

140 F water temperature with both of these products for them to work. Once you have gotten any bleeding out of the surrounding fabric and set the dye in the fabrics to prevent further bleeding you can wash the quilt. Don't use Shout or regular detergents. Many regular detergents have phosphates in them and they will cause fabrics to bleed. Most quilt shops have a quilt soap that comes in a small bottle that is great to wash quilts in. Tractor Supply stores sell it also under the name 'Orvus.' It is a very mild soap used for washing sheep and horses.

I wash my quilt in my washer on the gentle cycle and in the summer lay it on a sheet on the grass with a sheet on top of it to dry. In the winter I do the same on the carpet in my living room before I go to bed at night and it is usually dry the next morning. I do not put my quilts in the dryer. I have used this method many times and it works."

Dorothy also provided the following information regarding Synthrapol, Retayne and removing fabric bleeding from a quilt: "A number of years ago we had trouble with some of the fabrics in our guild's raffle quilt bleeding when we washed it after it was finished. We tried everything. We had washed the fabrics in Retayne, a product to set the dye in the fabric to prevent it from bleeding, before we made the quilt. But it still bled when it was washed when it was finished. After three days of washing the quilt several times and it continuing to bleed, I finally called the company that makes Retayne. The lady told me how to get rid of the bleeding and set the dye in the fabric to prevent any more bleeding. Below is what she told me to do. And it works!

wasn't the quilt in Synthrapol in 140 F water temperature, agitating it for 15 - 20 minutes. I usually put it in my automatic clothes washer on gentle cycle but I know that some ladies will use a large pot if it is a wall hanging. You can turn up your water heater to 140 F or heat the water on the stove in a large pot. It is easier if you can turn up your water heater. Most home water heaters are set at 120-125 F. When the cycle is finished, check to make sure all of the bleeding is out of the fabric in the quilt. If not, you may have to do it again. I usually only have to do it once. If you do the next step before you have all the bleeding out you will set what bleeding you have overlooked in the fabric the same as the other fabrics that you are trying to stop bleeding. Once all the bleeding is out, then immediately wash the quilt in Retayne in 140 F water to set any dye that may be remaining in the fabric that was bleeding. Once that cycle is finished, I lay the quilt out on a sheet on the grass if it is summer with a sheet on top just in case a bird flies over. If it is winter I lay it on a sheet on my living room rug or sun room before I go to bed at night and it usually is dry the next morning. I have used this method numerous times even on a Baltimore Album quilt I made that had over 1,300 grapes on the border that bled, and it works.

Thanks also to a Woodland, Pennsylvania, reader for their response. They write that they have had good luck with a product called Shout Color Catcher. It is sold at Walmart and Kmart.

ANSWER — A Pennsylvania

reader wondered about the proper way to wash a quilt. She wrote that the quilt was dark blue and white. She had washed it before and some of the blue bled into the white area. She wondered if you could spray the white areas with Shout to get them clean and could they be washed in normal detergent? She wasn't sure if that could be used.

Would it become damaged? She was open to any suggestions on how to clean this.

Thanks to Dorothy Moreland of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, for responding. She writes, "I am a quilter with more than 30 years experience in quilting and have had my share of bleeding fabric. The first thing I would ask this reader is since the blue bled when she washed the quilt before, did she put the quilt in the dryer? The dryer will set the dye which makes it almost impossible to get the bleeding from the previous washing out.

To prevent further bleeding there are two products, Synthrapol and Retayne, that can be obtained from most quilt shops to take care of the bleeding. Synthrapol will take out the dye that has bled onto the surrounding fabric as well as the extra dye in the colored fabric that is bleeding. Retayne will set the remaining dye in the fabrics to prevent further bleeding when you wash the quilt again. Just make sure that you have all of the bleeding out of the quilt before using Retayne because it will set the bleeding as well. You must use