

How to Read a Yarn Label

A Beginner-Friendly Quick Guide

Confidently choose the right yarn, buy enough for your project, and avoid costly mistakes.

How to Read a Yarn Label Basics



<https://patternprincess.com>

Yarn Label Cheat Sheet

Everything you need to know—at a glance.

✓ What to Check First

Before you buy, take 30 seconds to look for:

- Yarn weight category (thickness of the yarn)

<https://patternprincess.com>



- Fiber content (what it's made of)
 - Yardage + ball weight (how much yarn you get)
 - Dye lot number (for matching color)
 - Recommended hook or needle size
 - Care instructions (how to wash and dry)
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Yarn Weight Guide

# Name	Common Use
0 Lace	Shawls, delicate projects
1 Fingering	Socks, baby items
2 Sport	Lightweight garments
3 DK (Light)	Sweaters, baby blankets
4 Worsted (Medium)	Afghans, hats, scarves
5 Bulky	Cozy scarves, quick projects
6 Super Bulky	Blankets, chunky knits
7 Jumbo	Arm knitting, oversized pieces

Yardage Tip

Always buy yarn based on **total yardage**, not number of skeins.

Different yarn brands package different amounts, even if the skeins look similar.

 A good rule: buy **10% more yarn** than your pattern suggests.

Dye Lot Tip

Always check the **dye lot number** before you buy.

- Same dye lot = consistent color
- Different batches = slight color differences

 For large projects, buy all your yarn at once.

Gauge Reminder






Gauge determines the size of your finished project.


- Check the gauge on your yarn label
- Match it to your pattern
- Make a small gauge swatch before starting

Skipping this step can completely change the size of your project.

Care Symbols (Quick Guide)

These little symbols tell you how to care for your finished item:

-  Hand = hand wash only
-  Tub = machine wash
-  Triangle = bleach instructions
-  Square = drying instructions
-  Iron = heat setting

 Always check care instructions before washing handmade items.

Fiber Content Quick Guide

Different fibers behave very differently:

- Wool yarn – warm, stretchy, may need hand washing
- Cotton – breathable, no stretch, great for summer
- Acrylic – easy care, machine washable
- Blends – combine the best of different fibers

Choose your yarn based on how the finished product will be used.

Before You Start Any Project

A quick checklist for success:

- ✓ Do I have enough yarn for my project?
- ✓ Are all skeins from the same dye lot?
- ✓ Does my yarn match the pattern weight?
- ✓ Did I check the recommended hook/needle size?
- ✓ Have I made a gauge swatch (if needed)?
- ✓ Do I understand the care instructions?

💡 Pro Tip

The yarn label is your roadmap.

Taking a minute to read it before you start can save you:

- Time
- Money
- Frustration

We hope you have found this guide helpful.

XO

Vicky and Casey

