

Knit/Crochet Baby Blanket Guidelines

Thank you so much for your willingness to support our mission by providing a beautiful handmade blanket! Please understand that we have specific guidelines for these blankets for a reason. We are offering our services to families who have experienced pregnancy, stillbirth, or infant loss.

*Many of these babies are very small, and not fully developed which determines the size and colors we have requested. We also offer these keepsakes through our hospital partners and need to be respectful of their space, which is why we only offer keepsake boxes that would work for either a boy or girl. **These items are gifted freely to the families we serve. Rachel's Gift does not make any income from keepsake items that are donated.** Thank you for understanding. All specifications are below!*

♥ **QUALITY STANDARDS** - Our goal is to provide blankets of the highest quality to grieving families at their time of loss. We ask that volunteers use the specific yarn types and colors mentioned below, as they are most preferred by hospitals, grieving families, and bereavement photographers.

We cannot use blankets made of bright colors, dark colors, beige, black, red, orange, or made of one color only. These colors do not lend itself well to photos and don't compliment babies' skin after they have passed.

We ask for knit/crocheted blankets only as they work best for the tiny babies we serve. Flannel and quilted blankets, though beautiful, are too bulky to wrap around baby and don't normally fit in our keepsake box.

We cannot accept blankets that have been exposed to cigarette smoke or have pet hair on them. They can be washed before sending them in if necessary.

All donated blankets are inspected before distribution to hospitals. If we are unable to use them, they will be donated to another non-profit organization that will find a good home for them!

♥ **SIZES** - Blankets must fit inside our keepsake boxes to be used. The best size is approximately 21in. x 21in. If you're having trouble sizing down a beloved pattern, no larger than 25in. x 25in. It does not have to be a perfect square, but we do request square/rectangular blankets only.

♥ **PATTERNS** - Feel free to use any pattern of your choosing! The final size and color are most important to us. If you need ideas, search The Crochet Crowd's YouTube channel for detailed instructional videos. Their instructions for different stitches will say multiples of 3 or 4, depending on the pattern. Crochet loosely and use 60-80 in your chain. If you end up with a blanket that is too small, consider adding a border in a complementary color.

♥ **YARN TYPES** - Please use baby yarn for both its softness and weight. Please use a weight of 2-4. Blankets made of heavier-weight yarns are too bulky to fold into our keepsake boxes and make it difficult to hold tiny babies.

Examples: <https://www.hobbylobby.com/yarn-needle-art/yarn-tools/yarn/sport-weight-i-love-this-yarn/p/36409>

<https://www.hobbylobby.com/yarn-needle-art/yarn-tools/yarn/print-i-love-this-yarn/p/80896133>

https://www.hobbylobby.com/yarn-needle-art/yarn-tools/yarn/100-sorbet-ballet---baby-bee-stork-struck-yarn/p/81076579?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=20441340174&gbraid=0AAAAAC-lqNybdgwDCmlx-IYBx7COS05l4&gclid=Cj0KCQiA4eHLBhCzARIsAJ2NZolclh3h-W90s3noPXfclAduQSzXa3ncIP9Ly1WKMQdiYR0R9A5CRkaAvPWEALw_wcB

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Caron-One-Pound-Yarn-Soft-Sage/37729737>

♥ **YARN COLORS** - Always include a combination of **pastels** that could be used for either a boy or a girl. It is best to include both pink and blue, then add any additional pastel color you like. A mix of blue/pink/white is beautiful. Variegated baby yarn including a variety of colors is perfect as well. ***Please do not donate solid-colored blankets.***

Ex. Blue and green mixture is generally for a boy, so add in some pink and yellow.



WHEN COMPLETE, MAIL TO:

Rachel's Gift
922 Highway 81 East #153
McDonough, GA 30252

****Please include a note inside with your full name and address in case that info is illegible on your box after shipping. *We will mail you an in-kind receipt.***

DO

21"x21"
Pastels
Any Pattern
Baby soft yarn
2-4 weighted yarn

DON'T

Larger than 25"x25"
Bright/Dark Colors
Round blankets
Solid color blankets
4+ weighted yarn