

Duvet vs. Comforter

Find out which one is best for you.



If you are looking for warm bedding, consider a duvet or comforter. While many people use these terms interchangeably, they are two different types of bedding. Understand the key differences between a duvet vs. comforter in our guide below.

Comforter

A comforter is a quilted, fluffy blanket that sits on top of your sheets. It is made up of two breathable pieces of fabric and filled with down or synthetic fibers to add warmth. A comforter is usually sold in a set that includes matching pillow shams. It is also often part of a “bed-in-a-bag” set that comes with matching sheets, which helps beginners create a polished, cohesive look. Comforters are sold according to bed size and are designed to be larger than the bed and hang down the sides.

Pros: Typically filled with synthetic fibers, comforters are a great option for allergy sufferers. Comforters are also easy to clean as they are usually machine washable.

Cons: Depending on the fill and thickness, you may need extra blankets in winter. While they are easy to clean, they must be cleaned every month or seasonally. They can also flatten out after extended use.

Duvet

A duvet is made up of two a soft, flat pieces of fabric bag that is typically white in color and filled with down or synthetic fibers (also known as down alternative). Down duvets are offered in three different fill warmth: all season, summer, and winter. When looking at duvets, consider the fill power, which refers to the insulation. The higher the fill power, the fluffier and warmer the duvet. Duvets are often paired with a protective and decorative cover, aptly named a duvet cover. Duvet covers are sold separately.

Pros: Since duvets sit in a cover that has loops or tabs to keep it in place, you can change bedspread colors or patterns as you wish. Because of the cover, there is also no need for a top flat sheet. While duvets are usually dry clean only, they don't need to be washed as often, because they are always enclosed by a duvet cover.

Cons: A down-filled duvet is not good for allergy sufferers; however, you can choose a down comforter with a synthetic fill instead. Duvets are designed to not hang over the side of the bed as far as a comforter. If you prefer more overhang, buy a duvet that is meant for a slightly bigger bed. Along with needing a cover that fits properly, some duvets are prone to twisting in the duvet cover.