

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR SEWING MACHINE

Whether you sew just a little bit or all of the time, it is important to treat your machine well! Proper care of your machine will insure that you and your machine can have a long-lasting and healthy relationship. Because all machines are different the suggestions listed below are general guidelines that can be used on most machines.

Before you begin a project make sure you are using bobbins that are specifically recommended for your machine. There are some generic items on the market but we have encountered problems with bobbins that are not made for our machines.

Ever wondered how often you should change your needle? Don't wait until it breaks! Instead, change your needle after every eight hours of sewing. If you are sewing along and hear a "tick tick tick" or a "whump whump whump", stop what you are doing and change your needle, even if you haven't sewn on the needle for eight hours. Occasionally a needle will come from the manufacturer with a small defect that will affect your sewing. It is better to replace your needle than to have constant frustration throughout your project.

Additionally, always make sure that you are sewing with the proper needle for the job. There are many needles for different types of sewing. Inquire at your local quilt store for information on needle options, if you are unsure.

After you have completed a project make sure that you spend a few minutes cleaning out your machine. Open up the areas that you can access and dust them out with the lint brush that was supplied with your sewing machine. You can also dip a cotton swab into sewing machine oil and poke the swab into the machine where your lint brush cannot reach. (A small dab of oil will be sufficient).

Clean the tension disks on your machine with fluffy dental floss or crochet cotton. Do not use compressed air to clean this area of your machine, or any other areas for that matter. The compressed air only spreads the lint to the inside of the machine where it can be very hard to remove.

Finally, it is a good idea to turn off your machine when you're not using it, and to unplug it when you will be away from your machine. Sewing machines these days are highly technical "computers". Any sort of power surge has the potential to damage your machine's mother board, which can result in costly repairs.

Although it may seem obvious, make sure to carefully read your owner's manual specifically in the areas of maintenance, cleaning, and oiling. The more you know about your machine, the better you can help it perform. Also, schedule an annual check-up for your machine with a factory-trained technician. They can spot problems and give your machine a very thorough cleaning. By taking excellent care of your machine it will serve you well for years to come.

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