

Storing Your Quilt

- from <http://www.museum.msu.edu/glqc/quiltcare.html>

1. Store textiles in a dark, dry place. Attics should be avoided because generally they have poor ventilation and basements are poor because they are usually too humid. Note: ideal temperature is 65-75°F and ideal relative humidity is 45-55%.
2. **KEEP QUILTS OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT.** The ultraviolet rays in daylight and fluorescent light break down fabric dyes and speed up the oxidation of fibers. Brown and black dyes, silks and other delicate fabrics are particularly sensitive to light.
3. Keep textiles away from insects, mice and other vermin. (Do not use moth crystals when there is insect infestation -- they are hazardous to your health!)
4. Quilts can be stored folded in acid-free boxes or storage units or rolled around cardboard tubing. If you choose the rolled method of storage, it's best to purchase acid-free cardboard tubes from an archival supply vendor (see attached list). If an acid-free tube is not used, cover the tube with a protective barrier layer of tin foil, then muslin or acid free tissue. If quilts are stored folded, folds should be padded with acid-free tissue paper in the folds.
5. If space is at a premium or if your quilts contain thick stuffed work or embellishments, the folded method of storage is preferable.
6. Don't stack too many folded quilts on top of each other or else the weight of all of the quilts will create creases that are hard to get out. For the same reason, unfold and refold your quilts every 3-6 months to avoid severe creasing.
7. Acid-free boxes or papers are usually best for storing quilts, but if unavailable, quilts can be wrapped in clean cotton sheets or washed, unbleached muslin.
8. Plastics should generally **NOT BE USED** for storage. They contain harmful vapors which contribute to the deterioration of the fabrics. Plastics which are particularly harmful: dry cleaner's bags, heavy duty garbage bags, garment bags and Styrofoam.

9. Wooden storage containers should be sealed with a protective coating of polyurethane varnish, then lined with unbleached, washed muslin or acid-free paper. Metal containers should also be lined with this muslin or paper.

10. Newspapers and cardboard boxes are NOT OKAY because they are full of harmful decaying agents -- just remember how your newspaper looks after being out in the sun for only a few minutes. Think of what contact with your quilt can mean!

Labeling Your Quilt

Part of maintaining good care of your quilt involves keeping with it any information you have (such as maker's name, date, pattern name, MQP#, etc.). This information could be typed onto either a piece of washed cotton or acid-free paper, then loosely basted onto the quilt.

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