



Calculating Backing

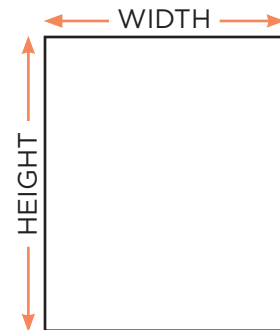
To calculate backing, there are a couple of steps to ensure that the back of your quilt looks as great as the front. We always want to make sure that the backing is larger than the front of the quilt, whether quilting at home or sending to a longarmer, so let's do some math!

Step 1:

Measure the length and width of your quilt top.

Measure the width of one end. _____
(width of one end)

Measure the height of one side. _____
(height of one side)



Step 2:

Add 8" to each measurement from Step 1. These 4 inches on all sides allow room for the quilting process.

_____ + 8 inches = _____
(total quilt top width) (total backing width)

_____ + 8 inches = _____
(total quilt top height) (total backing height)

Step 3:

Take your measurements, add them both together, and divide by 36. This is the amount of yardage you will need.

_____ + _____ = _____
(total backing height) (total backing width) (total amount of backing needed)

_____ ÷ 36 inches = _____
(total quilt top height) (yards of backing needed)

CHEAT SHEET

Calculating Backing continued...

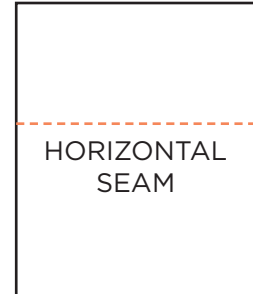
Step 4:

Cut the fabric to your backing height and piece together with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances.

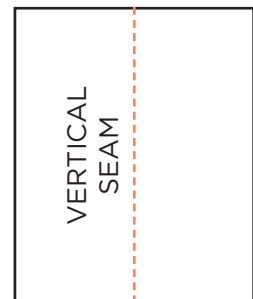
Tips and Tricks for Backing:

- If your quilt top is less than the fabric width, congratulations! You can simply cut your backing to the same length you figured in Step 2.
- Trim off all selvages and use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance when piecing the backing. Sew the pieces together along the longest edge. Press the seam allowance open to decrease bulk.
- Use horizontal seams for smaller quilts (under 60" wide) and vertical seams for larger quilts.
- Choose a backing layout that best suits your quilt. Think about the direction of the pattern and pattern matching.

UNDER 60" WIDE



OVER 60" WIDE



Example Quilt:

- Once borders are added, the finished quilt top dimension is 58" x 66"
- Take quilt top width + 8" = backing width, $58" + 8" = 66"$
- Take quilt top length + 8" = backing length, $66" + 8" = 74"$
- Determine the number of Widths of Fabric (WOFs) you need for your backing by dividing your width measurement by 40", $66" \text{ divided by } 40" = 1.65$
- Round up to 2. You need 2 WOFs to make your backing.
- Take your backing length measurement and multiply it by the number of WOFs you need, $74" \times 2 = 148"$ This is how many inches of fabric you need.
- Now, divide that number by 36" to get how much yardage you need, $148 \text{ divided by } 36" = 4.1$
- Round up to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ yard and you get 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards.