

Neonatal Quilt Guide

These are the basic guidelines for making Neo-natal quilts. Please remember that these quilts are for preemies and very little babies, so they need to be soft but strong.

Size: The quilt should be no smaller than about 30 inches on a side and probably should be no larger than about 42 inches on a side. Sometimes the nurses use them to darken the incubators so that the babies are not subjected to all of the bright lights and hubbub of the NICU, so they should be large enough to do this comfortably. (Check your guild's requirements!)

Materials: Cottons and flannels, printed or plain fabrics or printed panels are fine too. Bright, cheerful prints are always popular.

Batting: Polyester or cotton, no wool because of sensitive skin.

No embellishments of buttons, pins, beads, etc. as it presents a choking hazard.

Design: Any design suitable for a baby. They may be as involved or as simple as you wish to make them.

Finishing: They may be tied, or quilted - whatever you wish to do. Just make sure that if you tie them that they are firmly knotted so as not to pose a choking hazard, and that the ties are less than 1" long.

Labels: You may attach your own label, or we will pin a removable label onto each quilt so that the families who receive them will know that they were made by our members. (Particular to that guild—check with yours.)

Receipts: We will have receipts available so that you may claim your donation on your income tax.

Neo-natal quilts can be made anytime. The major collection is in March but you may bring your quilt(s) to any Guild meeting and they will be delivered to the NICU.

Who gets a quilt? That is up to the staff at the neo-natal unit. Over 1000 babies went through the NICU in 2008. The smallest one was less than a pound. The ones who have long or difficult stays usually receive a quilt. But wouldn't it be nice if each baby received one?

Thank you so much for all of the hard work that you do. The quilts really do bring a little touch of home and love to all of these babies and their families, so please keep up the good work.