Styling by Stephanie Hanes. Hair and makeup by Carmela Cali

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ew Green Good Housekeeping

Testing from the Good Housekeeping Research Institute WHAT TO BUY, SKIP & KNOW



EVERYDAY ESSENTIAL SHEETS A blissful night's sleep starts with how you dress your bed. Good sheets wash and wear well and, above all, feel cozy to slip into. Our textile pros tested 85 sets in percale, sateen, flannel, and jersey knit. We chose dark blue or red linens (if available), the shades most prone to fading, and measured shrinkage as well as color loss after five washes. Using three textiles-lab machines, we roughed up the fabric to see whether it would pill, how readily it'd rip if snagged, and whether the dye would transfer (say, onto PJs). Finally, we $made\ sure\ fitted\ sheets\ would\ go\ over\ an\ extra-deep\ mattress\ and\ had\ testers\ rate\ the\ fabrics'\ softness.\ \Rightarrow$

Best Bedsheets

Tuck in one of these top-tested picks, chosen from 85 sets in the four most popular fabrics

GHRI TIP Some percale lose shine after shing. Our picks kept their luster throughout our tests

Sleek, with

SATEEN For the best value and long-lasting durability, choose test-topping Cindy Crawford 400TC (shown), sold at Jcpenney (\$55 to \$80, full to California king; six colors). Like stripes? Splurge on L.L.Bean's 400TC Supima Sateen-you won't have to worry about shrinking or pilling (\$149 to \$215, twin to king; five colors). Same goes for The Company Store's 450TC Wrinkle-Free, which come in 10 colors and all U.S. bed sizes, including extra-long twin and California king, and can be monogrammed (\$142 to \$232, plus monogramming fee).

crisp-feeling

PERCALE Strong yet soft, QVC Northern Nights Wrinkle-Defense Alexa 500TC (shown) look sleek, fit well, and aren't likely to pill or tear (\$73.50, full to king; various colors). If you want a dark hue, look to the super-colorfast QVC Northern Nights Chloe 640TC Supima Cotton—their dyes won't transfer to other bedding (\$78, full to king; various colors). With their modern floral patterns, Marimekko's Unikko sheet sets add a vibrant splash of color. They also won't shrink or fade much in the wash (\$85 to \$159, extra-long twin to king; various patterns).

100% polyester, Jcpenney Micro Flannel don't have the that cotton flannel sheets often do. Touch them before pilling or shrinkage problems that cotton flannel sheets often do. Touch them before buying—their texture is more like lightweight fleece than fluffy flannel. This set is available in all U.S. bed sizes (\$50 to \$85; 10 colors).

The ultimate

COTTON FLANNEL in classic cotton, Garnet Hill's Hemstitched Supima Flannel sheets (shown) are thick and soft and are cut generously to account for shrinkage (\$97 to \$148, twin to king; seven colors). Lighter-weight Lands' End 5-Ounce Flannels are well priced. monogrammable, and available in all U.S. bed sizes (\$59.50 to \$119.50; eight colors).

— Under \$25! Comfy like a soft T-shirt

JERSEY KNIT A major bargain, stretchy Walmart Mainstays Jersey (shown) will fit despite shrinking in the wash, thanks to a roomy cut (\$24, twin to queen, plus extra-long twin; five colors). Lands' End Cotton Knit emerged nearly pill-free from our abrasion test (\$100 to \$160, twin to king, plus extra-long twin; six colors), and Garnet Hill's Jersey Knit faded little from laundering (\$114 to \$184, twin to king, plus extra-long twin; seven colors)-but both shrank significantly, not ideal for very deep mattresses.