

Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®

Memorial T-shirt Quilt Buyer's Guide

Deciding to make a memorial quilt from your deceased loved one's clothing is a big step in your grief process. Having made thousands of quilts, we understand the level of knowledge you need to have to make informed decisions about transforming your loved one's T-shirts and clothing items into a cherished quilt. That's why we have written this guide.

We have gathered answers to the most important questions customers ask about having a memorial quilt made. Hopefully, this guide will answer your questions.

We also know that you need to trust the company you send your clothing items to. Will they do what they say they will? This is such an important component of your decision that the first section of this guide is a customer's story in her own words.



**You are more than welcome to
call us here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®
with any questions you have
about your T-shirt quilt.**

517-541-8225

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The memorial quilt experience: A customer's story

"Losing a family member is one of the most painful experiences for any family. For my family it was my husband. Working through the grief has been slow, with each day bringing something new to the process. As I considered my husband's clothes, the thought of just giving them away was too painful, but just keeping them didn't seem right either.

Our children began requesting "a shirt" to keep when I was ready to go through his clothes. The idea of having quilts made came to me while I was reading an article on grief. I began searching online for a local place to make them for me, and found (non-local) Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® during my search.

We have 5 grown children, so I wanted a quilt for each child and one for myself. I didn't have nearly enough T-shirts for even one quilt, but by looking at the photos on the web site I realized I could fill them in with fabric from his other clothes. I originally wanted the quilts to be a surprise, but was simply overwhelmed by the whole process (not to mention by the large number of clothes my husband had!). In the end, I asked my children if they had an attach-



ment to any particular clothing items they wanted in their quilt (one daughter wanted a shirt my husband had worn when her baby was born).

I divided up the T-shirts by child and myself according to memories and activities they/we had participated in together. My husband also had his own business, so I included the company logo from his work shirts in each quilt. The rest of the clothes were sorted by color. I placed each pile of specific shirts in its own bag according to person, along with an order form. I then packaged and shipped 5 boxes via UPS and was notified by e-mail when they arrived.

As I mentioned, each quilt started with a small pile of specific shirts. Next, I chose a color scheme for each quilt according to the person it was for, working from the colors I had sorted. I wrote that on the bottom of each order form (such as “blues” or “multicolor” or “browns/ grays” or “red/white/blue”).

Next, I selected the edging color to coordinate with the color scheme. For the backing, I chose ivory for all 6 quilts, both for continuity and to make it easy on myself. I decided I didn't want any shirt collars used (as I had



seen in some photos of other quilts) so wrote that down as well.

I worried about what kind of business this really was, which is why I was glad for the opportunity to see it and meet Andrea. Her work looked great online, but these clothes were special and it was hard to “let them go.” Knowing I would be in Michigan for several weeks with one of my daughters, babysitting her son while she finished graduate school, I did a search to find out where Charlotte, MI was located; Andrea happened to be less than an hour from where we would be staying.



I can honestly say her place is fabulous! She has a beautiful building, with several ladies working for her. It was very professional and clean, and they were all extremely friendly and kind. I was very impressed and all my concerns were put to rest. I highly recommend Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®. And the best part was receiving the finished quilts - they are beautiful!"

What items and fabrics can be included in my memorial quilt or pillow?

We can use anything in your quilt that you can wash in a washing machine. Although the name of our company suggests that we work with just T-shirts, Too Cool T-shirt Quilts can use anything that is machine washable in a memorial quilt. Here are just a few of the items we have used:

- Blue jeans
- Aprons
- Shorts
- Scarves
- Plaid shirts
- Football jerseys
- Gymnastics outfits
- Bike jerseys
- Ties
- Patches
- Girl Scout sashes
- Backpacks
- Sports pendants
- Baseball caps
- Bandanas
- Bath Robes



When should I consider having a memorial T-shirt quilt made?

When we lose a loved one everything in our lives changes. With a loved one's death comes a myriad of decisions that have to be made. One of those difficult decisions is what to do with the clothing of the deceased. When the clothing is still in the closet or drawers, it is easy to trick our minds that everything is still the same, especially while the clothing holds the scent of your loved one.

It might take a year or more before you are ready to part with the clothes, but the quilt you get back will be a lot easier to snuggle with than a pile of clothes in a drawer. You will know when the time is right to have a quilt made.

If you are a friend or extended family member of someone who has died, you should talk about this type of bereavement or memorial quilt when the time is right. Sometimes when we lose someone, the first few months are tough, but you will know when the time is right. Keep in mind that this might not be the best type of quilt to make as a surprise gift because initially seeing the quilt is difficult and those grieving need to be prepared to see it.



Should I keep the leftover scraps from my memorial quilt?

This is a question that only you can answer. You may want to have the scraps returned to you so that you, family or friend of the deceased may have another quilt made in the future. On the other hand, you may want Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® to discard the scraps for you so that you do not have to deal with that process yourself. There is no right or wrong answer to this question, it is only a matter of what you are most comfortable with.



Am I prepared for the memorial T-shirt quilt to be returned?

When a memorial T-shirt quilt is returned to you, seeing it for the first time can be a very emotional experience. You need to decide how you want to handle seeing the memorial quilt for the first time. Some people prefer to be alone because they feel they can express their emotions more freely. Other people prefer to have a support group of family and friends to help comfort them when they see the memorial quilt for the first time. Either way, be sure to have plenty of tissues readily available.



What's the Next Step?

We hope that this guide has helped you think about what you want in a T-shirt quilt. What's your next step? Below are a number of links for you.

**Learn How to Have
a Quilt Made**

**Contact
Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®**

**Back to
Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®**



