

STENCILING ON FABRIC

Stenciling is an easy, inexpensive technique for decorating any flat surface: fabric, floors, walls. Stenciling is fun because it allows creation of designs tailored to you and your home. By using your own creativity, it ensures an original design.

Any natural fiber, except wool and cotton blends, may be stenciled. Before stenciling, wash the fabric to remove the sizing, then dry and press.

MATERIALS:

- Stencil pattern or plastic sheets to make your own stencil
- Utility knife (X-acto)
- Glass
- Pencil
- Black marking pen
- Masking tape
- Brushes or sponges to apply paint
- Textile paints
- Plate to hold paint
- Spoon or palette knife to mix paints
- Paper towels
- Fabric
- Iron

MAKING A STENCIL

1. Transfer the design of your choice to a plastic stencil sheet (available at craft stores). You will need a sheet for each color to be used in your design.
2. Cut the designs in the plastic sheets using a sharp utility knife (X-acto). Place the stencils on glass for a better cutting surface.
3. Mark the fabric with the design to ensure the stencil will be placed correctly.
4. Tape the precut stencil to the fabric and begin painting. Dip the brush in the paint and wipe off any excess paint. Apply with dabbing strokes. Start at the edge and work toward the center.
5. Before lifting the stencil, make sure all areas have been covered. Lift the stencil straight up from the cloth.
6. **LET THE PAINT DRY COMPLETELY.**
7. Repeat this process for other colors you wish to use. **ALLOW DRYING TIME BETWEEN EACH COLOR.**
8. After letting the paint dry completely, heat seal the paint by ironing both sides for three minutes.