

Charcoal Tunnel-Style Cat Cave

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



A charcoal rounded tunnel with cream entrance edging and a light removable cushion.

Publishing status

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

Project plan

Construction	Rounded-rectangle base; straight tunnel sides; semicircular roof; cream opening border.
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 8 sc x 8 rows = 10 cm. The side fabric should stand after folding but still compress safely.
Photo-style target	Starting target: 44-48 cm wide, 42-48 cm deep, 34-38 cm high, 28-32 cm opening.
Wash plan	The cream trim helps reveal loose stitches during inspection; the cushion lifts out for regular washing.

Materials

- Super-bulky washable charcoal yarn plus cream trim
- 8-10 mm hook
- 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

Set floor depth from resting length plus 10 cm. Roof circumference should span the two side-wall tops without pulling the base inward.

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 a double rounded-rectangle floor in charcoal and mark the two long side edges.
2. Work each side wall upward in dense rows until it reaches approximately half the finished height.
3. Crochet one long roof panel wide enough to curve from one wall top to the other. Keep its rows perpendicular to the tunnel depth for the visible rib direction.
4. Seam the roof to both side walls with flat, washable crochet joins. Shape the back with a separate dense oval panel.
5. Leave the full front open and add one cream sc border around the entrance. Correct any inward curl before weaving the tail.
6. Add the removable cushion and test the tunnel on the exact floor surface; the base may need one extra sc edging round if it rolls.

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

Skyla should be able to reverse or turn inside. A long tunnel that forces a cat to back out is not a good fit.

- 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

Remove the cushion, wash according to yarn labels and dry the tunnel on its flat base with the roof supported by towels.

Safety

Never hide rigid rods in the roof. Dense yarn and correct panel width must provide the shape.

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: _____