

# PEW COVERS AND MATERIALS

# BATS IN CHURCHES

Loose covers are an effective solution for protecting church pews while accommodating their curves and protrusions.

To create a loose cover, measure the pew's width (A), height of the back (B), height to the front to the arm rest (C), depth of the seat (D), and depth of the pew (E). These measurements should be increased by around 20 centimetres to ensure that the cover fits easily and to account for any shrinkage.

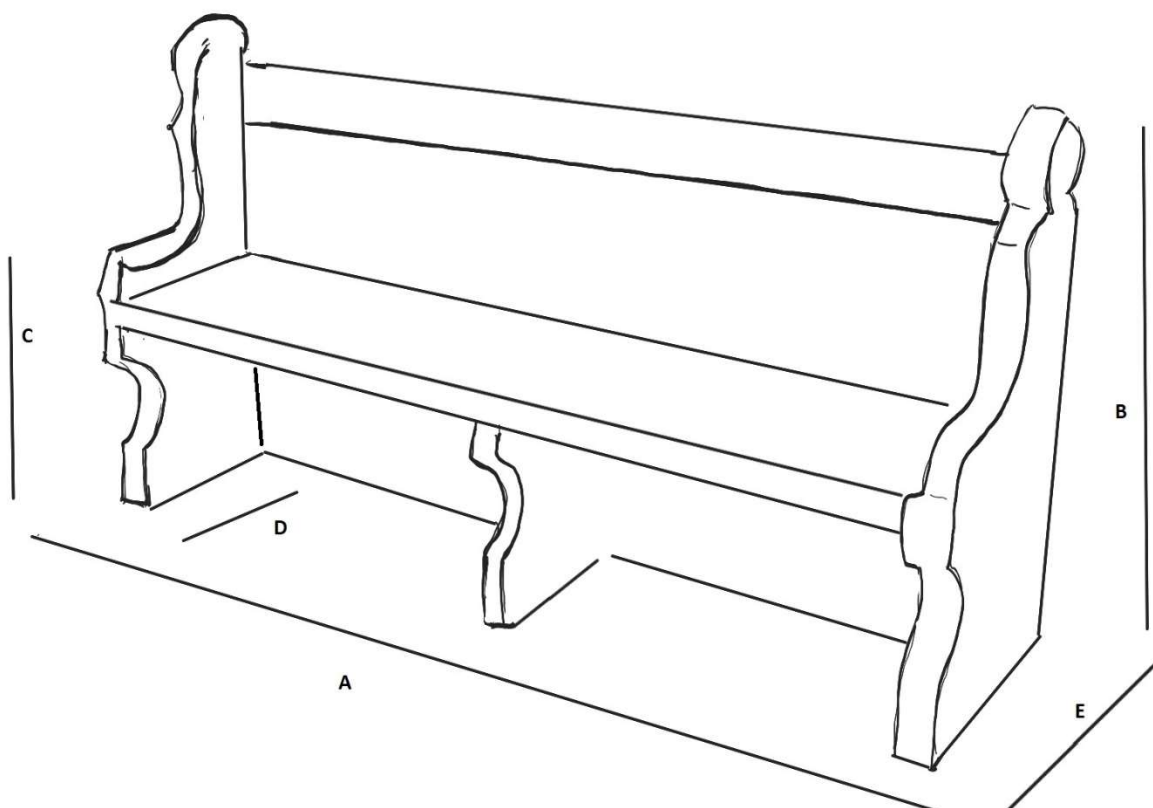


Figure 1 Measurements for pew covers.

In the case of a pew, it is advisable to make an allowance for a slit at the back to facilitate its installation. If the pew is very large, dividing it into two parts that can be joined with a zipper or Velcro is a practical solution. Allow enough material to cover the union completely and to prevent bat urine and faeces from falling through.

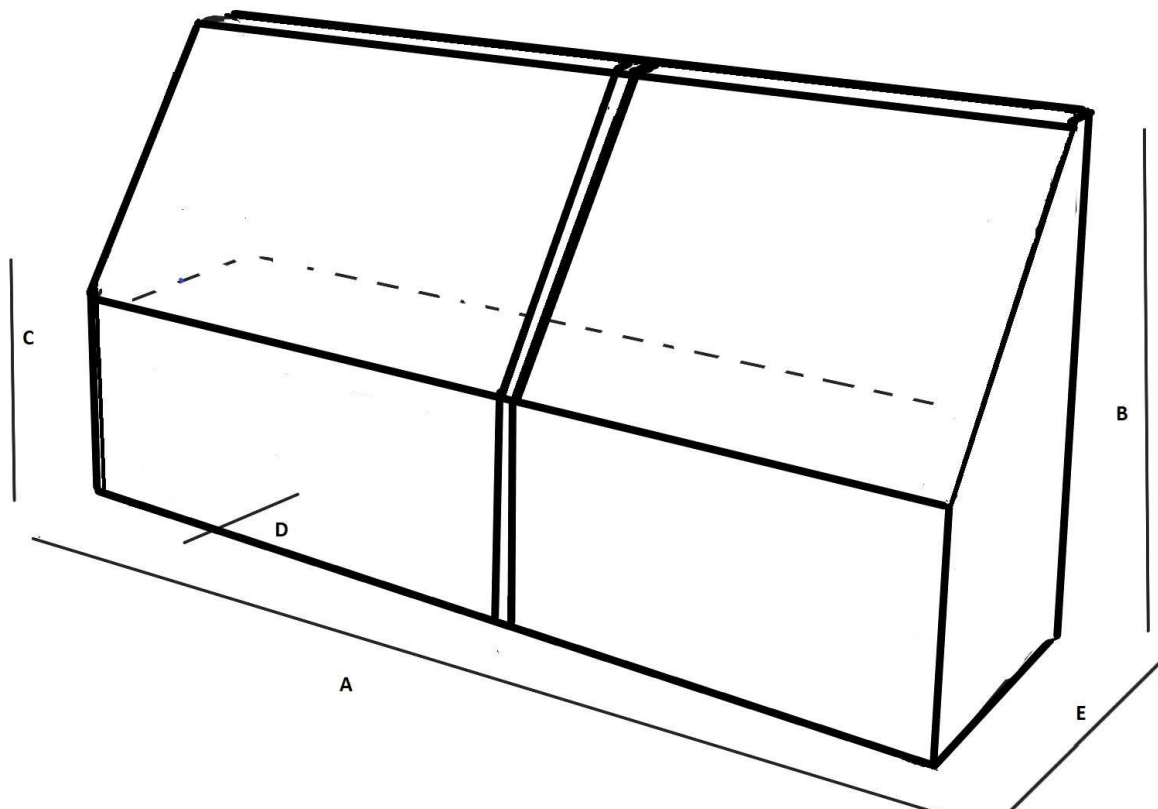


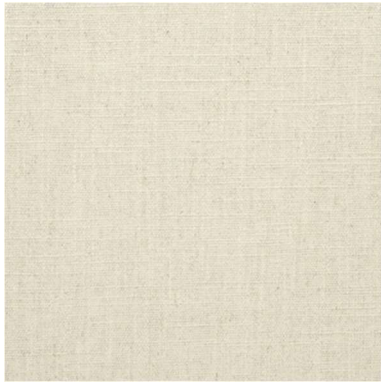
Figure 2 Pew covers with a central union.

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### Materials

When selecting materials, it is best to avoid those that contain wool as they can attract pests such as moths. Good alternatives include 100% cotton, calico, or a non-woven polyester fabric such as Tyvek.

If cotton or calico is used, you must wash the fabric without soap before use to avoid shrinkage and colour transfer if a coloured fabric is chosen. You may wish to consider finding a fabric that matches your church's décor, or a colour that has a symbolic connection for your church.



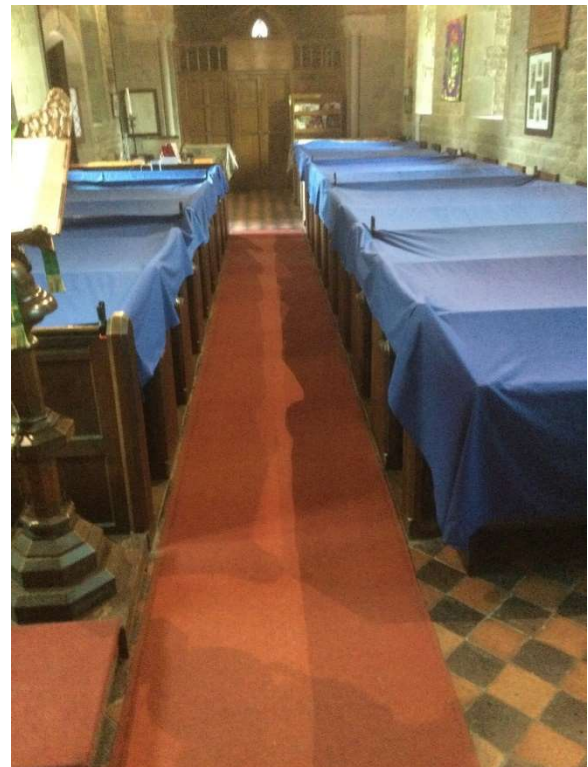
*Figure 3 Washed calico*



*Figure 4 100% natural cotton*



*Figure 5 Range of cotton colours.*



*Figure 6 St Andrew, Hope Bowdler loose over-the-pew covers.  
Blue is one of the colours of St Andrew*

Tyvek, on the other hand, is made from high-density polyethene, is 100% recyclable, and can be sewn like a fabric. It is also breathable, immune to most acidic and alkaline chemicals, dustproof and waterproof.



*Figure 7 Tyvek roll.*



*Figure 8 Tyvek Font*

For light cleaning, a damp cloth is sufficient. For heavier cleaning, hand washing or a gentle machine cycle in cool water with mild detergent should be used. It is important to avoid machine drying or bleaching.

Ironing is not recommended for Tyvek, as the heat of the iron will melt or damage it, Tyvek will melt at 135°C. Cotton and calico fabrics can be ironed.

Tyvek will need to be purchased by specialists shops such as Preservation Equipment Ltd [www.preservationequipment.com](http://www.preservationequipment.com) or Conservation by Design [www.cxdinternational.com](http://www.cxdinternational.com)