

10 Ways to Love Your Machine



Take good care of your sewing machine and it will give you years of creative pleasure. Below are a few tips for treating your machine with TLC.

Book Club

Read your sewing machine manual from cover to cover. It may not be a best seller but you'll be amazed at what you can pick up from a little late night reading. A few pages at bedtime over the course of several weeks and you'll have an overview of your machine features with a good idea of how they work.

Oil Slick

Keep your machine well oiled. Oil it every 8-10 hours of *actual* sewing or once a month or when you are sewing after your machine has not been used for a few months. Refer to your machine manual in order to know where to oil and *be sure not to over oil*. After oiling, sew a few stitches on a small swatch of fabric to absorb any excess before beginning your project.

Brush It Off

Along with oiling, it is important to keep the machine as free of lint as possible. Refer to your manual for instructions on removing the needle plate to clean lint from the feed dogs, under the needle plate, and in the shuttle area of the bobbin. A make-up brush or a soft brush from the hardware store works well for this. Do not use "canned air" to clean your machine as this may push debris further into the machine.

Shine It Up

Wipe the surface of your machine with a clean, soft, damp cloth. Do not use abrasives on your machine and do not place pieces of tape on it. Seam guides can be purchased from your dealer. Clean the LCD screen with a soft, damp cloth and never use alcohol or solvents on your machine.

Storage Savvy

Avoid exposing your sewing machine to extreme temperatures. Do not store it in a room that is cold, hot, or humid. Never keep in damp basement or an

overheated attic. Cover your machine when not in use to keep dust and lint to a minimum.

Electrical Currents

Use a surge protector with your sewing machine to keep electrical power flowing evenly. Do not use the machine during a thunderstorm and unplug your machine when not in use at any time. For safety reasons, this is especially true when cleaning and oiling your machine.

Fabric Flow

Do not push or pull fabric while sewing. Let your machine do the work—your hands should guide the fabric without forcing it.

Needle and Thread

Change your needle after every 4-6 hours of *actual* sewing. Use the appropriate needle for the fabric you are sewing or the technique you are using. Use the correct weight thread for the needle, fabric, and technique.

Pin Up

Do not sew over pins. Not only will this blunt or dull the needle, it can also cause timing problems if the needle strikes a pin hard enough to affect the alignment of the needle bar.

Birthday Checkup

Remember, just as you maintain your car, you should give your sewing machine regular trips to the dealer for professional cleaning, oiling and adjusting. Plan a yearly time that is easy to remember, such as your birthday month or at the beginning of each year. And, be sure to take it to a BERNINA factory-trained technician for the best maintenance and service.