

Crochet tools and tips:

Acrylic yarn: **Red Heart (Medium/4 ply)** is a good choice. It's washable/dryer friendly.

Fleece: **Polar** or **Blizzard** fleece are the better choices.

Crochet hook: **USF4/3.50MM** or **USF5/3.75MM**

Rotary blade: **45MM – WIDE** skip stitch blade
Can be purchased via Amazon



Your own fleece project:

The most important tips are to relax and work on your project in a pet-free area. Pet fur, fragrances, chemical smells, smoke, etc. just are not good for any baby that is sick or might be allergic.

Let's get started and let's start small - - a baby blanket. A really nice size is 36"x40". One yard is all you need. Cut off the selvages first. Now open up the fleece and fold it half. The piece will be long and narrow. Next, it's time to cut the fleece to size - 40". And just a reminder, all fleece blankets must be one layer.

Now trim the fleece corners to a rounded edge. You can use a 1 cup measuring cup or a small plate to create the curved line.

Time to run the skip stitch blade around the fleece. I find that a half inch from the edge works well. It's just the right amount to turn under as you crochet. In the photo below, you can see that once you start crocheting, you want the fold to go to the back side of the fleece and it will do that once you start crocheting. The first row is your **foundation** for the second row which creates a very nice and simple finish.

What happens at the corners? Corners are easy. You can put a second stitch into a hole to transition the corner nicely. Not too tight and not too loose. And maybe

you need to do a second one. It all depends on the hole location. Just practice with it. The end result is a sweet baby blanket that lays perfectly flat.



Working with fleece:

How do you tell the front of printed fleece from the back? Sometimes it's really hard to tell. The front usually is brighter and images have crisp edges.

- **Visual difference:**
Sometimes, the "right" side might appear slightly smoother or have a more defined pattern compared to the "wrong" side. If you are working with solid color fleece, look for the fold line (from when it was on the bolt). The top hump of the fold is the front of the fleece.
- **Selvage check:**
Look for small pinholes on the selvage edge, which often indicate the wrong side.
- **Curling test:**
Gently stretch the fabric across a cut edge; the side that curls inwards is usually the back.

Single Layer Fleece Blanket Sizes:

Baby (minimum size) - 36"x40" (1 yard)

Two rows of crochet & close stitches for safety reasons

Child – 40"x55" to 40"x60" (1 1/8 yard)

Two rows of crochet

Teen – 48"x65" to 50"x72" (2 yards)

Two rows of crochet