



# Love Sew's Top Ten Tips: Extend the Life of Your Cutting Mat

*By following these care tips, you can extend the life of your rotary cutting mat and maintain its accuracy for your sewing and crafting projects.*

- 1. Store Flat:** Always store your rotary cutting mat flat, preferably on a clean and level surface. Avoid leaning it against a wall or storing it in a bent or rolled position, as this can cause permanent warping.
- 2. Clean Regularly:** Clean your cutting mat after each use to remove fabric fibers and debris. Use a lint roller or a soft brush to gently sweep off loose particles.
- 3. Avoid direct sunlight:** Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can cause the mat to fade and become brittle. Store it in a cool, shaded area when not in use.
- 4. Rotate the Mat:** To ensure even wear, rotate your cutting mat regularly. This prevents the same areas from being used repeatedly, which can lead to uneven cutting surfaces.
- 5. Use a Cutting Mat 'Protector':** Consider using a cutting mat protector or a secondary, sacrificial mat when making deep cuts with your rotary cutter. This will help extend the life of your primary mat.
- 6. Use the Right Blade:** Ensure that your rotary cutter blade is sharp and appropriate for your mat's thickness. Dull blades can cause unnecessary damage to the mat surface.
- 7. Cut Away from Edges:** When cutting fabric, avoid cutting too close to the mat's edges. The outer edges tend to wear out faster, so keeping your cuts away from these areas can help prolong the mat's life.
- 8. Avoid Excessive Pressure:** Apply even, moderate pressure when cutting with a rotary cutter. Excessive force can cause the blade to dig into the mat and damage it.
- 9. Clean Spills Promptly:** If you spill liquids or adhesives on your cutting mat, clean them up promptly with a damp cloth and mild soap. Avoid using harsh chemicals that can damage the mat.
- 10. Replace When Necessary:** Rotary cutting mats have a finite lifespan, and they will eventually show signs of wear and cut marks that affect accuracy. When your mat becomes too damaged or difficult to use, it's time to replace it with a new one.

Don't forget-  
Love Sew carries  
DOUBLE SIDED  
cutting mats!



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