

Classic Oatmeal Rolled-Rim Dome

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



A classic oatmeal dome with a substantial rolled entrance rim and cream quilted cushion.

Publishing status

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

Project plan

Construction	Double oval base; circular dome; rounded doorway; separate padded-look crochet rim without hidden cord.
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 8 sc x 8 rounds = 10 cm. Make the doorway-rim strip slightly firmer than the shell.
Photo-style target	Starting target: 46-50 cm floor, 40-44 cm height, 27-30 cm entrance.
Wash plan	The cushion is removable, while the rolled rim can be inspected and reshaped separately after the shell is washed.

Materials

- Super-bulky washable oatmeal yarn
- 8-10 mm hook
- markers
- yarn needle
- removable quilted 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

Use curled footprint plus 10 cm for the floor and shoulders plus 5-8 cm for the entrance. Rim strip length equals the measured doorway perimeter before joining.

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 and join two oval base panels. Turn the wall upward and work even rounds to the doorway base.
2. Shape a centered round entrance in rows, keeping both edges symmetrical.
3. Bridge the entrance and resume rounds. Work a few even rounds, then decrease gradually to close the crown.
4. Measure the finished doorway perimeter. Crochet a firm sc strip to that length, fold it lengthwise and join the long edges without stuffing or rigid cord.
5. Sew the soft rolled strip around the doorway with flat, close stitches. The roll must not reduce the required ear and collar clearance.
6. Add the removable quilted cushion, weave all tails and press the front edge to confirm the base returns flat.

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

The rolled rim should frame Skyla without touching her whiskers on both sides or catching the bell shown in the photograph.

- 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 cushion cover regularly. After shell washing, massage the rolled rim back into an even curve and dry completely.

Safety

Keep the rim soft and hollow. Do not conceal tubing, wire or hard cord inside it.

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: _____