

TIPS & TRICKS FOR MAKING A FLEECE BLANKET

****Purchase 1 1/2 yards of fleece for each blanket. Project Linus does not provide the fleece.**

****The hospitals and shelters request that only **ONE LAYER** of fleece be used for the blankets. Double-layered fleece blankets are too warm for the children and too bulky for storage.**

**** Buy fleece "off the bolt." Please do not purchase No-Sew Fleece kits. The fleece included in the kit is often too thin to be a warm and cuddly Project Linus blanket.**

****Your event will go more smoothly if each piece of fleece is prepared in advance. This involves completing Steps 1 & 2 on the fleece instruction sheet. Your participants can then begin cutting and tying the fringe right away. Preparing the fleece is done by your group**

**** **BEFORE YOU START MAKING THE BLANKET, CUT OFF THE SELVAGE! THIS IS THE FIRST THING TO DO!** The selvage can be found on the long edges of the fleece as it is rolled off of the bolt. The selvage is not found on the width of the fabric. To identify the selvage, look for the following things:**

- ❖ a different color or texture
- ❖ a rolled edge
- ❖ pin holes
- ❖ words printed on it

If the selvage is not removed, our blanketeers will have the task of snipping the selvage off each piece of fringe or re-making the whole blanket. It is much easier to remove the selvage before the fringe is cut. The fleece should also be squared. **REMEMBER-CUT OFF THE SELVAGE!**

Tie a knot in the **middle of each piece of fringe. Do not tie two pieces of fringe together. Do not tie the fringe too tightly.

****DO NOT** cut a slit on the top of each piece of fringe and thread the fringe through it. These are sometimes called "Bunny Ears."

**We cannot accept any blanket created or stored in a smoking environment.

**If there is a pet in the home, please wash and dry the blanket. Check for pet hairs. Use a lint roller to remove any pet hair. Place in a plastic bag.

**Do not use fleece that has symbols of a disease/syndrome, e.g. pink ribbons for breast cancer and puzzle pieces for autism.

** **BLANKET MUST LAY FLAT** before donating to Project Linus. If the fringe is tied too tightly, it becomes bowl-like requiring the blanket to be re-made by Project Linus volunteers.

**If you made a Penny blanket (crocheted edge around a piece of fleece), hold up the blanket when finished to see if the corners curl or the edges ripple. If they do, you might need to add stitches at the corners or one of your rounds of crochet stitches is too tight. The crocheting should be re-done before donating the blanket.

**Fleece blanket instructions can be found on our website under the "Blankets" tab. www.projectlinuschicago.com