

Guidelines for Producing a Barn Quilt

1. Purchase two (2) 4' x 8' sheets of AB plywood (one side unfinished, the other side finished). Inspect the sheets and pick those with minimal cracks, holes, etc.
2. Prior to applying primer, fill any cracks or holes, especially along the edges, with wood filler.
3. Once the wood filler is dry, apply two coats of white primer on both sides and on the edges of each plywood sheet. Allow at least four hours of drying time between coats of primer.
4. Once the quilt pattern is selected, lay it out on the plywood sheets using a tape measure and frog tape. Paint one color at a time and let each coat dry overnight. Apply at least three coats of each color. Note: some of the lighter colors (yellow, red, etc.) may need four or five coats. Also note, we recommend using frog tape for laying out the pattern. It works best to minimize seeping between colors. Still, be sure and press down the tape well before painting.
5. Use high quality, exterior, semi-gloss latex paint. The better paint you use, the longer the quilt will last. Be sure and apply plenty of paint on the edges to prevent moisture from getting into the wood.
6. The area where you are painting should be well ventilated, dry and clean. Temperature should be above 55 degrees to allow the paint to dry well between coats.
7. DO NOT put a sealer or varnish on the quilt after it is painted. Varnish will turn the colors yellow and having any kind of sealer on it will prevent retouching if it is necessary at some point.
8. When mounting the quilt, make sure it is level and well attached. Two inch rust proof screws should be used for mounting.

If you have any questions, contact Pat Burg at 715-536-5652 or email at merrillhs@frontier.com or Debbie Moellendorf at 715-539-1077 or email at deborah.moellendorf@wisc.edu.

Adapted from Jim Leuenberger, Shawano County Barn Quilt Project