

The Knitshop at Rocking Horse Farm

25636 County Road 74 - Saint Cloud, Minnesota USA 56301-9293 - store hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10-6 - phone: 320-252-2996
e-mail: knitshop.rockinghorsefarm@gmail.com website: [facebook.com/knitshop.rockinghorsefarm](https://www.facebook.com/knitshop.rockinghorsefarm)

preserve & protect your investment in machines and supplies...

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*We make every effort to write complete and accurate instructions. We cannot, however, be responsible for human error, typographical mistakes, or varieties in individual work.
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THINK GREEN, SAVE MONEY!

The generation of people born in the USA during the Great Depression have earned the nickname "Depression Babies" because of their tendency to reuse, save, and be thrifty.

Although it has become trendy in recent years to hire a "Clutter Consultant" to visit your home to help discard all the items that aren't necessary to keep, younger generations might be wise to take a lesson from "Depression Babies" by saving things for later use.

With a little ingenuity, people can reduce the amount of garbage they create by reusing or reselling old equipment, patterns, and supplies.

We can also take some steps to preserve the things we have to make sure they remain in good, usable condition for as long as possible.

After all, the "GREEN" way of life isn't only about conservation or ecology. It can also save you money! Living "GREEN" means taking care of the things we own to make sure they last a long time. Who doesn't like getting their money's worth from the equipment they purchase?

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. The location of your knitting, sewing and crafting supplies plays a large role in whether they remain in good, usable condition. **Locations to avoid:**

A lot of light. Areas that are constantly lit will cause colors to fade.

Direct sunlight is especially dangerous. Besides bleaching or fading colors, direct sunlight

will cause plastics on machines to discolor and break down. If certain plastics are exposed to sunlight for lengthy periods of time, they become brittle and crack easily. Don't spoil your investment in a knitting or sewing machine by letting the plastic crack or break! Sunlight is also a factor in the deterioration of knitting machine sponge retainer bars.

High Humidity or Moisture. The majority of used knitting equipment or patterns that are brought in for appraisal or sold by private parties smells of household mildew. Even items listed on Ebay as "not having any odors" usually arrive with a lingering mildew smell. To avoid this raging problem, be sure to stack all cardboard boxes or paper on shelving. Never leave paper or cardboard on a floor, particularly concrete. Paper products will pick up moisture from concrete and often will pick up slight odors from carpet. These odors may not reveal themselves until years later, but it's not worth taking a chance.



Never operate a sewing or knitting machine or any equipment that has moving parts when the machine is COLD. Allow the machine to gradually warm up to room temperature before operation. Damage to moving parts happens when parts are cold.

If the price of cotton fiber seems too cheap, it is probably because it was stored in a warehouse that wasn't temperature controlled. Be prepared to have it break when sewing, knitting or crocheting.

Extreme changes in Temperature. Yarn or fabric stored in high heat or extreme cold will suffer. For example, cotton fiber that is exposed to cold begins to break down so fast that yarn suppliers carefully monitor the temperature of their warehouses to avoid the temperature dropping below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

PROPER USE, MAINTENANCE & STORAGE. It may seem like common sense, but always read the manual before operating any piece of equipment. Many of the repairs brought to Rocking Horse Farm were needed because of "operator error."

When knitting machines, sewing machines, spinning wheels, or other equipment is not being used for a period of time, protect them from dust and moisture. Store items in a clean, dry area without much direct light. Check the manual to see if things should be unplugged when not in use or plugged in to recharge before operating.

Never operate a machine in cold conditions. Whether the machine is electronic or not, if it has moving parts it needs to warm up gradually and should never be operated when moving parts are stiff from being cold. This applies to hand operated winders and thread twisters, too.

Always keep the original Operation Manuals for machines or mechanical equipment. Even if the equipment seems like it might be collectible or an antique like a round sock machine, having the Operation Manual nearby will save hours of frustration when it comes time to clean, fix or sell the machine. Nothing is worthless, especially if there is a chance it might be useful to someone on a fixed income.

If purchasing equipment that might be resold

someday, keep all original packing materials and cartons stored in an odor-free place.

We know of many people who enjoy using machines and equipment that are decades old. Just because something is old, doesn't mean it should be sent to the landfill. There are always people out there who appreciate vintage items, vintage pattern books, vintage buttons and embellishments.

Keep this in mind: some of the most prized possessions at museums are antique quilts or articles of clothing.

If reducing clutter still seems to be the only alternative, dispose of equipment, yarn, threads and patterns in a "GREEN" way. Post a message on a local library bulletin board or take a classified ad. You might make a new friend! Items can also be donated to charity.

Rocking Horse Farm accepts yarn, fabric, machines and equipment, small looms, and most other fiber-related articles for use with our charitable programs: Operation Toasty Toes, Sheila's Shawls & Paul's Scarves, The Mitten Tree, or 4-H Community Pride projects. A receipt for tax-deductible donation can be sent in return, if desired. Items can be brought to the store during regular business hours (Tuesday - Saturday, 10-6) or sent directly to:

ROCKING HORSE FARM
25636 County Road 74
Saint Cloud, Minnesota 56301-9293
Please contact us before sending large parcels.

GREEN MACHINE CHECK-LIST

Take these simple steps to make sure your investment of equipment and supplies remains in good condition for future use or resale!

- Area is clean and dry, not humid
- No direct sunlight
- Temperature controlled
- Protected from mildew & odors
- Protected from dust
- All machines have Operation Manuals nearby
- Electronic machines plugged into surge protectors when in use, unplugged when not in use
- Regular cleaning & maintenance done to machines *Consult Operation Manual for sewing machines, purchase "Make Your Knitting Machine Sing" for knitting machines*
- Proper oil is used to lubricate machines *Sewing machine oil, knitting machine oil, Passap oil and spinning wheel oil are all different weights and should never be used on the wrong machine!*
- Batteries removed and stored separately *Batteries that leak and corrode can cause severe damage*
- Paper and cardboard not stored on the floor
- Fabric, Fiber, Yarn & Threads stored properly *Some fibers shouldn't be stored in air-tight containers because they need ventilation. Ask an expert if unsure*