

Oatmeal Tweed Large-Cat Igloo

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



A roomy oatmeal tweed dome with a deep floor, round arch and cream cushion.

Publishing status

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

Project plan

Construction	Extra-wide double oval base; tall even walls; round arch; gradual dome.
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 7 sc x 7 rounds = 10 cm. Make a washed swatch because tweed blends can relax.
Photo-style target	Starting target: 52-58 cm wide, 45-50 cm deep, 43-47 cm high, 29-33 cm entrance.
Wash plan	Keep the roomy shell stable with dense stitches and make the cream cushion the frequently washable component.

Materials

- Super-bulky washable tweed yarn with securely spun flecks
- 9-11 mm hook
- large markers
- removable cream cushion.

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

Measure the actual cat in a loose curl and add 10-14 cm to width and depth. Doorway must clear shoulders, ears and a functioning breakaway collar.

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. Crochet two large oval floor panels and join them firmly. Check the finished floor on the intended rug or hard surface before building upward.
2. Work a turning round and 5-7 even wall rounds before beginning the entrance.
3. Shape a generous round arch in rows, decreasing symmetrically at both entrance edges.
4. Bridge the arch and resume full rounds. Work several even rounds before starting the crown so the cat keeps shoulder room.
5. Decrease slowly and stagger the decrease points. A larger cave needs a broader, lower crown rather than a narrow peak.
6. Finish with a removable cushion 1-2 cm smaller than the interior floor and recheck the base after the first wash.

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

Do not call this a large size until the intended cat can enter, turn and lie down without pushing the wall outward.

- 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 a swatch, then follow the yarn label. Dry the large shell over clean towels and rotate it so the base does not retain moisture.

Safety

Tweed flecks must be integral to the yarn, not loose decorative fibers that can be pulled or swallowed.

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: _____