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Cushion cover and pillow sham size chart by region

Square and rectangular cushion covers and pillow shams, in the sizes each region sells. They are reference sizes: we make covers to the sizes in your range.

Cushions and shams sizes: United Kingdom and Ireland

The UK sells cushion covers in centimetres, with 43 x 43 and 45 x 45 the everyday sofa sizes, and sizes bed pillows as pillowcases (housewife or Oxford) instead of shams. Ireland follows the same sizes.

Square cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
43 x 43 cm 17 x 17 in	The most stocked high street size
45 x 45 cm 18 x 18 in	Standard sofa cushion
50 x 50 cm 20 x 20 in	Larger sofa and bed cushion

55 x 55 is also sold. 40 x 40 and 60 x 60 are less common in UK ranges.

Rectangular cushion covers

Rectangular cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
30 x 50 cm **12 x 20 in**	Lumbar or boudoir cushion
40 x 60 cm **16 x 24 in**	Larger rectangle for sofas and beds

Pillowcases and decorative pillow covers

NAME	POCKET SIZE	NOTES
Housewife (standard)	50 x 75 cm 20 x 30 in	Plain sewn edge
Oxford	50 x 75 cm 20 x 30 in	Same pocket with a flat border of about 5 cm on each side, sometimes wider
Super king (also sold as king)	50 x 90 cm 20 x 35 in	Housewife or Oxford
Square (continental)	65 x 65 cm 26 x 26 in	Housewife or Oxford, used upright against the headboard

Some pan-European ranges sold in the UK and Ireland use a 50 x 80 pocket instead of 50 x 75.

Insert to pair with a cover

COVER	INSERT FOR A FULL LOOK
43 x 43 cm **17 x 17 in**	45 x 45 to 50 x 50 cm 18 x 18 to 20 x 20 in
45 x 45 cm **18 x 18 in**	50 x 50 cm 20 x 20 in

Retail advice ranges from the same size as the cover to about 5 cm (2 in) larger.

Cushions and shams sizes: United States and Canada

The United States and Canada sell in inches. Sofa cushions are called throw pillows and decorative bed pillow covers are called shams, named after the pillow they fit.

Square throw pillow covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
41 x 41 cm 16 x 16 in	Small accent, chairs
46 x 46 cm 18 x 18 in	Standard sofa pillow
51 x 51 cm 20 x 20 in	The most stocked size
56 x 56 cm 22 x 22 in	Fuller sofa pillow
61 x 61 cm 24 x 24 in	Oversized, deep sofas and beds

Lumbar pillow covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
30 x 53 cm 12 x 21 in	Small lumbar
36 x 66 cm 14 x 26 in	Classic lumbar
41 x 66 cm 16 x 26 in	Large lumbar

Lumbar sizes vary more than squares. Long bed lumbars of about 14 x 36 in and 12 x 46 in are also sold.

Pillow shams

SHAM	SIZE
Standard	51 x 66 cm 20 x 26 in
Queen	51 x 76 cm 20 x 30 in
King	51 x 91 cm 20 x 36 in
Euro	66 x 66 cm 26 x 26 in
Boudoir	30 x 41 cm 12 x 16 in

These are pocket sizes; a flange adds to the outside measurement. Many ranges sell one combined standard and queen sham instead of two, and a few cut slightly larger, so confirm the figure for each programme.

Insert to pair with a cover

COVER	INSERT FOR A FULL LOOK
46 x 46 cm **18 x 18 in**	51 x 51 cm 20 x 20 in
51 x 51 cm **20 x 20 in**	56 x 56 cm 22 x 22 in
56 x 56 cm **22 x 22 in**	61 x 61 cm 24 x 24 in

The common rule is an insert about 2 in larger than the cover.

Cushions and shams sizes: Continental Europe

Continental Europe sells in centimetres. Cushion cover sizes are broadly shared between countries, but bed pillow sizes are not: the 50 x 70 rectangle is the widest standard, France favours the 65 x 65 square and Germany the 80 x 80 square.

Square cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
40 x 40 cm 16 x 16 in	Armchairs and small sofas
45 x 45 cm 18 x 18 in	Standard sofa cushion
50 x 50 cm 20 x 20 in	The most widely stocked size
60 x 60 cm 24 x 24 in	Large sofas and beds
65 x 65 cm 26 x 26 in	Oversized, also the square bed pillow size

Rectangular cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
30 x 50 cm 12 x 20 in	Lumbar cushion
40 x 60 cm 16 x 24 in	Larger rectangle

Some ranges cut 40 x 58 in place of 40 x 60.

Pillowcases by country

Pillowcases by country

MARKET	SIZE	NOTES
Most of Europe	50 x 70 cm 20 x 28 in	The international standard rectangle, including Norway
France and Benelux	65 x 65 cm 26 x 26 in	Square, sold alongside 50 x 70
Germany	80 x 80 cm 31 x 31 in	Standard square pillow
Germany	40 x 80 cm 16 x 31 in	Narrow comfort pillow
Sweden	50 x 60 cm 20 x 24 in	Standard pillowcase

Austria (70 x 90) and Switzerland (65 x 100) often differ, so confirm the pillow size before cutting for those markets.

Insert to pair with a cover

COVER	INSERT
45 x 45 cm **18 x 18 in**	50 x 50 cm 20 x 20 in
50 x 50 cm **20 x 20 in**	50 x 50 cm 20 x 20 in

Practice differs: one size up gives a fuller look, a matching size a softer one.

Cushions and shams sizes: Australia and New Zealand

Australia sells in centimetres. Cushions run slightly larger than in the UK, with 50 x 50 the common sofa size, and the square bed pillow is called a European pillowcase.

Square cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
45 x 45 cm 18 x 18 in	Standard sofa cushion
50 x 50 cm 20 x 20 in	The most stocked size
65 x 65 cm 26 x 26 in	European cushion, bed dressing

55 x 55 and 60 x 60 appear in some ranges.

Rectangular cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
30 x 50 cm 12 x 20 in	Lumbar cushion
35 x 55 cm 14 x 22 in	Mid rectangle
40 x 60 cm 16 x 24 in	Large rectangle

Pillowcases

NAME	SIZE	NOTES
Standard	48 x 73 cm 19 x 29 in	Also quoted as 48 x 74
King	50 x 90 cm 20 x 35 in	Also quoted as 51 x 92
European	65 x 65 cm 26 x 26 in	Square; a tailored edge adds about 5 cm on each side

Queen pillowcases vary from about 50 x 80 to 54 x 80.

Cushions and shams sizes: UAE and the Gulf

The Gulf sells in centimetres and largely follow UK and European sizes. Online sellers also list 16 in and 18 in covers by their inch size.

Square cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
45 x 45 cm 18 x 18 in	The most stocked size, covers and filled cushions
50 x 50 cm 20 x 20 in	Larger sofa cushion

Rectangular cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
30 x 50 cm 12 x 20 in	Lumbar cushion

Pillowcases

NAME	SIZE
Standard	50 x 75 cm 20 x 30 in

Usually sold as a set of two. Cushion fillers are sold in the same size as the cover, such as 45 x 45.

Cushions and shams sizes: India

India sells cushion covers mainly by inch size, with 16 x 16 the everyday size, and many ranges list the same pieces in centimetres as 40 x 40, 45 x 45, 50 x 50 and 60 x 60. Bed pillow covers are sized in inches.

Square cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
41 x 41 cm 16 x 16 in	The most common sofa size
46 x 46 cm 18 x 18 in	Larger sofa cushion
51 x 51 cm 20 x 20 in	Oversized, large sofas
61 x 61 cm 24 x 24 in	Floor cushion

Rectangular cushion covers

SIZE	TYPICAL USE
30 x 51 cm 12 x 20 in	Lumbar cushion

Pillow covers

NAME	SIZE
Standard	46 x 71 cm 18 x 28 in
Standard, smaller cut	43 x 69 cm 17 x 27 in

Both cuts are sold as standard; ask the buyer which pillow they stock.

Insert to pair with a cover

COVER	INSERT FOR A FULL LOOK
41 x 41 cm **16 x 16 in**	43 x 43 to 46 x 46 cm 17 x 17 to 18 x 18 in
46 x 46 cm **18 x 18 in**	48 x 48 to 51 x 51 cm 19 x 19 to 20 x 20 in

Retail advice is an insert 1 to 2 in larger than the cover.

Reference sizes that retailers in each region sell, not a universal standard. Everything we make is made to order, so send the sizes in your own range and we confirm them before sampling.

How to measure cushions and shams

1. Size the cover to the pillow or insert it dresses, not to the bed or sofa.
2. Measure a cover flat from seam to seam, not over the curve of a filled cushion.
3. State the pocket size and any flange or border width as two separate numbers, so the outside measurement is never in doubt.
4. Decide the insert size at the same time as the cover: the same size gives a softer look, one size up (about 5 cm or 2 in) gives a fuller one.
5. Put a dimension beside every size name on the specification, because standard, king and Euro mean different measurements in different markets.