Best Yarn for a Crochet Baby Blanket: How to Choose Weight, Fiber and Care

Weight, fiber and care, from the label to the blanket · US terms



The moss stitch baby blanket, folded in thirds. Preview picture of the published pattern, not a photo of crochet.

Our blankets: #3, #4 and #6 yarn; hooks I-9, M-13, I-9, G-6

Sources: Craft Yarn Council, American Academy of Pediatrics, Woolmark, Lion Brand, American Journal of Clinical Dermatology, maker pages

Gauge: See each pattern. The Craft Yarn Council's gauges are guidelines only.

This guide and our blankets were not crocheted and swatched by a person before publication.

Free guide online:
https://www.amgroyal.com/best-yarn-for-crochet-baby-blanket/?utm_source=pdf&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=best-yarn-for-crochet-baby-blanket

Materials, sizes and terms

Materials

A pattern, and the label of the yarn you plan to buy.

Abbreviations

yd = yards
sc = single crochet
dc = double crochet
sts = stitches
g = grams

Gauge

See each pattern. The Craft Yarn Council's gauges are guidelines only.

Notes

- Hook sizes and gauges in this guide are guidelines; follow your pattern's own.

What is the best yarn for a baby blanket?

Check these four things before you buy: weight, fiber, care, quantity.

1. Weight

Use the weight your pattern names: #3, #4 or #6 for our blankets. Always follow the gauge stated in your pattern.

2. Fiber

Many baby yarns are acrylic, cotton or a blend.

3. Care

On the Craft Yarn Council's care symbols page, a big X through a symbol means Do Not Wash or Do Not Bleach. The label on your own skein wins: read it before you crochet.

4. Quantity

Buy all the yarn for a blanket at once.

What do yarn weights #3, #4 and #6 mean?

In the Craft Yarn Council table we read, yarn weights run from 0 (lace) to 7 (jumbo). It calls the gauges and hook sizes in its table the most commonly used ones for each category, and marks them GUIDELINES ONLY. Weights #3, #4 and #6 are the ones our blankets use.

#0 lace

Yarn types: Fingering, 10-count crochet thread. Crochet gauge: 32-42 double crochets over 4 in (the page says a lace gauge range is difficult to determine). Hook: steel 1.6-1.4 mm as printed (US 6, 7, 8); regular hook 2.25 mm (B-1).

#1 super fine

Yarn types: Sock, Fingering, Baby. Crochet gauge in sc over 4 in: 21-32 sts. Hook: US B-1 to E-4 (2.25-3.5 mm).

#2 fine

Yarn types: Sport, Baby. Crochet gauge in sc over 4 in: 16-20 sts. Hook: US E-4 to 7 (3.5-4.5 mm).

#3 light

Yarn types: DK, Light Worsted. Crochet gauge in sc over 4 in: 12-17 sts. Hook: US 7 to I-9 (4.5-5.5 mm). Our blankets in this weight: Chevron Crochet Baby Blanket (US G-6, a little below the range).

#4 medium

Yarn types: Worsted, Afghan, Aran. Crochet gauge in sc over 4 in: 11-14 sts. Hook: US I-9 to K-10 1/2 (5.5-6.5 mm). Our blankets in this weight: Moss stitch baby blanket (US I-9, at the low end of the range) and Waffle Stitch Baby Blanket (US I-9, at the low end of the range).

#5 bulky

Yarn types: Chunky, Craft, Rug. Crochet gauge in sc over 4 in: 8-11 sts. Hook: US K-10 1/2 to M-13 (6.5-9 mm).

#6 super bulky

Yarn types: Super Bulky, Roving. Crochet gauge in sc over 4 in: 7-9 sts. Hook: US M-13 to Q (9-15 mm). Our blankets in this weight: Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket (US M-13, at the low end of the range).

#7 jumbo

Yarn types: Jumbo, Roving. Crochet gauge in sc over 4 in: 6 sts and fewer. Hook: US Q and larger (15 mm and larger).



Skeins of yarn, a crochet hook and a small swatch (preview picture).

Which yarn weight goes with which of our blankets?

Yards and sizes are estimates from our pattern models; your blanket will differ. The yarns named in the skein lines are examples of a weight class, with no recommendation; none was crocheted with our blankets.

Moss stitch baby blanket

#4 worsted · US I-9 hook · about 810 yd (Stroller) · about 1,220 yd (Large). Stroller: 4 skeins of an example #4 yarn at 256 yd (Red Heart Soft Baby Steps); 810 yd ÷ 256 = 3.16, rounded up. Large: 5 skeins of an example #4 yarn at 256 yd (Red Heart Soft Baby Steps); 1,220 yd ÷ 256 = 4.77, rounded up.

Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket

#6 super bulky · US M-13 hook · about 720 yd (Stroller) · about 1,050 yd (Large). Stroller: 5 skeins of an example #6 yarn at 220 yd (Bernat Baby Blanket Yarn). Cranberry 2, Cream 2, Pine Green 1. Large: 6 skeins of an example #6 yarn at 220 yd (Bernat Baby Blanket Yarn). Cranberry 2, Cream 2, Pine Green 2.

Waffle Stitch Baby Blanket

#4 worsted · US I-9 hook · about 920 yd (Stroller) · about 1,390 yd (Large). Stroller: 4 skeins of an example #4 yarn at 256 yd (Red Heart Soft Baby Steps). Rust 2, Sand 2. Large: 6 skeins of an example #4 yarn at 256 yd (Red Heart Soft Baby Steps). Rust 3, Sand 3.

Chevron Crochet Baby Blanket

#3 DK / light worsted · US G-6 hook · about 1,430 yd (Stroller) · about 2,140 yd (Large). The Craft Yarn Council lists 4.5-5.5 mm (US 7 to I-9) for a #3 and calls its hook sizes "guidelines only". Our Chevron page uses a US G-6 (4 mm), a little below that range; it also says to go up a hook size, to a US 7 (4.5 mm), if you get more than 16 sts per 4 in. Always follow the pattern's gauge. Stroller: 6 skeins of an example #3 yarn at 362 yd (Bernat Softee Baby) or 6 at 459 yd (Lion Brand Baby Soft). Sage 2, Cream 2, Dusty Rose 2 with either. Large: 7 skeins of an example #3 yarn at 362 yd (Bernat Softee Baby) or 6 at 459 yd (Lion Brand Baby Soft). Bernat Softee Baby: Sage 3, Cream 2, Dusty Rose 2. Lion Brand Baby Soft: Sage 2, Cream 2, Dusty Rose 2.

How to read the yards

Yards carry a 20 % margin and do not compare across blankets: the stitches, yarns and borders differ. Our Chevron page says its yardage assumes 5 in of yarn per dc and a 20 % margin, and calls it generous for DK. Skein counts are estimates (yards ÷ yards per skein, rounded up); skeins of other yarns hold different yards.



The Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket in super bulky yarn (#6), with two-row Cream stripes.

How do acrylic, cotton, wool and chenille compare?

No source read for this guide says one fiber is better than another. The table shows what each named source says about each fiber.

Wool, not superwash: can felt in the wash

Lion Brand says felting happens when non-superwash animal fibers meet heat, moisture and friction. Woolmark says untreated wool fibers have microscopic scales that interlock during agitation in water, which can cause felting and shrinkage.

Superwash wool

Woolmark describes machine-washable wool as treated or processed so it can be washed in a domestic washing machine without excessive shrinkage, felting or distortion.

Acrylic: check the label for pilling and drying

Yarn.com says lower-quality acrylics can develop fuzz pills with wear, and suggests looking for "anti-pilling" on the label. Yarn.com says acrylic cannot felt.

Cotton

Lion Brand says pure cotton gets heavy fast in large quantities.

Polyester, chenille-style

Lion Brand says chenille and velvet yarns swallow stitch detail.

Bamboo (rayon from bamboo)

Lion Brand's Truboo (100% rayon from bamboo, #3 Light / DK) prints "Care Lay Flat to Dry, Machine Wash".



Close-up of the staggered moss stitch of the moss stitch baby blanket.

Do two baby yarns follow the same care rules?

Two baby yarns of the same weight class print opposite drying rules on the maker's page. Bernat Softee Baby prints "Dry flat", while Lion Brand Baby Soft says a machine dryer may be used at the hottest setting. The Craft Yarn Council's care symbols page suggests including a label from a ball or skein of the yarn with a handmade gift, so the person knows how to care for it. Our patterns say to wash and dry the finished blanket as the yarn label says. Compare yards, not skein counts: one skein holds a very different number of yards from brand to brand. Labels change: read yours.

Bernat Softee Baby

#3 · 100% acrylic · 362 yd / 140 g

Lion Brand Baby Soft

#3 · 60% acrylic, 40% nylon · 459 yd / 140 g

Red Heart Soft Baby Steps

#4 · 100% acrylic · 256 yd / 141 g · care printed: "Tumble dry, low"

Lily Sugar'n Cream The Original

#4 · 100% cotton · 120 yd / 71 g · care printed: "Tumble dry at low heat, at delicate setting" · It is a cotton example: the page read does not sell it as a baby yarn

Bernat Baby Blanket Yarn

#6 · 100% polyester · 220 yd / 300 g · care printed: "Dry flat" · The page calls it "The original chenille-style yarn!"

Before you use any of them

These yarns have not been crocheted with our patterns; check gauge with a swatch.

What about soft skin, pilling and loops?

This guide makes no claim that any fiber is safe for every baby's skin. If your baby has sensitive skin, ask your pediatrician. A 2020 review in the American Journal of Clinical Dermatology, about eczema-prone skin, says large-diameter wool has been shown to cause itching and irritation, and that ultra- or superfine merino wool is not itchy. Our Chevron Crochet Baby Blanket page says to avoid fuzzy or shedding yarn on a baby blanket. Our Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket page says chunky stitches are open: check that no finger or toe can catch in a loop.

Wool

A 2020 review in the American Journal of Clinical Dermatology, about eczema-prone skin, says large-diameter wool has been shown to cause itching and irritation, and that ultra- or superfine merino wool is non-pruritic.

Cotton

The 2020 review in the American Journal of Clinical Dermatology says cotton and silk have mixed evidence for improving eczema symptoms, and were shown to be generally safe.



Peaks and valleys of the Chevron Crochet Baby Blanket.

Can a crochet blanket go in the crib?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (HealthyChildren.org) says to keep soft objects and loose bedding out of your baby's sleep area. It lists blankets among the soft objects and loose bedding that can increase a baby's risk of entrapment, suffocation or strangulation. Its recommendations are for babies up to 1 year of age, unless it says otherwise. Our blankets are for stroller, play and cuddling with an adult nearby, in Stroller and Large sizes. For supervised use only. Not for a crib or bassinet with a sleeping baby.

Source

The page is titled "How to Keep Your Sleeping Baby Safe: AAP Policy Explained" and was read on 2026-11-28.

Finishing

The free PDF has 12 pages in US Letter and A4: the yarn weights, the fibers, the care labels read and the table of our four blankets.



The moss stitch baby blanket rolled up as a gift.

Thank you!

This guide online (photos, FAQ):
https://www.amgroyal.com/best-yarn-for-crochet-baby-blanket/?utm_source=pdf&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=best-yarn-for-crochet-baby-blanket

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