

20,000 Yards of Yarn a Year

Recently, over on the fiber site [Ravelry](#), one of the programmers showed how to figure out your yarn total usage - it's a little statistic at the bottom of all the project pages. Curious, I scrolled down [my main project page](#) to discover my yarn usage total:

139,308 yards. Nope, that is not a typo.

My mind shut down for a minute. Seriously? Rounding it, 140 thousand yards of yarn? Really? Whoa. That is a LOT of yarn. More than 79 miles of yarn, 417,924 feet, and over 5 million inches of yarn.

I checked some of my projects, and it turns out that this might be a little low, because if I was using up scraps early on, I didn't include the usage in my Ravelry project page. Rounding up a bit, to 150,000 yards (and I think that the real number is even higher), and dividing by the 7.5 years I have been knitting and including projects on Ravelry, that is 20,000 yards of yarn used *each year*.

Yarn comes in a variety of thicknesses - what are called weights, so I can't give you a pounds conversion, but let's be real, I'm not sure that I could lift all this yarn at once. Good thing it comes just in small quantities that I use at a slow (ok, maybe not that slow) a pace.

Some other interesting facts. Here's a bit of a breakdown on yarn usage.

- Sweaters: 50,000 yards
- Shawls: 20,000 yards
- Socks: 26,000 yards
- Hats: 7,300 yards
- Projects for Afghans for Afghans: 30,000 yards

That feels good to see the 30,000 yards for Afghans for Afghans, 20 percent of my knitting to them (at least - I'm not sure I coded all my projects right).

There is a really wonderful upside to all of this: my stash now looks quite reasonable. I am pretty sure that I do not have 20,000 yards in the stash, which means I am a pretty frugal stasher with less than one year's of knitting yarn to my name!

Now I'm feeling a little anxious, like I might run out of yarn really soon.

Maybe checking that number was not such a good idea.

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