

## How to Prepare Your Quilt For Longarm Quilting

By Carole Carter

An accurate 1/4-inch seam allowance is important.

Use 1/2-inch seam allowance for backings and press the seams open.

You should also check your quilt for seam breaks.

Place your backing seams so that they run parallel to the way the quilt will be loaded on the rollers

Use measured borders. [Quilt Border Tutorial](#)

The batting and backing need to be about 8 inches larger in length and in width.

The quilt top and backing should be clipped of loose threads, both front and back.

The quilt backing and batting should be square.

Tell the longarm quilter what the quilt will be used for.

If you have pieced borders or pieced blocks up to the edges of your quilt you must stabilize the edges with stay stitching 1/8" to 1/4" from the edge prior to quilting..

The quilt top should be free of embellishments, such as buttons, charms, pins, etc.

Remove all selvedge edges on backing seams and make sure it is square.

Choose thread color wisely.

Indicate the top of the pieced top and the backing on the right side.

Choosing the right batting.

Be very specific as to what you want in quilting design..

If you need to have the quilt done by a certain date (for a wedding, graduation, etc), give the quilter plenty of time to do the job you want.

Trust the delivery date promised, and don't call the quilter to "see how it is going".

Pick up your quilt promptly.

Longarm quilters want you to be happy with their work. Communication goes a long way to help you and the quilter choose the best ideas and give you the best results.