MCC Comforter Making Tips

Each year, MCC receives many beautiful handmade comforters which are sent around the world. Often, individuals and families receiving MCC comforters are in disaster situations and lack basic necessities. Comforters are used as bed covers, room dividers, carpets, curtains, wraps, mattresses and more. MCC comforters provide not only warmth, but also send a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Again and again, recipients express their gratitude for the gift of an MCC comforter.

We want to send our very best so, over the years, MCC has developed guidelines that allow us to effectively and efficiently send comforters to areas of need around the world.

**SIZE**

60" x 80" 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.

**FABRIC**

- Fabric should be sturdy and washable, and comforters should be pieced together with similar types of fabric.
- 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.
- Bright colorful combinations, darker shades and cheerful prints are preferred.

**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!
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.

Remas*, 5, and her family, who are refugees from Syria, received MCC comforters through MCC partner Caritas in Amman, Jordan. She, her parents and her older brothers and sister were able to choose from among the comforters. Remas’ mother Ghada* says, “When we received this, it was a relief.”

Before, the family needed to share covers and now each person has their own comforter. The family fled from Syria in 2013. Even today, Ghada says, Remas covers her ears whenever she hears an airplane flying overhead.

*name changed for security reasons

**COMFORTER WEIGHT**
- Comforters filled with batting are preferred. They are more compact, easier to launder and transport and are requested most often.
- A light fleece blanket is also a filler option.
- Sheets can also be used as filler, but are less desirable.
- Please be sure to catch the edge of the batting in the seams or fasten the batting close to the edges with ties.

**FINISHING AND KNOTTING**
- Please use a double strand of crochet cotton or yarn for tying.
- Ensure knots are firmly tied with strands with a gap of less than 1/2 inch between the knot and the fabric.
- Tie knots between 4 to 8 inches apart.
- Trim knot ends to 1 to 1-1/2 inches.
- Machine or fine hand quilting is also acceptable.

**DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**

**COMFORTERS BRING RELIEF**