

HOW TO REMOVE FABRIC COLOR BLEEDING FROM A QUILT

A number of years ago we had trouble with some of the fabrics in our guild's raffle quilt bleeding when we washed it after it was finished. We tried everything. We had washed the fabrics in RETAYNE, a product to set the dye in the fabric to prevent it from bleeding, before we made the quilt. But it still bled when it was washed when it was finished. After 3 days of washing the quilt several times and it continued to bleed I finally called the company that makes RETAYNE. The lady told me how to get rid of the bleeding and set the dye in the fabric to prevent any more bleeding. Below is what she told me to do. AND IT WORKS!!!

Wash the quilt in SYNTHRAPOL in 140-degree water temperature, agitating it for 15 – 20 minutes. I usually put it in my automatic clothes washer on gentle cycle but I know that some ladies will use a large pot if it is a wall hanging. You can turn up your water heater to 140 degrees or heat the water on the stove in a large pot. It is easier if you can turn up your water heater. Most home water heaters are set at 120 – 125 degrees.

When the cycle is finished check to make sure all of the bleeding is out of the fabric in the quilt. If not, you may have to do it again. I usually only have to do it once. If you do the next step before you have all the bleeding out you will set what bleeding you have overlooked in the fabric the same as the other fabrics that you are trying to stop bleeding.

Once all the bleeding is out, then immediately wash the quilt in RETAYNE in 140-degree water temperature to set any dye that may be remaining in the fabric that was bleeding.

Once that cycle is finished I lay the quilt out on a sheet on the grass if it is summer with a sheet on top just in case a bird flies over. If it is winter I lay it on a sheet on my living room rug or sun room before I go to bed at night and it usually it is dry the next morning.

I have had ladies say they just put “Color Catcher” sheets in the washer to catch any dye that comes from the fabric that is bleeding. The problem with that is as the quilt is drying the fabrics are still wet and the dye will continue to run and bleed on the surrounding fabrics until the quilt is dry. If you put your quilt in the dryer and they bleed while the quilt is still wet when you first put it in, and then the dryer continues to dry it, the dryer has set the bleeding making it almost impossible to get it out.

I have used this method numerous times even on a Baltimore Album quilt I made that had over 1300 grapes on the border that bled, and it works.

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