

Frontier Barn Quilt Trail FAQ's

What is a barn quilt?

A Barn Quilt is a large painted quilt square mounted on or directly painted typically on the gable end or side of a barn, business, garden shed or house. Typically the quilt square is positioned to be visible from a road and viewed as people drive past.

Quilt block designs can be from traditional geometric patterns used by quilters or designed by the individual. In many cases patterns used by families, as well as modern variations of traditional quilt blocks are utilized.

How big are barn quilts?

Most barn quilt blocks are 8'x8', 4'x4' or 2'x2' depending on the size of the structure and distance from the road. Typically they are painted on a special outdoor sign board and are affixed to the structure to be visible year round.

What is a barn quilt trail?

A Barn Quilt Trail is a collection of painted quilts that are typically organized by a local organization or group that make up a clearly defined and documented self-guided driving trail for the enjoyment of locals, visitors and tourist. It is the goal of the Frontier Barn Quilt Trail of Fulton Co., PA to form a trail of a minimum of 50 trail members and then to be registered on the American Quilt Trail as documented on <http://barnquiltinfo.com/>.

Why would I want a barn quilt or be on a barn quilt trail?

Cultural and Social

- *personal enjoyment*
- *promotes barn history and preservation*
- *celebrates our rural culture*
- *fosters pride in farm, business and private property*
- *educates youth and visitors on the value of the agricultural and rural economy*
- *encourages a large community involvement*
- *celebrates the quilt and other traditional arts*
- *creates a year round attraction that fosters other community events and projects*

Economic Impact

Comments from a barn quilt trail organizer in Ohio: "Although a solid figure is hard to obtain because tickets are not sold to barn quilt trails, increases in inquiries at visitor centers and historic sites as well as families on the back roads checking out the barn quilts are typically noted. Cafes, restaurants and lodging facilities report many visitors mentioning the barn quilt trails as their main reason for visiting the county. Artists and craftsman report products reflecting the barn quilts and the traditional arts are sought after."

We can expect the same positive economic impact here in Fulton County because of our proximity to the major metropolitan areas, PA Turnpike and Interstate 170 and an increasing interest in historical and educational experiences by families and retirees. Other counties with self-guided driving tours have seen increases in the attendance to local festivals and have been very successful in directly benefiting the restaurant, lodging industry, retail shops and indirectly benefiting real estate sales and other community events. **The unanimous opinion was...."this is the best agri-tourism project ever"...**

Do I have to be on a barn quilt trail to have a quilt block?

No, you can put a quilt block up on your property as long as it meets local codes and restrictions. However, we highly recommend and request you contact us prior to starting your block and/or selecting your pattern. It is the hope of the Frontier Barn Quilt Trail Committee to eliminate duplicates, to maintain integrity and continuity in quality and to assist interested parties as best we can.

How can I get a quilt block on my barn, business, shed or house and be included on the Frontier Barn Quilt Trail of Fulton Co., PA.?

By contacting the Frontier Barn Quilt Trail Committee, meeting the basic requirements, completing an application, gaining approval, purchasing your kit, completing your quilt block and after installing it on your barn or building you will receive your trail membership.

However, before applying consider your answers to these questions:

Can the place I am considering be seen from a public road in Fulton Co. PA?

Is there a safe place to park and view the quilt block?

Am I willing to leave the quilt block on my facility for a minimum of three years?

Am I prepared to keep the quilt block in good repair as determined by the FBQT committee?

Traffic and or visitors to my location may increase, is this acceptable to me and my family?

If you answer "yes" to these questions, you are on your way to meeting the requirements to be listed on the trail.

What is required to be listed on the Frontier Barn Quilt Trail of Fulton Co. PA?

There are some basic requirements as mentioned in the previous answer that have to be met and you must complete an application. For more information contact the FBQT committee at 717-830-5953 and we can provide the details to become a part of this exciting community project.

I would love to buy a barn quilt. Do you sell completed barn quilts?

At this time we do not sell completed barn quilt blocks. However, we do sell kits which include everything needed to build your own barn quilt block with complete instructions. *Please note: The kits DO NOT include the paint.* Contact The Frontier Barn Quilt Committee at 717-830-5953 to purchase a kit.

How are the quilt patterns chosen?

A committee of local quilters is available to assist you in this most difficult part of your barn quilt project. Their objective is to find patterns for you to choose from that are representative of your family, your barn, your business and their relationship to the history, conservation and rural lifestyle of Fulton County. They have access to thousands of quilt blocks and can search by color, theme, or type of pattern. Just tell them what you wish and they will help and make suggestions to make this part of the process as fun and enjoyable as possible. By purchasing a Barn Quilt Kit you receive this very helpful assistance as part of the package.

Can any pattern be used on my barn quilt?

Generally yes, however you must be sure a pattern you select is not copyrighted. That is part of our Barn Quilt Kits...to make sure the pattern is copyright free. Also, we do not want duplicates of already approved blocks.

How long does it take to paint a barn quilt?

That depends on the number of colors and the intricacy of the pattern. Since each color is applied separately(three coats) and the area to be painted taped off, depending on how quickly the paint dries determines how fast you can paint the whole block. Usually it takes a day for each coat of each color and we recommend a minimum of three coats.

What kind of paint should I use?

We sell kits with a very detailed set of instructions for building your own barn quilt and it answers all your questions including what paint to use, how many coats, etc. The instructions also include many tips, tricks and techniques to make sure you eliminate the need for touch-ups and do-over's.

Do you recommend putting a sealer on the finished product?

We do not recommend using a sealer as they typically tend to yellow over time and then it has to be removed if you need to repaint the block.

How do you hang them?

Hanging a barn quilt, outside of selecting your pattern, is probably the most difficult aspect of your project. Barn quilts are heavy, cumbersome and dangerous to handle especially on windy or inclement days. So we suggest caution and proceeding with safety in mind. Each application requires its own unique method. Typically, if the quilt block is being mounted on a wood structure, the use of exterior wood screws is all that is required. Other, materials such as vinyl, metal, brick or stone may require special fasteners. Regardless, we highly recommend you utilize the service of a professional contractor to install the block, especially if it is an above arms reach. The use of Boom lifts are typically the safest manner of installing quilt blocks. Our kits include many instructions and suggestions to assist in this portion of your project.

How long will the quilt block last?

Utilizing the components of our Barn Quilt Kits and the use of paint as recommended in our kit instructions, your quilt block should last up to 10 years.

Ok, I want to purchase a kit, however I have no skills and/or interest to layout, paint or do anything else to make a barn quilt...how can I get a completed barn quilt on my barn or building?

Just contact us at 717-830-5953