



## 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. An 18 x 30 x 6 inch acid-free textile-storage box can hold two average quilts or one large quilt. Always use acid-free, unbuffered tissue regardless of what materials the quilt is made of.

- 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. Wash and dry your hands.
- Place the quilt face down so that when you are finished folding it you will be looking at the front.
- Calculate the minimum number of times you can fold the quilt in order for it to fit into the box. Hold the box next to the quilt to gauge how many times you will need to fold it in the 18-inch and then the 30-inch direction.
- Make two “snakes,” or rolled up pieces of acid-free tissue the length of the quilt. Place one snake 18 inches from an edge and make your first fold. Make sure the tissue is snug in the fold. Place the second snake about 18 inches from the first and fold again. Continue 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.
- Line the box with a long piece of 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.