

# Bed Coverings

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Mattresses are available in standard sizes for width and length, but the depth varies. Flat sheets, blankets, comforters and bedspread sizes may vary several inches in each direction, depending on the manufacturer. When you make your own bed coverings, you can choose the size you want!



Photo courtesy of MoreSplashThanCash.com

### Coming to Terms

The terms coverlet, comforter, bedspread, duvet and quilt are often used interchangeably, but in reality they are not the same.

**Coverlet:** A lightweight bed covering designed for looks only (not warmth) and covers only the bed top with a few inches drop on the sides and end. A coverlet usually includes length to cover the pillows and it's used with a dust ruffle.

**Comforter:** A covering designed for warmth, it can be filled with polyester, wool or silk batting; or with down feathers. Thicknesses vary by the insulative needs. Sizes also vary—it can be only a bed topper, or extend down the sides.

**Bedspread:** A bed covering that covers the entire bed—mattress, box spring and pillows. Many bedspreads are lightweight and hang to the floor.

**Duvet:** A down-filled comforter. In Europe, only a bottom sheet is used with a duvet on top.

**Duvet cover:** Designed to protect a down-filled comforter from wear and dirt, this fabric covering is like a big envelope. The comforter goes inside and tied or buttoned in place. The duvet cover is then closed with buttons, ties, snaps or hook-and-loop fasteners.

**Quilt:** Generally referring to a pieced or patterned bed covering, a quilt has insulation between the layers like a comforter. It may be only comforter size, or extend to the floor like a bedspread.

For the best results when making duvet covers and comforters, measure the actual bed. Determine the desired drop (the amount that hangs over each side and the end of the bed), and add that measurement to the mattress width (at each side) and length. If you're making a duvet cover for a purchased comforter, measure the actual comforter as sizes may vary. Size Chart for Mattresses & Linens

**NOTE:** Sizes given below are general and will fit the mattress size indicated.

Size	Mattress	Fitted Sheets	Flat Sheets	Comforter	Bedspreads
Crib	27"-28"x52"	28"x52"	42"x72"	32"x48"	NA
Twin	39"x75"	39"x76"	66"x96"	69"x90"	80"x110"
Twin X-Long	39"x80"	39"x80"	66"x102"	69"x102"	NA
Full	54"x75"	54"x75"	81"x96"	84"x90"	96"x110"
Queen	60"x80"	60"x80"	90"x102"	90"x95"	102"x116"
King	76"x80"	78"x80"	108"x102"	106"x98"	120"x120"
California King	72"x84"	72"x84"	108"x102"	106"x98"	120"x120"

**NOTE:** Some manufacturers make a comforter size designated as "full/queen" which measures about 86" x 86". It's designed to fit both bed sizes, though may be skimpy on the larger size. Always measure before you shop for any readymade bed covering.

## Mattress Depths

Standard	Deep	Extra Deep
7" - 9"	10" - 15"	15" - 22"

## Bed Skirt

Standard
14" x 15" - also available as extra long

## Bed Pillows

Standard	Queen	King
20" x 26"	20" x 30"	20" x 36"

## Blanket Sizes

Blankets are designed for warmth and vary greatly in weight and fiber. Blankets can be made of wool, cotton or synthetics. They go on the bed between the sheet set and the bed covering.

Blanket sizes vary slightly by manufacturer; following are general sizes.

Crib (small)	28"x36"
Crib (medium)	30"x40"
Twin/Extra-Long	66"x90"
Full/Queen	90"x90"
King/California King	110"x96"
Throw	50"x60"

## Making Bed Coverings

Measure your particular bed size—width, length and height before planning a bed covering project. Depending on how you want the item to fit, you may also need to take into account the turn back for covering the pillow area and add this number to the finished length of the covering.

Determine the desired "drop"—how far down the mattress/box spring area do you want the covering to come and add this to the width measurement twice—once for each side of the bed?

Remember to add for seam allowances and hems.

## Helpful hints for making bed coverings

- Look for extra-wide decorating fabrics to minimize piecing and yardage requirements.
- Select fabrics that are washable for easiest care; dry cleaning bed coverings can be expensive.
- Prewash fabrics to avoid subsequent shrinkage.
- If you're working with a large print, measure the repeat as extra fabric will be needed for matching at seams.
- In most instances, you'll need to seam the fabric width to get the needed amount to cover the bed. Plan to place a fabric single width down the bed center and additional widths on each side, so there will be two seams in the covering, not a single seam down the center which looks funny. Allow extra fabric for matching prints, as needed.
- If you're using a lightweight fabric for a coverlet, and you need some weight to make it hang properly on the bed, add small drapery weights at the hem in several places.
- Set your machine on a large table surface (dining room table, etc.) to help support the expanse of fabric needed for a bed covering, especially if you're quilting it.
- For quilted versions, use fusible batting or temporary spray adhesive to help hold the layers together for sewing and quilting.
- Add piping to the seams and/or hem areas along the length and end width (not at the pillow section) for emphasis and weight to help the cover hang better.
- Round the lower corners for easier hemming and better hang.
- If the bed has a footboard, plan a split in the corner drop area to allow for the support.
- Avoid using slippery fabrics for the underside of the covering, as it can cause it to slip off the bed. 🐾

