

T-Shirt Quilts of Texas™

Memorial Quilt Buyer's Guide

All About Memorial/Bereavement Quilts

A guide to help you through the process

There are many steps in the grieving process. Deciding to make a memorial quilt(s) from your loved one's clothing is a big step in going through the stages of grief. We have made thousands of t-shirt and memory quilts for over twelve years.

There are so many Memory quilt and blanket makers out there on the internet. How do you decide who to pick to turn your treasured clothing into a quilt that you will cherish for a lifetime? We have tried to put together many of the most common questions that we get about making Memory Quilts. First and foremost is that you trust the company before sending your loved ones clothing.

Please call or email us with any questions you might have about your Memory Quilt.

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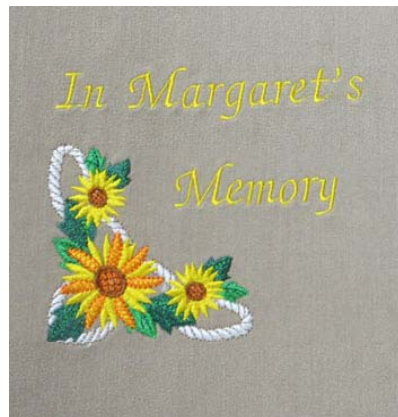
Why Have a Quilt Made

No doubt about it. When someone dies, there is a huge void. There is an emptiness that seems insurmountable to overcome. Everyone deals with their grief in different ways and there is no right or wrong way to handle your feelings.

In December 1992, my dad died early one morning at the hospital after a long bout with cancer. My mom came home and immediately emptied the closets of dad's clothes and had my husband take the clothing to Disabled Vets (*Note: this was before I was doing Memory quilts*). This was completed before most of the rest of the family had even arrived from out of town.

On the other hand, I get customers that bring in clothing within a couple of years later of someone passing.

The amount of emotion tied to the clothing and taking the next step of the grieving process is different for everyone. However long it takes, pulling those clothes from the closet, and bringing them to a professional quilt maker is a big step.



Remember, grieving is a personal process that has no time limit, nor one "right" way to do it.

What Items Can Be Included In a Memory Quilt

We always say *"If you can launder it, you can use it"*.

- ❖ Long or short sleeve t-shirts
- ❖ Golf/Polo shirts
- ❖ Men's or women's bathing suits (*make sure the fabric is not 'rotten'*)
- ❖ Boxer Shorts (*yes, we did a WHOLE quilt with nothing but patterned boxers!*)
- ❖ Long sleeve, cotton, button down, plaids, cowboy... shirts
- ❖ Boy /Girl/Eagle scout badges, uniforms & scarves
- ❖ Sweatshirts
- ❖ Pajamas/nightgowns
- ❖ Flannel or fleece pants
- ❖ Baby clothing
- ❖ Men's ties, handkerchiefs, suspenders
- ❖ Cotton bed sheets, curtains
- ❖ High school varsity letters, jacket & sweaters
- ❖ Aprons
- ❖ Baseball jerseys and patches
- ❖ Hats (*we only use the front logo*)
- ❖ Canvas bags (*must be pre-washed*)
- ❖ Towels
- ❖ Linen tea towels
- ❖ Beauty Pageant Banners

Quilt made with 7 linen towels



Who Should I Have A Quilt Made For

Deciding who would appreciate and value a memory quilt from a loved one's clothing is a tough decision. When a parent or grandparent has passed, who feels it the most? Kids and grandkids have a special bond. A custom quilt made from the clothing can be a special 'hug' from those who are not here any longer.

Don't forget to have one made for YOU.

A generous throw is the suggested size for children and grandchildren. It is easy to throw across the foot of the bed, snuggle in a chair, or take a nap on the couch. A bed sized quilt is more likely to end up folded neatly on a shelf and unseen.

Consider having a pillow made for loved ones as well. Pillows are great for younger children. Consider having a simple sentiment embroidered on one side of the pillow.

You can use just about any material in your quilt. Just note that if an item is "dry-clean only", the quilt you put it into also becomes "dry-clean only."



Set of 3 quilts made from nightgowns and blouses.

When Should I Have the Quilt(s) Made

When someone passes, everyone that is left behind reacts differently. When my Dad died, my Mom cleaned out his closets immediately. Other people come to the shop with clothing they have been holding on to for five years or more. You may fall somewhere in between that. Even though it may take awhile to make the decision, be assured that snuggling with a quilt is much more preferable than going into a closet or digging through a box of clothing.

*Grief is like an ocean;
It comes in waves,
ebbing and flowing.
Sometimes the water is
calm, and sometimes it
is overwhelming. All we
can do is learn to swim.*

--Vicki Harrison



*Set of 3 quilts made from polo shirts, shirts and jeans.
Traditional style quilt*

What To Do With the Leftover Scraps of Clothing

OK, you bring all the contents of your loved ones closet. We make one, two or more quilts from the clothing. However, there are lots of 'scraps' left over. What happens to these miscellaneous pieces of clothing?

Well, first of all, we hang on to them for awhile, because once your family members have seen the quilts YOU had made, they may decide they want one. No problem, we just make more.



Bricks & Mortar style quilt. The 'bricks' are jean material, the 'mortar' is a red Texas flower print.

You are welcome to have the clothing scraps returned to you when the quilts are complete; others just want us to dispose of the extra fabric. Totally up to you.

How much is leftover will there be? Well, if you brought five or six pieces of clothing, there might not be much left over. If you sent along several moving boxes full of clothing, there will be more pieces depending on how many quilts were made. We had one family whose patriarch passed and they made 17 throws, 1 king, and 2 queen sized quilts for their huge immediate family.

Grouping Items For More Than One Quilt

Most of the time when making Memory Quilts, we are making several quilts from the clothing and we try to spread the clothing throughout each quilt. However, sometimes there are specific pieces of clothing that are special to a particular person. Maybe it is the t-shirt that the grandchild made for grandma. That one definitely needs to go in that grandchild's quilt. When there is a special item to be used in a specific quilt, then we need to be able to differentiate between the quilts.

The best way to group these items is to separate the specific items of clothing into individual bags. Clothing to be used in ALL quilts, should be in a separate bag. For example, if making five quilts, you might have five bags with specifically assigned clothing and a sixth bag with the rest of the clothing.

Place an order form in each bag with any special instructions you may have. Label each bag with a name or a number. You don't have to fill out the complete order form for each one, just note what is different about each one, such as these are nine blocks, these are twelve blocks and so on.

For items that you want to assign to a specific quilt or more than one (but, not all), using painters tape, list which number or name(s) that should get a piece from that item.



*Dress shirts made into a **Bricks and Mortar** Style Memory Quilt.*

Memorial Quilts: One Customer's Story

First of all, I love hearing ALL the stories about the people that we are making Memory quilts for. They are all so personal, and I am blessed that they share with us. This lady lives in Germany and had not only recently lost her father, but her brother was dying from Cancer.

“He retired June 30. Left on his first bucket list trip to Alaska on July 10. Rode his Harley all the way to Alaska. Spent an amazing time there doing things he always dreamed of. On his way back home they were going to stop at Sturgis. They never made it. My dad had a massive heart attack while driving to Sturgis in Canada. It took us a week to find him. Anyway, long story short, I gave away everything but kept his [Harley] shirts. It was the one thing we shared. Growing up he always took me on motorcycle rides. My brothers were never interested so it was a Dad and daughter thing. My baby brother started riding motorcycles when he turned 30 and was able to go on a ride with our Dad a month before he passed. He’s 40 now. Because of my memories of our rides I decided that I wanted a T-Shirt quilt and I did not need anything else. Then the search was on. I visited many sites but kept coming back to yours. Months went by but I kept looking.....”

Note added after receiving quilts and her brother had passed as well..

“I am so thankful I decided to give him the blanket early. He loved it. Everyone does. I gave my mom and my other brother theirs the Saturday before he passed. May 7 my mom turned 70. We had a birthday party celebrating hers, my 50th and Troy’s 41st Even though his birthday was July 20. It was a great day but an awful one.

Wow. I sure just unloaded on you. Sorry. It has almost been 3 months and it has just started hitting me that he is gone. And my mug mat that sits next to my chair brings me so much your work is a true blessing. God blessed me with you. Thank You. Your work is God's work. -- Dee C.”

Ready To Order Your Memory Quilt?

T-Shirt Quilts of Texas would love to make your Memory quilt(s). If you are ready to proceed with your quilt, you might be asking “What’s next?”.

Getting Your Order Ready

- Gather up those t-shirts, jeans, suits and other clothing.
- Please pre-wash any clothing that has been in storage or is smelly. (*Smelly clothing results in a smelly quilt!*)
- If t-shirts are included, fold them with the side you want us to use facing out. Any additional instructions, mark with blue painters tape.
- Pack clean clothing in a plastic bag, place in a sturdy shipping box (*or drop off at our shop*).
- Include Order Form, clothing, and method of deposit.
- Ship the box via USPS, UPS or Fed-Ex. (*No signature required please*)
- Let us know your shirts are on the way.