Wet-Cleaning Quilts at a Glance

If you decide you must wet-clean a quilt, and have tested for colorfastness, try the following steps:

BY GILDA V. BRYANT

SUPPLY LIST FOR WET-CLEANING QUILTS

- Bathtub
- Queen- or king-size white sheet
- At least 30 gallons of distilled water
- Orvus Quilt Soap
- New, large sponge
- Clean plastic drop cloth
- At least 10 large clean towels and/or mattress pads
- 1 dry sheet (to cover the drying quilt)
- Fans

INSTRUCTIONS Tub Wet-Cleaning

1. Drape a large white sheet in and over the tub sides to

help lift the heavy quilt later.**2.** Layer the quilt, arranged like a folded fan on the sheet in the tub.

3. For the first soak, add just enough cool, distilled water to cover the quilt.

- **4.** Add a tablespoon of Orvus Quilt Soap.
- **5.** Soak for several hours.

6. Press gently on the surface with a new, wet sponge to push water and detergent through the fibers.

7. Drain and repeat this process without soap five to seven times, until water remains clear, without suds.
8. Drain for several hours.

9. With a helper, lift the

quilt using the sheet and move it to a prepared surface (clean plastic drop cloth, covered with clean, dry towels or mattress pads). **10.** Gently spread the quilt flat, squaring the corners. 11. Cover with clean, dry towels, gently pressing to absorb water. Replace wet towels with dry ones. Cover with a sheet. **12.** Place fans around the wet quilt to speed the drying process, which can take several days. **13.** Store when the quilt is completely dry.

Washing-Machine Wet-Cleaning

Newer quilts in good

condition can be cleaned in a washing machine.

1. Place the quilt loosely in the washing machine.

2. Fill with cool water, adding quilt soap for a soak cycle. Do not agitate—go directly to the spin cycle to remove excess water.

3. To rinse, repeat step 2 until water remains clear, without suds. Remember to skip the agitation cycle.

4. Remove the wet quilt carefully from the machine and dry flat on towels before storing.