

How to Estimate Yardage

FACT 1 square inch of *stockinette stitch* fabric can be knitted with 1 yard of worsted weight yarn.







From this, we can estimate yardage for a variety of yarns to make all kinds of garments, including scarves, shawls, ponchos, afghans, hats and even sweaters!

HERE'S HOW

1. Measure or estimate the desired garment dimensions and multiply length times width. This gives you estimated **square inches** of the item.
2. Multiply square inches by the factors in the table to get the **total yardage required**.
3. Then, to find out how much yarn you need:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{total yardage required} \\ \div \\ \text{number of yards in the ball or skein} \\ \text{of yarn you want} \\ = \\ \text{APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF YARDS} \\ \text{YOU NEED} \\ \text{for that particular yarn} \end{array}$$

You must recalculate if you choose a different yarn!

FOR THIS THICKNESS...	STITCHES PER 4 INCHES	MULTIPLY BY...
 Super Fine	27-32	1.6
 Fine	23-26	1.3
 Light	21-24	1.3
 Medium	16-20	1.0
 Bulky	12-15	0.7
 Super Bulky	6-11	0.4

This is a working estimate!

Depending on factors such as stitch pattern, your knitting tension and yarn fibers, you may need more or less yarn than this!

AN EXAMPLE

You want to knit a scarf that is 6" wide by 54" long. You are going to make a scarf and are choosing between yarns of different thicknesses. You want to know how much you would need to buy of the different yarns.

First, get the total square inches needed: 6" x 54" = 324 sq. inches. Using the thickness factors above:

$$\begin{array}{l} 324 \times 1.6 = 519 \text{ yards for a superfine yarn} \\ 324 \times 1.0 = 324 \text{ yards for a medium weight yarn} \\ 324 \times 0.7 = 227 \text{ yards for a bulky weight yarn} \end{array}$$

You decide to use the worsted weight yarn (medium), and it's yarn label says it 130 yards per ball. The number of balls to purchase is:

$$324 \div 130 = 2.49$$

That is, you will need to purchase 3 balls of your yarn.

It is always a good idea to purchase extra yarn. Most yarn shops will accept returns of unused, undamaged yarns within a reasonable period of time for store credit or refund.

Tip

Many yarns are imported and only list meters on the yarn label. To convert meters to yards, simply multiply meters by 1.09

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