth and comfort for many years.
- ! Ensure no needles remain. *Our folders and balers are especially appreciative when all needles and pins are removed!*
- ✗ Leave no exposed seam allowances that may fray.



COMFORTER WEIGHT

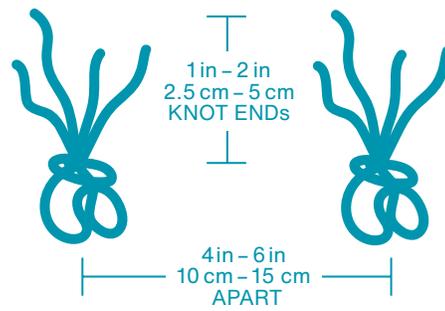
- Please use polyester or cotton batting.
- Batting weight:
 - ▶ 4 ounce – 8 ounce is preferred for polyester batting.
 - ▶ Minimum weight 2.9 ounce.
- A blanket or sheet along with the batting between the top and backing is acceptable.
- Please be sure to catch the edge of the batting in the seam or fasten the batting close to the edges with ties.



DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Comforters can be dropped off at your local MCC. For a full list of drop-off locations go to mcc.org/kits/dropoff.

Thank you so much for your diligence and care as you create these comforters that provide so much hope and love for individuals and families around the world. If you have any questions or would like printed copies of these tips to share, please go to mcc.org to find an office near you.



FINISHING AND KNOTTING

- Please use a double strand of crochet cotton.
- Ensure knots are firmly tied with strands that have a gap of less than a 1/2 inch (1 cm) between the knot and the fabric.
- Tie knots between 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) apart.
- Trim knot ends to 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm).
- Fine hand quilting, machine quilting and “quilt as you go” methods are also acceptable.

COMFORTERS BRING RELIEF

After fleeing their home closer to the front lines, Olga, her husband and their two children live in a shelter in western Ukraine. In their room, bright MCC comforters are a beautiful contrast to grey shelter walls, and Olga (last name not used for security reasons) says when the heat is off, they use the comforters to cuddle up and keep the children warm.

“In my childhood my grandma was doing this patchworking, and it’s so special for me because when I saw that (this blanket) is handmade it was so dear to my heart.” – Olga

