

Aqua Summer Cotton Cave

A photo-matched crochet cat cave with a stable floor, removable washable comfort layer and measurement-based fit checks.



A light aqua shell, low wide entrance and striped aqua-and-cream removable cushion.

Publishing status

Prototype-ready draft. Crochet, wash and fit-test one physical sample before calling this pattern tested.

Project plan

Construction	Wide oval base; low tunnel wall; broad rectangular arch; shallow crown.
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 9 sc x 9 rounds = 10 cm. Dense and flexible is safer than open mesh.
Photo-style target	Starting target: 48-52 cm wide, 40-44 cm deep, 30-34 cm high, 31-35 cm entrance width.
Wash plan	A cotton shell and removable striped cover can be practical, but this is not a cooling device and must stay dry.

Materials

- Bulky washable cotton or cotton blend
- 7-9 mm hook
- markers
- striped cushion cover and washable insert.

Also have: scissors, yarn needle, locking stitch markers, measuring tape and the intended washable cushion materials. Keep pins, needles and small tools away from the cat.

Abbreviations

ch = chain; sc = single crochet; sl st = slip stitch; BLO = back loop only; st(s) = stitch(es); rnd = round; sc2tog = single crochet two together.

Measure first

Add 10-12 cm to curled width. Make the front opening at least 70 percent of the floor width while keeping 6-8 cm of wall at each side.

Write the actual floor width, depth, entrance width and entrance height in the boxes below before crocheting. Do not rely on breed, age or a generic size label.

Floor width	Floor depth	Entrance width	Entrance height
_____ cm	_____ cm	_____ cm	_____ cm

Before the full project

- Crochet and wash a 15 cm swatch. Record stitch gauge, row gauge and any growth after drying.
- Make a paper floor template from the calculated dimensions and place it where the cave will live.
- Confirm the cat can turn on the template and that the intended doorway is wider than the shoulders.
- Choose smooth yarn with no large holes, shedding fibers or rough cut ends.

Construction steps

1. Make and join two wide oval base panels in aqua.
2. Turn the wall upward and work even rounds to a low side-wall height.
3. Mark the broad entrance. Work the back wall in rows with nearly vertical doorway edges, rounding only the upper corners.
4. Chain across the opening and work a shallow roof with small, evenly spaced decreases.
5. Stop decreasing before the shell becomes tall or pointed; the photo reads as a low summer hideaway.
6. Sew an envelope cushion cover with alternating aqua and cream fabric or crochet stripes, keeping every seam enclosed.

Finishing checklist

- Weave each yarn tail through dense fabric in more than one direction, tug-test it, then trim.
- Press the floor on a hard surface. It must sit flat and return flat after the front edge is pressed.
- Run a hand over every inside seam and doorway edge. Correct any ridge, loop or rough point.
- Lift the cushion out without stretching the entrance and confirm every component is fully dry.

Fit check

Skylla should be able to rest with her head near the opening without the roof touching her ears.

- Let the cat approach voluntarily; do not place or hold the cat inside.
- Watch one complete entry, turn, lie-down and exit sequence.
- The roof and entrance must stay clear of ears, whiskers and functioning breakaway-collar hardware.
- Stop use if the cat chews yarn, catches a claw, pants, freezes, struggles to turn or avoids the exit.

Care

Wash the cover separately and dry the shell completely. Never put a damp cave in a warm room for a cat to occupy.

Safety

Cotton can become heavy when wet. Support it during washing and discontinue use if the roof sags into the opening.

If a collar is worn, it must be a functioning breakaway collar. A bell or tag can snag, so test generous clearance or remove the collar during supervised cave use. Never hide wire, tubing or sharp stabilizers inside the shell.

Final sign-off

Sample crocheted: ____ Washed and fully dried: ____ Base stayed flat: ____ Entrance stayed open: ____ Cat entered and exited comfortably under supervision: ____ Pattern version/date: _____