

RV Teddy Bear Mattress Foam Replacement – Step by Step

This process document corresponds to the YouTube video: [Teddy Bear Mattress Foam Replacement](#). Please watch this video to gain a visual understanding of the process.

Tools & Skills Required

[Electric Knife](#)*

Seam Ripper

Scissors

Large Needle

Upholstery Thread

Basic Sewing Skills

Skills and Safety Disclaimer

As a heads up, this project involves a lot of sewing, so if you lack the confidence to sew seams back together, make sure you find someone who can or opt for buying a new mattress. Also, the process can be a bit dangerous in terms of cuts from the seam ripper, sewing needle, scissors, or electric knife. So please be aware of the difficulty before engaging in this project. Also, by replacing the original foam, you are removing the flammability rating of the mattress, as shown on the mattress tag.

With that said, let's get into the process.

Part 1 – Measure the Teddy Bear Mattress and Order the New Foam

First – Measure the existing mattress accurately.

Most Teddy Bear mattresses used in RV bunkhouse models have an angle cut. Before ordering, you need to measure your mattress's width, length, and depth, ignoring the angle cut. The dimensions of the mattress in my 2020 Keystone Bullet are 74" long X 51" wide X 3.5" deep. You can also find the mattress's dimensions on the tag on the back cover. We'll cover the angle cut later.

Next – Order the replacement foam.

With the accurate dimensions in hand, go to the [Foam Factory website](#) using the link in the description. Please note that I have no affiliation with the Foam Factory and recommend them only because I have used them several times in the past with excellent results and quality service. I have always purchased the firm Lux Foam from the Foam Factory to redo dinette cushions. The Foam Factory does not recommend Lux Foam for bedding, so in this case, I ordered the next level down in terms of firmness, High Density (HD36), High-Quality foam. In my case, I ordered the size on my label (74" x 51" x 3.5"), except I only ordered it in 3" thickness. This proved to be a good move.

To level-set expectations, my order took about a week to arrive, but I am in Michigan, and so is the Foam Factory. The order will come vacuum sealed, so be aware and **do not open the seal until you are ready to install the new foam**. As we will show, the foam will expand quickly once the vacuum seal is broken.

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Part 2 – Remove the Existing Foam from the Teddy Bear Mattress

Next – Find a location where you can lay out the entire mattress.

The mattress can quickly become difficult to maneuver as you progress through this process, so make sure you do not have breakables nearby.

Next – Remove the stitching on the bottom seam of the mattress.

Using your seam ripper, begin removing the stitching along the back seam of the mattress. I should preface this by reiterating that this process requires basic sewing skills, so if you cannot re-sew the seam, don't rip the seam. The seams are not too difficult to remove, and with them, the outer cording should come off as well.

Next – Remove the existing mattress.

Once the seam and cording are fully removed, you should be able to reach into the mattress cover and fold the existing mattress to remove it from the mattress cover. You'll need to fold and pull the existing foam out of the mattress cover. If you do have a helper, have them hold the mattress cover while you fold and pull the foam out.

Part 3 – Trace the dimensions onto the new foam and cut the new foam to size.

Next – Open the new foam.

Open and lay out the new foam flat, remembering that the new foam is vacuum sealed. It will expand rapidly, so ensure you have plenty of space for the foam to expand.

Next – Place the old mattress foam on the new foam to trace the form.

Put the original mattress foam on top of the new piece of foam. Line up the old foam and new foam along the long sides.

Next – Trace the outline of the old foam onto the new foam.

Using a sharpie or magic marker, trace the shape of the old foam onto the new foam. Take your time and tackle the angled side first, then the rest of the side of the foam. Try to keep the sharpie or magic marker at the same angle to the foam throughout the entire trace.

Next – Raise the new foam for cutting.

It's important to raise new foam before cutting. This means placing something under the new foam while cutting it. I used the old mattress foam as the primary support and added some other foam pieces to raise the new foam off the ground. The purpose is to use the electric knife without hindrance or hitting the floor.

Next – Cut down the new foam to the exact dimensions.

Use the electric knife and cut the new foam along the traced lines drawn onto the new foam. It is crucial that you hold the electric knife perpendicular to the surface of the new foam and cut slowly; otherwise, the cut will become angled. Cut slowly and keep the electric knife's cord out of your cutting path.

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I kept my head and eyes directly over the electric knife as I move along so I could see precisely where the blades were in reference to the trace line. My left hand held the discarded foam piece up from the floor and away from the knife while cutting.

Part 4 – Install the new foam into the mattress cover.

Next – Lay out the mattress cover and position the new foam.

Lay out the mattress cover with the open seam toward you.

Next – Insert the new foam into the mattress cover.

Take hold of the new foam and insert it into the mattress cover. If you have a helper, have them hold the mattress cover open as you insert the new foam. There isn't an easy way to insert the foam, other than folding it and maneuvering deep into the cover.

Next – Maneuver the foam within the mattress to ensure proper fit.

Use your hands to reach in and position the foam into the corners of the mattress cover. Be careful not to rip the mattress cover fabric. This requires some strength and reach to accomplish.

It took several minutes of hard work to get the new foam flat into the mattress cover and several more minutes to align the cover.

Part 5 – Sew up the bottom seam of the mattress cover.

Next – Pin the length of the open seam.

Fold the open seam fabric together and insert a straight pin about every 3-4 inches. This will hold the material together as you sew the seam. Ensure the straight pin goes through both pieces of the thick seam fabric and feed it back through again. Be careful with the straight pin as you can get poked easily. FYI, we did remove the mattress tag as its information about the flammability of materials no longer applied. Please understand that the new foam does not carry the same flammability standards.

Next – Sew the seam with a large sewing needle and upholstery thread.

Using needle and thread, sew the seam material together. This is done using a basic sewing pattern and will take considerable time to complete the entire length of the seam. After sewing the seam, remove the straight pins from the fabric.

Next – Sew the cording onto the seam.

First, place the cording on the newly sewn seam and add straight pins every 2-3 inches to keep the cording in place. Next, sew the cording onto the seam using the sewing pattern mentioned above.

We needed to deal with a bit of overlapping cording to finalize the project, so sewed overlapping fabric. Overall, it worked well, felt strong, and looked good. Congrats!

*As an Amazon Associate, I earn from qualifying purchases.