

## How to Get Your Cutting Mat Nice and Fresh and Clean Again

Courtesy of Michelle, Dinkydoo Fabrics, Canada

**My cutting mat has been neglected for quite some time and needs a refresh.** There are fibers stuck in grooves it has something that I think are tea stains (oops), and it needs a BATH.

First step is prep. I take an eraser and go along all the lines and grooves to get out any fibers. Mmm dusty! You can also use a lint roller, or packaging tape if you don't have an eraser on hand.

Next, I use a soft damp cloth to give it a good wash, using mild soap. I like this cloth because it prevents more fibers from attaching themselves to the mat.

Next stop is the tub. It's a good idea to hydrate your cutting mat once in a while, in room temperature water with a bit of white vinegar. I use about a cup for water I add to my tub. Never use warm, hot, or very cold water as this can cause warping and cracking to your mat. We are trying to prolong life here, not shorten it!

My mat doesn't fit flat in my tub, so I just do 5 minutes and then turn it. Since we are using room temp water here this is fine for where I live. Use your best judgement if you are in a hotter or cooler environment.

Finally, take your mat out and gently dry with towels. Leave it to dry for about half an hour before use, keeping it away from direct, bright sunlight.

It's all refreshed now and ready to go back into service!

I've learned in life that good tools (and shoes!) are worth the investment, but we must invest a bit of time into their care as well.

Happy cutting and stitching!

