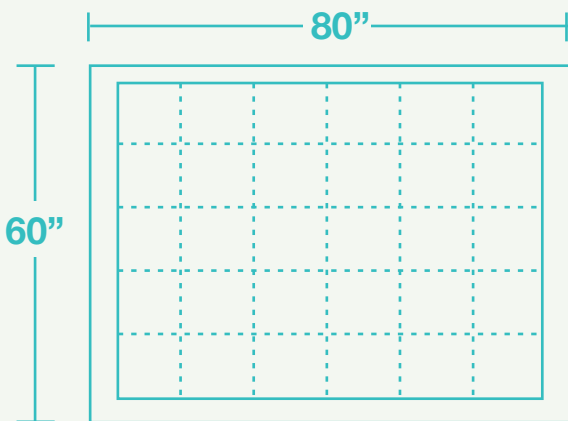# MCC Blanket Making Tips

Each year, MCC receives many beautiful handmade blankets which are sent around the world. Often, individuals and families receiving MCC blankets are in crisis situations and lacking basic necessities. Blankets are used for warmth, room dividers, carpets, curtains, wraps and mattresses. MCC blankets provide not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Again and again, recipients express their gratitude for the gift of an MCC blanket.

We want to send our very best so, over the years, MCC has developed some guidelines that allow us to effectively and efficiently send blankets to areas of need around the world.
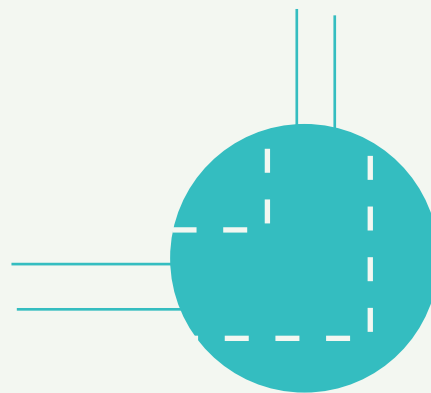
SIZE

60" x 80" is preferred, but larger sizes are also acceptable. We do not send crib or baby sized blankets out of country because the larger blankets are requested.
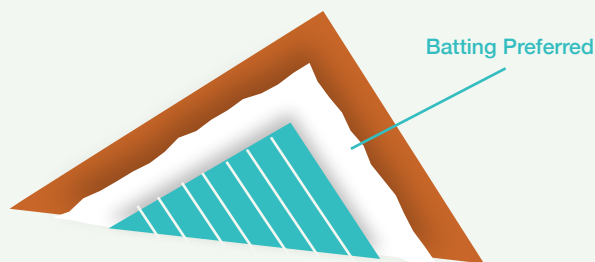
FABRIC

- Fabric should be sturdy and washable and blankets should be made of similar types of fabric.
- Please avoid fabrics that are bulky, prone to shrinking, containing small holes and white or light coloured fabric.
- Please avoid fabric with images of guns, military or war-related pictures, pigs, religious words or symbols, flags, or violent cartoon characters, camouflage or culturally inappropriate (e.g. girls dressed in short skirts or with lots of skin showing).
- Please do not use lace, eyelet, loose knit, heavy corduroy, wool, silks, silky texture, jersey, double knit, velvet, canvas, heavy upholstery and heavy denim fabrics,
- Please avoid thin, stretchy knit and loosely woven fabrics in general.
- Please do not use slippery or light coloured fabrics as a backing.
- Bright colourful combinations, darker shades and cheerful prints are preferred.
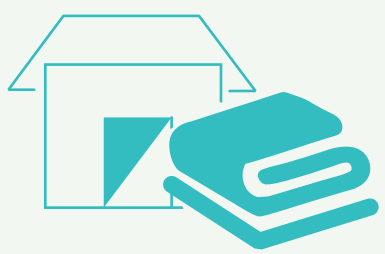
STITCHING

- Please ensure all corners are stitched completely closed and backstitch at the beginning and end of seams. *Insects are a problem in some countries and we don't want to give them a home in our blankets.*
- A blanket with smooth, uniform stitching, ample seam allowances, and good quality, strong thread will provide warmth and comfort for many years.
- Ensure no needles remain. *Our folders and balers are especially appreciative when all needles and pins are removed!*
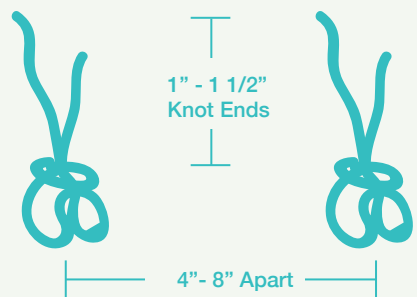
Batting Preferred

1" - 1 1/2" Knot Ends

4"- 8" Apart

BLANKET WEIGHT

- Blankets filled with batting are preferred. *They are more compact, easier to launder and transport and are requested most often.*
- A light fleece blanket is also a filler option.
- Sheets can also be used as filler, but are less desirable.
- Please be sure to catch the edge of the batting in the seams or fasten the batting close to the edges with ties.

FINISHING AND KNOTTING

- Please use a double strand of crochet cotton or yarn for tieing.
- Ensure knots are firmly tied with strands with gap of less than 1/2 inch.
- Tie knots between 4 to 8 inches apart.
- Trim knot ends to 1 to 1-1/2 inches.
- Machine or fine hand quilting is also acceptable.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Blankets can be dropped off at your local MCC Thrift Store, MCC Regional Offices or our warehouse at 50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener. For a full list of drop off locations go to mcco.ca/mr

Thank you so much for your diligence and care as you create these blankets that provide so much hope and love for individuals and families around the world. If you have any questions or would like printed copies of these tips to share, please contact:
Wendy Cotter, Materials Resources Production Manager
519-745-8458 ext 248 or wendycotter@mcco.ca

BLANKET OF RELIEF

Remas*, 5, and her family, who are refugees from Syria, received MCC blankets, through MCC partner Caritas in Amman, Jordan. She, her parents and her older brothers and sister, were able to choose from among the MCC blankets. Remas' mother Ghada* says, "When we received this, it was a relief."

Before, the family needed to share covers and now each person has their own comforter. The family fled from Syria in 2013. Even today, Ghada says, Remas covers her ears whenever she hears an airplane flying overhead.

name changed for security reasons

MCC Photo/Matthew Sawatzky