

Decorating with Quilts

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Whether you're a quilt maker or simply a quilt collector, these textile treasures can easily take over your home. Once you run out of beds to showcase them, it's time to move on.

Take your quilts out of the drawers, closets and cabinets and put them out for you and others to enjoy. Here are some ideas perhaps you haven't thought about.

On the wall

Quilts can be used like any prized artwork, from framed paintings to one-of-a-kind prints. You can frame and mat them like other works of art, or hang them a number of ways.



Modern Patchwork by Elizabeth Hartman

Photo courtesy of C&T Publishing

Most large quilts have sleeves on the underside for hanging—a narrow fabric tunnel through which you insert a rod, dowel or pipe to support the weight. If you own a quilt without one, and you want to hang it up, simply add a 4 1/2" tall double-layer sleeve to the upper edge of the quilt wrong side, just below the binding, and hand stitch it in place. If you're making the quilt, add the sleeve before you finish the quilt and tuck it into the binding.



*Sunday Morning Quilts by
Amanda Jean Nyberg and Cheryl Arkison*

Photo courtesy of C&T Publishing

Another way to hang a quilt on the wall is using corner pockets and a dowel snapped in place between them. This works for small and lightweight quilts only. These pockets are placed on the quilt wrong side before binding.

Quilts can also be hung on rods or wires using clip-on rings, similar to what you'd use to hang a curtain panel. If you choose this method, be sure to have sufficient hooks to support the quilt weight without it sagging.

For small wall quilts, straight pins suffice to hold it wall side. Or, look for wooden hanging shelves to support the quilt top.

Off the wall

You name it, a quilt can work there!

- Drape quilts over the corner of a chair or sofa for added color and warmth (yes, they can be used).
- Roll colorful quilts in a basket or open trunk as a decorating accent.
- Cover a tabletop with a quilt, or use a quilt as a protective mat under a display

of other decorating items like vases, bottles, baskets, etc.

- Mini-quilts make great place mats.



Photo courtesy of C&T Publishing

Hexa-Go-Go by Tacha Bruecher

- Find a tabletop stand for a small quilt. They usually come with dowels or curtain ring type clips to hold the quilt in place.
- If you have a ladder shelf, prop it against the wall and use the rungs for draping colorful quilts.
- To protect fragile quilts, while still enjoying seeing them, consider a glass-door shelf unit and fold them inside.

- Drape quilts over staircase railings or half walls—simply fold attractively, or drape gently to showcase a large motif.
- Quilts can also be used as window coverings, valances, and twisted over a rod and tied back to the side of the window to avoid sun damage.
- A glass-top coffee table can serve as a showplace for a small quilt (or parts of a quilt) placed underneath the see-through surface. For fragile and antique quilts, this venue is ideal.

Pet parade

Small quilts work well for dog and cat beds—especially those that aren't prized possessions and were perhaps "learning venues." Whether you use them for extra cushioning, or the quilt is the bed, your furry friends will appreciate the effort of your decorating to include them.

Sun smart

The UV rays from direct sun will quickly damage a quilt and any other textiles with prolonged exposure. It's best not to hang quilts in direct sun, and if you must, do it for only a short period of time.

There are UV protectant sprays that will help preserve the fibers, but it's best to avoid the need.

Quilts can be displayed outside on covered porches, on benches, draped over fences or trellises, or even hung on racks, but it's wise to avoid the sun for extended periods. 🐾