

LAUNDERING AND CARING FOR YOUR QUILT

Many fine quilts have become faded and frayed long before their time by improper and too frequent washing. Fifteen minutes of soaking in correctly prepared water will unlock soil and even body oils from the fibers of your quilt. Before laundering, use your vacuum, set at a low speed, to remove any loose dust or lint.

Prepare the water:

- Water should be no warmer than lukewarm (70° - 90°). If the warm setting on your washing machine is warmer than that, partially fill the washer with cold water and then finish filling with warm water.
- Mix two tablespoons of ORVUS into the water (ORVUS may be purchased from most good quilt shops). Turn off the machine.

Soak the quilt:

You are now ready to immerse your quilt in the water. Using your hands, gently submerge the quilt into the prepared water. Let the quilt soak for twenty minutes, with the machine turned off. After soaking, spin on delicate cycle. Cold rinse twice, again using hands to push quilt beneath water. A wet quilt is very heavy. Never grab a wet quilt and try to lift it with one hand. Do not add fabric softener.

Dry the quilt:

Lift quilt from machine, being careful to support it from underneath rather than pulling it from the top. Place quilt in dryer and run on gentle cycle for three minutes. This is not to dry the quilt, but to loosen the wrinkles and make it easier to handle.

Gently ease quilt into shape, spread it out of the sun to dry flat. If you must use clotheslines, be sure to spread quilt over three or four lines to ease the stress of hanging.

Other Care Instructions:

Never display a quilt in direct sunlight to avoid fading. Cover with a sheet to protect from direct sun.

Never store quilts in plastic bags. Damage from mildew could result.

Never store an unwrapped quilt in a cedar chest. In time, the wood may cause a chemical burn on fabric. Always fold it into a sheet or a pillowcase before storing.

The best place to store a quilt is on a spare bed.

The loving care you lavish on your quilt will result in many extra years of beauty and service.