

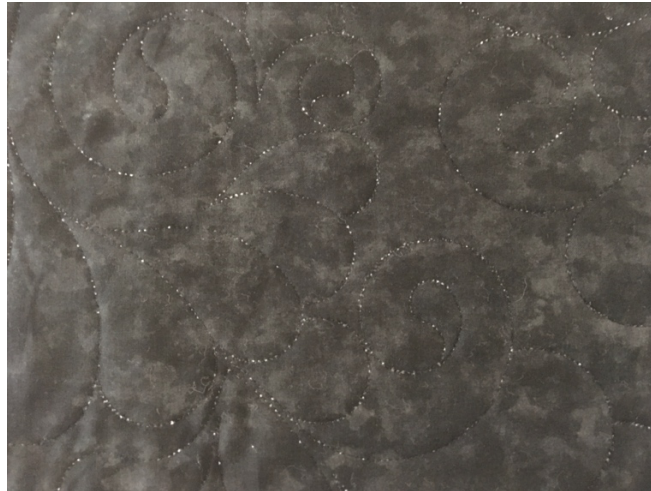
Why you need to Pre-Wash your backing fabric!

As a Machine Quilter we want our clients to have the best experience possible. My biggest advise to a customer is to “PRE-WASH” your Backing fabric for your quilt, you do not have to have the top fabric prewashed, but I highly recommend that the backing be!

Reason:

The fabric purchased in shops these days has multiple amounts more Chemicals, Sizing, Formaldehyde etc... on them to keep them looking fresh on the quilt shop shelves. In the past, the average time a bolt would sit on a shop shelf was approximately a year at most. Currently a bolt can sit on a shelf in a shop for many years, up to 10 years or so in some cases. So, to keep the bolts fresh, crisp and from fading most fabric manufacturers have added the extra sizing and chemicals.

With a pre-washed backing the needle properly slides through and separates the soft fibers the way it's intended. With an unwashed backing the needle “PUNCHES” through the stiff very chemically treated backing much like driving a nail through metal leaving the fibers torn and therefore brings tufts of batting through (bearding or pokies). It doesn't happen with “every” unwashed backing because different fabric manufacturing plants use different amounts of chemicals and formaldehyde in their production.



A prewashed backing will NOT be an issue whether expensive or cheaper discount fabric. If you choose to not pre-wash your backing, I cannot guarantee that this will not happen during the quilting process. Your best option is to machine wash and dry your quilt after it has been quilted to have this “bearding or pokies” pull back through the fabric (although some may remain).

Happy Quilting!

Amy