

GENERAL BATTING CHARACTERISTICS

BATTING TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
100% COTTON	Can give a puckered appearance if washed after quilting. Soft, drapable. Good for machine quilting or experienced quilters' fine hand quilting.	Natural fiber so breathes. Resists bearding. Readily available.	May have seeds and plant residue that can release oils and stain fabric. Often cannot be prewashed. Shrinks 3%–5% when washed. May be too dense for beginning hand quilters to needle.
COTTON/ POLYESTER BLENDS: 80/20, 50/50	Low to medium loft. Good drape. Good for hand and machine quilting.	Some natural fibers so breathes. Resists bearding. Easy for beginning hand quilters to needle. Readily available.	Some shrinkage, which may be avoided by prewashing.
WOOL AND WOOL BLENDS	Blend of fibers from different animals. Resiliency enhances quilting stitches. Soft, drapable. Good for hand and machine quilting.	Natural insulator. Preshrunk. Available in black.	May have inconsistent loft. If not bonded, may need to be encased in cheesecloth or scrim.
SILK	Excellent body and drape. Lightweight. Good for hand and machine quilting.	Good choice for quilted garments. Can be washed. Does not shrink.	Expensive. Not widely available. Damaged by exposure to direct sunlight.
FLANNEL	100% cotton. Lightweight, thin. Good for machine quilting.	Lightweight alternative to traditional batting. Readily available.	Extreme low loft limits quilting pattern development.
POLYESTER	Available in many lofts. High loft is good for tied projects. Suitable for hand and machine quilting.	Resilient, lightweight. Cannot be harmed by moths or mildew. Readily available. Available in black.	Synthetic fibers lack breathability.
FUSIBLE	Good for machine quilting.	No need to prewash. Eliminates need for basting. Good for small projects.	Limited batting types and sizes. Adds adhesive to quilt. Difficult for hand quilters to needle.
BAMBOO AND BAMBOO BLENDS	Thin scrim. Smooth drape. Ideal for machine quilting.	Soft, silky, eco-friendly, lightweight. Made from one of the fastest-growing plants. Natural antibacterial properties.	Limited availability. Limited batting types and sizes.

BATTING OPTIONS AT A GLANCE

In this chart, find the finishing method you'll be using, then follow the appropriate column based on a few quick decisions. These options illustrate the process you should go through to select a batting for your next project. Before making a final decision, carefully weigh all the possibilities.

WILL YOU BE HAND QUILTING?		
Will your stitching be high density?	Will your stitching be medium density?	Will your stitching be low density?
Choose a low-loft batting.	Choose a medium-loft batting.	Choose a high-loft batting.
Consider 100% cotton, cotton/polyester blend, or wool.	Consider a cotton/polyester blend or wool.	This combination is not recommended as stitching will be lost in the batting loft.
WILL YOU BE MACHINE QUILTING?		WILL YOU BE TYING THE QUILT?
Will your stitching be high density?	Will your stitching be low density?	Will you have few ties?
Choose a low-loft batting.	Choose a medium-loft batting.	Choose a medium- to high-loft.
Consider 100% cotton, cotton/polyester blend, or wool.	Consider wool or a cotton/polyester blend.	Consider polyester.

BATTING LOFT AND CORRESPONDING FINISHING METHODS

Consider how you'll be quilting your project to select an appropriate batting loft.

