

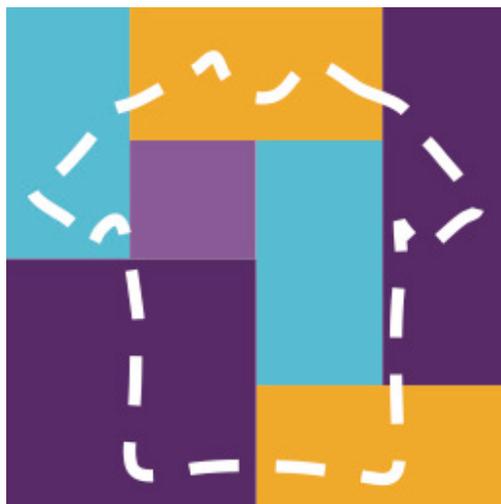
Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®

Graduation T-shirt Quilt Buyer's Guide

A T-shirt quilt made from high school or college T-shirts is a wonderful way of preserving your memories of those times.

Having made thousands of quilts, we understand the level of knowledge you need to have in order to make informed decisions about transforming your graduate's T-shirts into a cherished quilt. That's why we have written this guide.

We have gathered answers to the most important questions asked about having a graduation T-shirt quilt made. Hopefully, this guide will answer your questions about having a graduation T-shirt quilt made.



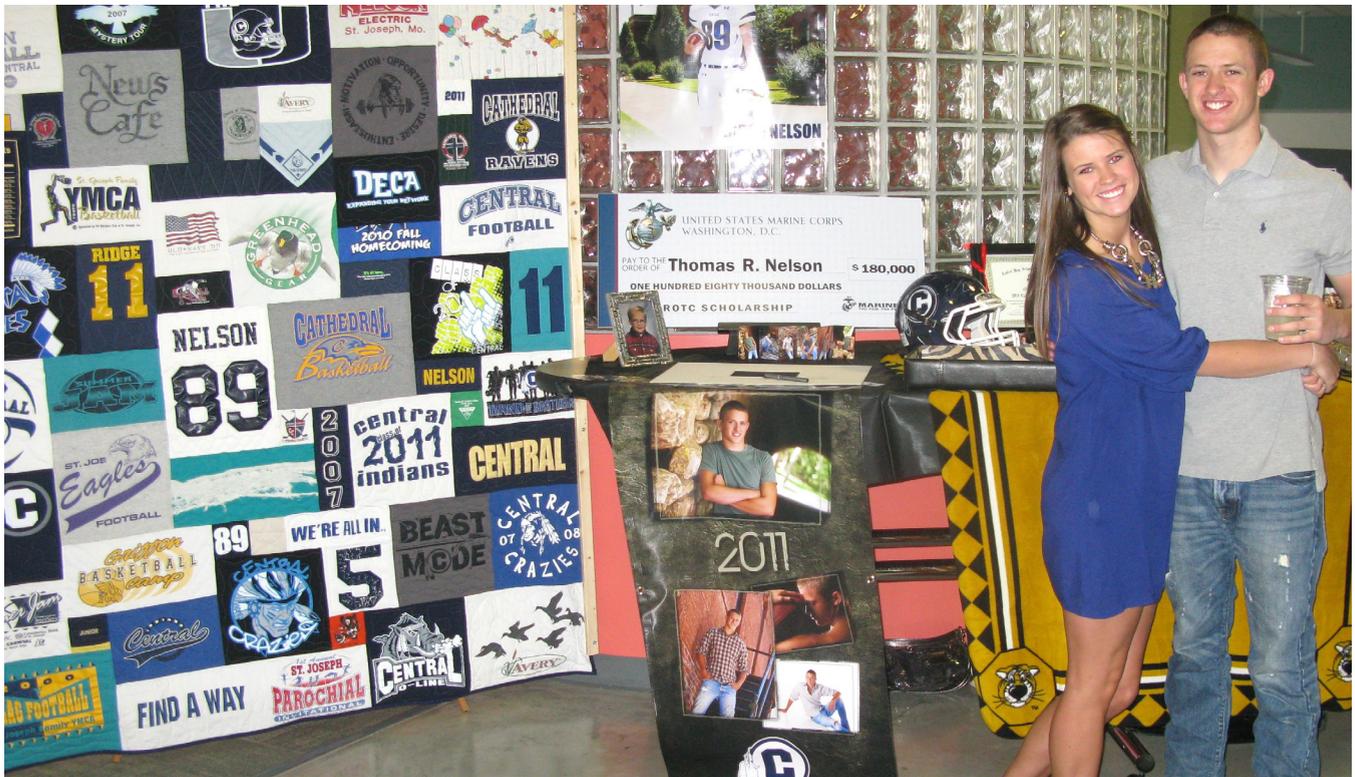
You are more than welcome to call us here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® with any questions you have about your T-shirt quilt.

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How do I choose which shirts to put in a graduation T-shirt quilt?

Graduation quilts typically fall into two categories:

- Birth through graduation
- High school or college years only

To decide what type of quilt you would like made, answer the following questions:

- How will the quilt be used and who will be using the quilt?
- What T-shirts do you have to put into the quilt?



Over the years, we have found that quilts made from items from birth through graduation tend to stay at home for the parents to enjoy until the child is married or moves into a stable living environment (post roommates). This is especially true for a son. This type of quilt has more heirloom and sentimental value to the parents than to the child – until the child is older.

Quilts that are made from just high school or college T-shirts are typically made for and used by the graduate. Many high school graduation quilts are taken to college if there is a safe environment. Although if you have a son, you might not let him take the quilt to college. About 3 out of 4 high school graduation quilts made for boys are not allowed out of the family home until they are in their late 20's. Boys are usually not as mature and sentimental and therefore, may not care what happens to their quilt. Or his roommate might not care.



So, if you would like a quilt made for your graduate to take to college, we would suggest that you stick to high school T-shirts and the like. If you have saved everything from the T-shirt worn home from the hospital and baby blankets up until graduation, you can choose one quilt – birth through graduation, but you need to understand this is more for the parents until the child is older.

The other option you have is to make two quilts. Mothers really like the baby clothing from their graduate included in quilts because they are precious and hold cherished memories. Yet, not all graduates enjoy having a onesie in their quilt. In this case, two quilts may need to be made, one with the childhood clothing for the mother, and one with the junior high and high school clothing for the graduate.

Of course, some graduates do appreciate certain baby clothing in their quilt. Either way, once the decision has been made as to which items are appropriate for your graduation quilt, the next step may be to weed some T-shirts out if you have too many for the size of quilt you want made.



How do I get more T-shirts to make a quilt the size I would like?

Parents generally collect the T-shirts for graduation quilts. Over a number of months or years, Mom or Dad “steal” T-shirts from the laundry for the quilt. Although a T-shirt quilt is a wonderful surprise for the graduate, sometimes working with the student will produce a better quilt with more of the T-shirts the student wants. Also, the student may be willing to part with more T-shirts than you could otherwise collect. At this point, T-shirt quilts are mainstream and your graduate maybe expecting one.

If you are short on T-shirts, consider asking aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and friends to donate a T-shirt that holds a memory for the student. Other places to look are the school spirit shop, the school lost and found, coaches or even Goodwill for more generic T-shirts. Rest assured that the younger brother or sister will not be short on T-shirts when it is their turn to graduate. They will start saving their T-shirts the minute they see their sibling’s quilt.



Should I tell my graduate about his or her quilt before it is made?

Yes - Reasons to talk about the quilt before sending the T-shirts:

- You might get more T-shirts than you could otherwise get by “stealing” them out of the wash.
- Your graduate may have a T-shirt that he/she hates and you might not know it. If we put that T-shirt in the quilt we might have a bad situation. Once a T-shirt is in the quilt, it is in the quilt to stay. There is no removing a T-shirt after the quilt is made. Choose carefully.
- Your graduate might have color preferences for the backing and the binding other than school colors.
- They may be expecting a T-shirt quilt and want input.

No - Reasons not to tell your graduate about the quilt ahead of time:

- Surprise factor - and it is a great surprise.
- You have been collecting T-shirts for years and you have enough variety to make a graduation quilt the size you would like.
- You know the color preferences of your graduate and feel confident that you know what color they would like on the back of the quilt.



Whether you choose to tell, or not to tell your student about the quilt, the quilt will wow your graduate. If you would like to talk about the quilt ahead of time and still want it a surprise, you can tell your graduate that you would like to do something with his/her T-shirts and ask for his/her input about which T-shirts and what colors he/she likes. Some parents show their kids the [Too Cool T-shirt quilt® web site](#) and others just talk about the project in general terms.

Should I have the quilt made to fit an extra long twin size mattress for the dorms?

Our experience says no for the following reasons...

1. Young adults generally only live in the dorms one or two years. After that time they are left with a very long and skinny quilt. That shape is not very good for other uses.
2. Most kids never make their beds in the dorms - unless they know you are coming for a visit.
3. If you have a son, there is about an 80% chance that you will not even let him take his quilt out of the house until he is married. We have been doing this for a long time and over and over Moms think that they will send the quilt to college with their sons and then call us to say that we were right, it is not going to the dorms.

If you would like the quilt to fit a long dorm bed and be useful after dorm life, we suggest a quilt that is 80" x 88" (Estimated 35 to 45 T-shirts). This is long enough for a longer bed, but wide enough that it will be usable on other beds in the future.



How much lead time do you need to make a graduation T-shirt quilt?

Just plan to give us at least 8 weeks to make your quilt. But, if there is less than 8 weeks until you need your quilt, call or e-mail us and see if there is still time for us to make your quilt.



Why should I have a graduation T-shirt quilt made by Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®?

A graduation T-shirt quilt is an excellent way to save all of the T-shirts and apparel collected during school that will rarely be worn after graduation. If you have been researching T-shirt quilts, you know that most companies use standard size blocks and may either cut off part of the design on the T-shirt or leave a design floating with blank material surrounding it.

Most graduates have many more T-shirts than can fit in a standard checkerboard T-shirt quilt. Instead of being a great solution for what to do with all of those T-shirts, you are stuck with the problem of having to pick and choose, which T-shirt would work best in that style of quilt.

Here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts®, the designs on the T-shirts determine which size blocks are used. This in turn allows us to use a greater number of T-shirts and provides you with a very unique and awesome solution.

Some of the great things that make Too Cool T-shirt Quilts® more interesting are:

- All the blocks are cut to fit the design on the T-shirt.



- We can use more than just the front or back of the T-shirt. We can use the front, back and sleeves. We can use the butt or leg of pants. We can use anything in your quilt that you can wash in a washing machine. Think beyond the T-shirt.
- Each block is individually quilted. Most other quilters will just turn on their computerized long arm sewing machine, walk away and let their computer quilt your quilt. Here at Too Cool T-shirt Quilts, an artist does the quilting. Your quilt will be as unique as you are.
- When we are quilting, we will trace some of the designs on the T-shirts so you can see the design on the back of the quilt too. This is so cool. If you are like most people when seeing



