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## EC63-1175 Guide for Buying...Bedspreads

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# GUIDE for BUYING

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## BEDSPREADS

by Magdalene Pfister  
Extension Specialist in Home Furnishings

Bedspreads, quilts and comforters come in a wide range of sizes, fabrics, styles and colors. With such a large selection available you'll be able to select one that will look attractive in your particular setting and serve your needs. Here are some guides for your choice:

### Bedspreads

#### Fabrics

A bedspread fabric should be closely woven. Firm weaves wear better than those that are loosely woven.

Many bedspreads withstand wrinkling. The fabric texture, weight, design and finish contribute to easy care.

Tailored decorator type spreads are often custom made of drapery or slip cover fabric to fit the bed precisely.

Pattern and color are woven into the Jacquard type fabric with a different combination of weaves. The yarn dyed cotton used in these spreads washes very well.

Tufted fabrics have been popular. The foundation fabric for tufted spreads such as chenille, candlewick or hobnob should be firm and strong. This type of spread often is made of viscose lint-free yarns.

When buying a bedspread check to see whether the manufacturer tags the fabric as washable, dry cleanable, pre-shrunk and sunfast. If the label states "dry clean only," it means just that.





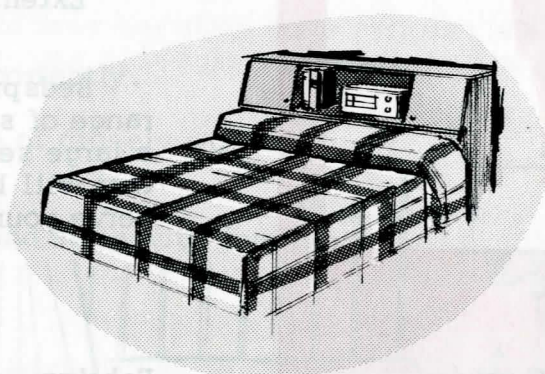
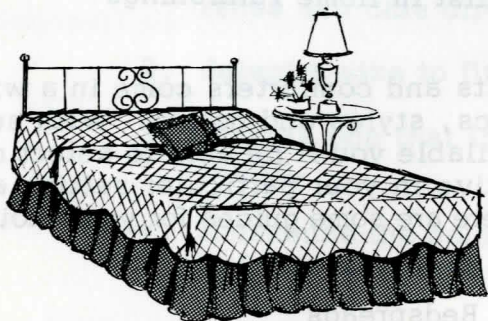
## Color

The room size and furnishings will influence the color of the bedspread. If you have a small room, avoid strong contrasts between bed and wall. A blending of colors will make the room look larger. Choose colors that resist fading from light and laundering. Look for tags and labels that specify this.

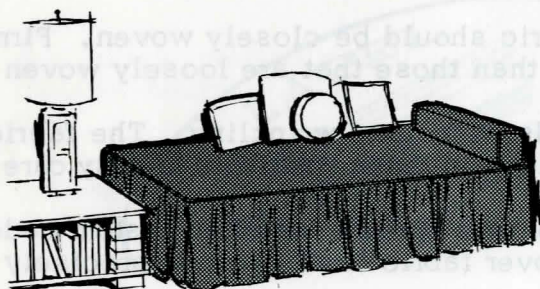
If your bedroom seems hot, choose fabrics that are cool to the eye and to the touch. Instead of red corduroy, buy a blue or green polished cotton or white drip-dry sheer.

## Style

The style of spread should be related to the character of the room and bed. A tailored spread of a heavy textured fabric, plaid or checked material is suitable for a bed with bookcase headboard. A striped coverlet and plain pleated dust ruffle also is appropriate.



In a feminine room a ruffled or quilted floral spread with plain dust ruffle is in keeping. A couch in a den may use a tailored corduroy cover.



A bed will look more attractive when its legs do not show. A dust ruffle may be needed with some quilts and coverlets. The dust ruffle should come to the floor.

Beds with foot boards may have bulging corners unless the corners of a flat spread are mitered when placed on the bed, or a tailored spread with split corners is selected.

You will find sets of matching spreads, pillow shams, dressing table skirts and curtains. Try not to get carried away with these because you may find these dull to live with.

## Size

Spreads are made for oversize as well as standard size beds. You will need to know not only the measurement of the length and width of the bed, but also the distance from the mattress to the floor.

Low shrinkage is an important consideration if spreads are to keep their size after laundering or dry cleaning. Shrinkage should not exceed five percent. Manufacturers' labels are the best source of shrinkage information.



## Workmanship

Look to see how well a spread is made before you buy. Look for a neatly finished edge on each side of the spread, and well finished seams.

## Quilts and Comforters

Much that has been said about selection of bedspreads applies to quilts and comforters.

A comforter should be resilient for this assures more warmth. Press the comforter between your hands and notice how quickly it springs back when released. One that doesn't will get lumpy or flat and lose its insulative ability.

The law requires each quilt and comforter to have a label identifying the fiber and covering and whether the material is new or reprocessed.

## Size

The size is usually the cut size before it is filled and sewed. This may make as much difference as four inches between cut and finished size.

## Fillings

Fillings are of many kinds and must be identified. Price depends on the quality of fillings.

Man made fiber fills such as nylon, polyester fibers such as Dacron, Kodel and Fortrel, or acrylic fibers such as Acrilan are easy to care for and can be machine washed and dried.

Quilts are cotton or Dacron filled and as a rule can be washed. Long staple cotton, when used as a filling, will be more resilient than short staple cotton or linters which tend to bunch.

Wool is sometimes used as a filling. Better grades will be scoured and carded while lower grades are coarse and may contain other substances. Lambs wool is lightweight and warm.

Down is extremely lightweight, soft, warm and resilient.

Stitching on a comforter and quilt should be closely stitched through both thicknesses to keep filling in place.

Be sure the outer fabric is washable as well as the filling. A covering that needs little or no ironing is desirable.

Edges should be neatly finished and stitched so that fabric, especially if it is sheer, will not fray.

Remember when buying a bedspread or coverlet:

1. Read label carefully to learn fiber content, finishes and care directions.
2. Select a size to fit your bed correctly.
3. Choose one that is well made of closely woven fabric.
4. Harmonize the color, texture and style with your bed and other furnishings.

