

Yarns for Weaving: A Guide for Shops

Beautiful fabrics can be woven from most of the yarns in your shop. We offer a few guidelines when thinking about yarn for weaving.

Knitting vs. Weaving Yarns

Yarns designed for knitting have more stretch than yarns created specifically for weaving. Because of this, finished fabrics may have more “bounce” on the loom and not full in the same way that a weaving yarn might.

The Wonders of Wool

We love wool yarns for weaving because they full or blossom during the washing process. Be aware that superwash wools have been engineered to not full or felt during washing. They don't produce the hand that we like to see in a woven fabric.

We suggest that you keep in stock an affordable wool yarn, such as Brown Sheep's Nature Spun in sizes that fit our range of reeds (a general rule of thumb: 5=bulky; 8=worsted; 10=sport; 12=fingering).

Acrylic Knitting Yarns

Because they stretch a lot under tension, we don't recommend acrylic knitting yarns for warp. If you must, the weft is okay, but an acrylic yarn will not bloom during the finishing process and may leave you with either an overly limp or overly stiff fabric.

Novelties

Novelty yarns combined with a simple plied yarn can produce smashing results. If possible, sley the novelty yarn in the slots where it has more room to move. Running a length of yarn up and down in a slot (or a hole) is one way to gauge if it will move freely in that reed.

Cellulose Fiber

A small collection of cellulose fiber yarns, such as pearl cotton on cones, will be helpful to your weaving customers. They are great for pick-up techniques and table linens. Coned yarns displayed on narrow shelves in multiple colors are very inviting. Even if you aren't a full service weaving store you may find that you attract weavers just by carrying pearl cotton and other such yarns.

