

throw pillow cover size guide

Throw Pillow Cover Size Guide

Throw pillows are an essential element of home decor, providing comfort and style to any space. However, choosing the right throw pillow cover size can be a daunting task, especially with the variety of sizes available on the market. This comprehensive guide will help you navigate through the different dimensions, give you tips on how to measure your pillows, and offer insight into how to select the perfect throw pillow cover for your needs.

Understanding Throw Pillow Sizes

When it comes to throw pillows, sizes can vary significantly. Understanding the common sizes and how they relate to different uses is crucial for making the right choice.

Common Throw Pillow Sizes

Here are some of the most common sizes for throw pillows:

1. 12 x 12 inches: This size is perfect for smaller chairs, accent tables, or as part of a layered pillow arrangement.
2. 16 x 16 inches: A versatile size that works well on sofas, beds, and chairs, providing comfort and style without being overwhelming.
3. 18 x 18 inches: This is one of the most popular sizes for throw pillows, ideal for standard sofas and larger chairs.
4. 20 x 20 inches: Great for larger furniture, this size adds a plush, cozy look and is often used in combination with smaller pillows.
5. 24 x 24 inches: This size is perfect for floor pillows or oversized couches, providing a more dramatic effect in your decor.
6. 26 x 26 inches: Often used for large decorative pillows, these are typically placed behind smaller pillows for a layered look.

How to Measure Your Pillows

If you are unsure about the size of your throw pillow, measuring it accurately is essential. Follow these steps for precise measurements:

1. Use a Measuring Tape: Grab a measuring tape or a ruler to measure your pillow.
2. Measure the Width: Lay the pillow flat on a surface and measure from one side seam to the other to get the width.
3. Measure the Length: Measure from the top seam to the bottom seam for the length.
4. Check the Thickness: If you want to be thorough, measure the thickness as well. This can help you choose covers with the right fit.

Remember, the dimensions you see on labels typically refer to the size of the pillow itself when it is fully stuffed.

Choosing the Right Throw Pillow Cover Size

Choosing the right cover size depends on a variety of factors, including your existing pillows and the overall aesthetic you want to achieve. Here are some guidelines to help you make the best choice:

Consider the Pillow's Fill

Pillows can be filled with various materials, such as polyester, down, or foam. The fill affects how the pillow holds its shape, which in turn can influence the size of the cover you choose. Here's how:

- Down and Feather Fill: These pillows tend to be softer and can compress easily, so you might opt for a cover that is slightly smaller than the pillow size for a fuller look (e.g., a 20 x 20 pillow might look best in a 19 x 19 cover).
- Polyester Fill: These pillows tend to hold their shape better, so you can match the cover size directly to the pillow size.

Layering and Arrangement

When arranging pillows, layering can create a visually appealing composition. If you plan to layer pillows, consider the following:

- Larger Pillows in Back: Use larger pillows as the base, then layer smaller pillows in front for depth.
- Odd Numbers: Arranging pillows in odd numbers (three or five) can create a more dynamic look.
- Mixing Sizes: Don't be afraid to mix and match sizes! Combining different sizes can add interest and texture to your decor.

Fabric and Shape Considerations

The fabric and shape of the pillow cover can also influence your sizing decisions:

- Square vs. Rectangular: Square pillows can be easier to arrange, while rectangular ones can add a unique touch. Make sure to consider the space where the pillows will be used.
- Fabric Stretch: Some fabrics, like those made from spandex or jersey, may stretch. In contrast, materials like canvas or denim will retain their shape. This may affect how snugly the cover fits over the pillow.

Tips for Selecting Throw Pillow Covers

Choosing the right throw pillow cover goes beyond just size. Here are some tips to help you make the best decision:

Pay Attention to Color and Pattern

- Coordinate with Existing Decor: Choose colors and patterns that complement your existing furniture and decor.
- Consider Seasonal Changes: If you enjoy changing your decor seasonally, opt for neutral covers that can be easily swapped out with seasonal patterns.

Consider Maintenance and Care

- Washability: Check if the pillow covers are machine washable or require special care.
- Durability: If you have pets or small children, consider more durable fabrics that can withstand wear and tear.

Budgeting for Pillow Covers

- Quality vs. Cost: While you may want to save money, investing in higher-quality pillow covers can enhance your decor in the long run.
- Shop Sales: Look for sales and discounts to find good deals on pillow covers without compromising quality.

Popular Materials for Throw Pillow Covers

The material of your throw pillow cover plays a significant role in its overall appearance and feel. Here are some popular options:

1. Cotton: Breathable, soft, and versatile, cotton is a popular choice for throw pillows.
2. Linen: This fabric has a natural texture and offers a relaxed, casual look.
3. Velvet: Known for its luxurious feel, velvet adds a touch of elegance to any space.
4. Microfiber: Soft and durable, microfiber is easy to clean and maintain.
5. Canvas: A sturdy option, canvas works well for outdoor pillows or high-traffic areas.

Conclusion

Choosing the right throw pillow cover size is essential for creating a harmonious and stylish home environment. By understanding common sizes, measuring your pillows accurately, and considering

factors like layering, fabric, and maintenance, you can make informed decisions that enhance your decor. Whether you prefer a cohesive look or want to mix and match for a more eclectic vibe, the right throw pillow covers can elevate any space and make it feel inviting and comfortable. With this guide, you're well on your way to selecting the perfect throw pillow covers that suit your style and needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the standard sizes for throw pillow covers?

The standard sizes for throw pillow covers typically include 16x16 inches, 18x18 inches, 20x20 inches, and 22x22 inches. There are also larger options like 24x24 inches and rectangular sizes such as 12x20 inches and 14x24 inches.

How do I choose the right size throw pillow cover for my sofa?

To choose the right size throw pillow cover for your sofa, consider the dimensions of the cushions and the overall scale of your furniture. A good rule of thumb is to use 18x18 or 20x20 inch covers for standard sofas, while larger sofas may benefit from 22x22 inch covers.

Can I use different sizes of throw pillow covers together?

Yes, mixing different sizes of throw pillow covers can create an appealing layered look. Use a combination of larger and smaller pillows, but aim for a cohesive color palette or pattern to maintain harmony in your decor.

What size throw pillow cover should I use for a bed?

For a bed, the size of the throw pillow cover depends on the size of the bed and the existing pillows. Standard sizes include 18x18 inches or 20x20 inches for decorative pillows, while larger beds may use 22x22 inch covers or even larger lumbar pillows.

How can I determine the correct size for a custom throw pillow cover?

To determine the correct size for a custom throw pillow cover, measure the width and height of your pillow insert. It's typically best to choose a cover that is about 1-2 inches smaller than the insert for a snug fit that maintains shape.

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