

HOW TO BUY AND CARE FOR YOUR QUILTED FABRICS (44)

Quilted comforters and jackets are popular because they are warm and light weight. Quilted jackets are even popular in Florida for winter wear and for those who travel to go skiing. There are some key things you should know when purchasing quilted fabrics which determines long wear and how easy it is to care for the fabric.

- (1) The insulating material may be down, polyester, thinsulate or less commonly-wool. Thinsulate insulation type C used for apparel is 65% olefin and 35% polyester.**
- (2) The insulating material is held by a stitching which may show on the outer fabric or it can be stitched on the inner lining which is referred to as baffles.**
- (3) Down is considered the warmest insulating material pound for pound.**
- (4) The more stitching or seams the fabric has the less warmth it provides. More stitching brings the fabric closer together which produces less insulating properties and more heat loss.**
- (5) When the label gives you the percentage of down and feathers it may not be 100% accurate. The Federal Trade Commission allows the manufacturer a margin of error.**
- (6) Quilted fabrics are usually washable except when the filler is wool or the outer shell fabric is silk.**
- (7) When buying quilted fabrics check for feathers showing. This occurs because the feathers may work themselves out from the inner baffle lining and show through the outer shell.**
- (8) Odor-If the quilted fabric has an odor it usually means the down filler has not been properly cleaned in manufacture.**
- (9) Check the stitching to make sure it is not broken or weakened.**

WASHING PROCEDURES

Bring the fabric to a laundermat which uses front loading washers. Use a mild detergent such as Tide for washing and do not use fabric softeners. Fabric softeners tend to stay in the fabric producing rings and swales.

- (1) Wash in a normal cycle with warm water. Do not use excessive amounts of detergent.**
- (2) When drying fabric use a warm setting and put in tennis balls or a clean sneaker. The more pounding the down receives the fluffier it becomes.**
- (3) Make sure the fabric is properly dried before removing from the drier.**

POLYESTER AND THINSULATE

The procedure for washing is similar to down except for a few factors.

- (1) The water and drying temperature is critical. Hot water and hot drying temperatures will cause the filler to separate and flatten.**
- (2) Do not use tennis balls or sneaker when drying.**
- (3) Do not press the outer fabric. This will cause the insulation to flatten.**