



Museum Textile Services

Quilt Storage and Handling

- Quilts and other multilayered textiles should be folded, not rolled, to prevent wrinkling and compression of the many layers. A 18 x 36 x 6 inch acid-free textile-storage box can hold two average quilts or one large quilt.
- Find a clean area large enough to accommodate your quilt when it is laid flat, such as a bed, a large table, or a sheet on the floor.
- Place the quilt face down so that when you are finished folding it you will be looking at the front.
- Fold the quilt a minimum number of times in order to make it fit into the acid-free storage box. Hold the box next to the quilt to gauge how many times you will need to fold it in each direction.
- Use “snakes,” or rolled up pieces of acid-free tissue, to pad all folds. Interleaving all folds of a quilt with tissue is only necessary if the quilt is very fragile or has surface embellishments.
- Lay two will-tape ties width-ways across the box. Line the box with tissue. Place the folded quilt into the box. Cover the quilt with tissue. Tie the ties so that the tissue is being held in place but not so tightly as to dent the quilt.
- If you have more than one box, label each with a photo of the quilt/s it contains to avoid unnecessary unfolding.
- Always store textiles on the main floors of your house, never in an attic or basement. Ideal locations are on a closet shelf or under a bed. Make sure the box is safe from pets and accidental mishandling.
- Once a year open the box and check for signs of insects or damage.
- If you are going to use your quilt periodically, keep these instructions so that you can easily store it again.

