

Guide to Mattress Terms

Baffling	In bedding, a "baffled" construction has fabric walls sewn between the top and bottom of a comforter cover, which both prevents the down from shifting and allows the down to fully loft.
Box Spring	A rigid box, usually constructed of wood and covered with fabric, that forms the foundation for the mattress; placed beneath the mattress; necessary for most beds, with the exception of platform beds and some children's beds.
Comforter Sets	The top layer of bedding, usually consisting of two layers of fabric, filled with either down or fibre filling.
Down	Natural feathers used to fill cushions of pillows, bedding, and upholstery; the material traps air to provide extremely soft comfort; also a very warm insulator often used in bedding (particularly comforters).
Daybeds	A very popular and unique form of bed that can also be used as seating, similar to a sofa/couch, when not being used for sleeping; a highly adaptive piece of furniture popular in guest rooms, children's rooms, and in space constrained homes such as urban apartments, condos, and townhomes/townhouses.
Duvet Covers	A giant pillowcase-like covering that fits over a duvet. It is open on one end, typically closed by buttons, ties, Velcro, or a zipper.
Duvets	A duvet is similar to a comforter and/or a quilt in that a duvet is also composed of two layers of fabric with an insulation substance between. However, the difference between a duvet and a comforter and/or quilt is that the duvet is to be placed inside a duvet cover. A comforter and/or quilt can be used as independent bed covers
European Sham	<i>(also known as Euro Sham, Eurosham, European Pillow Sham)</i> A large pillow case used as an accent in bedding sets; usually contains additional fabric surrounding the standard pillow case and commonly included as a part of bedding sets.
Feather Bed	Feather -filled sacks made to fit under or on top of the fitted sheet
Fill	<i>(in bedding)</i> The material used to stuff items such as comforters or pillows. Natural down and man-made synthetic examples of fill materials
Fitted Sheet	Has pockets at each of the four corners and an elastic band around the sheet.

Flat Sheet	Hemmed on four sides usually with a larger hem or cuff at the top of the sheetas pockets at each of the four corners and an elastic band around the sheet.
Footboard	The portion of a bed that forms the end of the bed, near where the sleeper places his/her feet; often constructed of wood or metal and rising above the level of the mattress, but generally at the same height or of lower height than the headboard; beds do not need a footboard if they utilize a metal bed frame.
Innerspring Mattress	Mattress with a center core of springs for buoyancy and resilience. A protective pad surrounds the springs.
Loft	<i>(in bedding)</i> Measured by fill power and is the ability of down to fill an empty space.
Long Staple Cotton	Cotton fibers are typically .5 inches to 2 inches long. The longest staple fibers, longer than 1.5 inches, including the Pima and Egyptian varieties product the highest quality cotton fabrics.
Neckroll Pillow	<i>(also known as Neck Roll Pillow)</i> A small, oblong accent pillow commonly found in bedding/ comforter sets.
Polyfoam	A synthetic resin that simulates latex foam rubber and is used for upholstered furniture, pillows, mattresses, etc.
Quilt	Created by placing a layer of cotton or some other fill between two layers of fabric. Held in place by stitching or sealing in a regular, consistent, all-over pattern.
Sham	<i>(also known as Pillow Sham or Standard Sham)</i> The fabric used to form an encasement to a pillow, traditionally known as a pillow case (pillowcase).
Thread Count	<i>(in sheets/bedding)</i> Measured by counting the number of threads per inch in the woven fabric in both directions of the weave (these directions are referred to as warp and weft). Generally, the higher the thread count, the silkier and lighter the sheets.
Ticking	A tightly woven, very durable fabric, usually made of cotton, and used for recovering mattresses, box springs and pillows. Ticking may be of launderable fabric, and is usually removable. Down filled pillows require closely woven ticking fabric and calendered finish to prevent the fine down fibers from coming through the top or bottom layers.