

# Longarm Quilting Checklist

A friendly guide to help you prepare your quilt top and backing for longarming.

- ☐ **Quilt Top Square and Flat:** Make sure your quilt top is squared up, lays flat, and has no wavy edges. If it doesn't quite lay flat, don't stress-- just let me know and we can chat about the best way to quilt it.
- ☐ **Stay Stitch:** Sew a row of stitches 1/8" from the edge of your quilt top to prevent seams from popping open during handling and it will help minimize stretching. These tiny stitches will be hidden under the binding.
- ☐ **Trim Loose Threads:** Check the front and back of your quilt top for stray threads and trim them away. This helps avoid dark threads showing through lighter fabrics.
- ☐ **Backing Fabric, 4" Extra on All Sides:** Your backing should be at least 8" wider and longer than your quilt top (that's 4" extra on each side). For example, if your quilt top is 60" x 80", your backing should be 68" x 88".
- ☐ **Seams Pressed & Backing Squared:** If your backing has seams, use at least a 3/8" seam allowance and press them open. Square up your backing and ensure the edges are straight and even.
- ☐ **No Need to Baste or Pin:** Leave the basting to me! Please don't pin, baste, or layer your quilt sandwich-- I'll take care of that on the longarm.
- ☐ **Mark the Top:** It's helpful to mark which edge is the "top" of both your quilt top and backing with a pinned note or piece of painter's tape. This is especially important for quilts with directional designs or fabrics.
- ☐ **Binding Fabric (If Applicable):** If you'd like me to bind your quilt, please include your binding fabric, clearly labeled, with your quilt.
- ☐ **Press Everything Nicely:** Give your quilt top and backing a good press so they're flat, smooth, and wrinkle-free.
- ☐ **Pack With Care:** Fold your quilt top, backing, and binding neatly. Place them in a clean plastic bag for protection. If you're shipping them, use a sturdy box, label, and tape it securely.

Have questions? Don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always happy to help.

