

Skyla's Oatmeal Thermal-Stitch Blanket

A photo-matched crochet pet blanket with dense stitch guidance, measurement-based sizing, washable-yarn notes and finishing checks.



A compact oatmeal blanket with dense horizontal rows, a plain edge and enough body to fold neatly without looking stiff.

Publishing status

Prototype-ready draft. Crochet, wash and supervise one physical pet-use test before calling this pattern tested.

Project plan

Visible construction	A compact oatmeal blanket with dense horizontal rows, a plain edge and enough body to fold neatly without looking stiff.
Starting stitch	single-crochet thermal stitch
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 14 thermal sc x 15 rows = 10 cm after washing and drying.
Photo-style target	Photo-style starting target: 55 x 70 cm. Suggested cat range: 50-60 cm wide by 65-80 cm long.

Materials

- Worsted washable cotton blend, approximately 450-650 m for a cat size
- 5 mm hook or size needed for gauge
- yarn needle
- locking markers.

Also have scissors, a measuring tape and a smooth 15 cm swatch board. Keep needles, markers and loose yarn away from pets.

Abbreviations

ch = chain; sc = single crochet; hdc = half double crochet; dc = double crochet; BLO = back loop only; st(s) = stitch(es); rep = repeat.

Measure before crocheting

Blanket width = curled body width + 15-20 cm. Blanket length = nose-to-rump resting length + 20-25 cm. Round to a whole stitch repeat after the swatch is washed.

Pet / use	Starting width	Starting length	Write actual size
Cat	50-60 cm	65-80 cm	___ x ___ cm
Small dog	55-65 cm	75-90 cm	___ x ___ cm
Medium / large dog	65-95 cm	85-125 cm	___ x ___ cm

Swatch and snag check

- Make a 15 cm swatch, wash it as the yarn label allows and dry it completely.
- Record stitches and rows per 10 cm before and after washing.
- Run fingertips and a blunt wooden cuticle stick lightly across both surfaces. Reject visible loops that lift easily.
- Rub the yarn with a white cloth to check shedding or dye transfer.
- Choose the safer tighter version if two hook sizes both produce flexible fabric.

Pattern instructions

1. Chain to the calculated width plus one turning chain. Work one row of ordinary sc across.
2. For each thermal row, insert the hook through the back loop of the current row and the corresponding unused loop one row below, then complete one sc. Continue across and turn.
3. Repeat thermal rows until the blanket reaches the calculated length. Check every few rows that both layers remain aligned and no lower loop was skipped.
4. Work one round of ordinary sc through both loops around the perimeter, placing three sc in each corner only if needed to keep it flat.
5. Weave tails through both dense layers in more than one direction. Wash the prototype, reshape it flat and record any size change before revising the final dimensions.

Finishing checklist

- Lay the blanket flat and confirm the corners do not curl into cord-like loops.
- Weave every tail through dense stitches in more than one direction, tug-test, then trim.
- Inspect the reverse surface, color changes and border joins, not only the photographed side.
- Wash and dry the completed prototype before measuring final size and yardage.

Pet-use fit check

Skyla should be able to curl without pushing over the edge. Recheck size as she grows and never assume one cat measurement fits another cat.

- Let the pet approach voluntarily and supervise the first sessions.
- Watch the pet lie down, turn, stand and walk off without the blanket wrapping around a paw.
- Remove the blanket if a claw catches, yarn loosens, the pet chews, or the fabric forms a tight loop.
- Keep the blanket dry and away from heaters or open flames.

Care

Follow the yarn label. Support the dense wet fabric, press out water without twisting and dry completely before returning it to the chair.

Design-specific safety

Thermal stitch reduces exposed loops but is not claw-proof. Inspect the folded edge and both surfaces after every wash.

Final sign-off

Swatch washed: ____ Finished size: _____ Both sides inspected: ____ Edges secure: ____ Supervised pet-use check passed: ____ Yarn / hook / yardage recorded: _____ Version/date: _____