

HOW TO READ A YARN LABEL

THE YARN BRAND AND NAME:

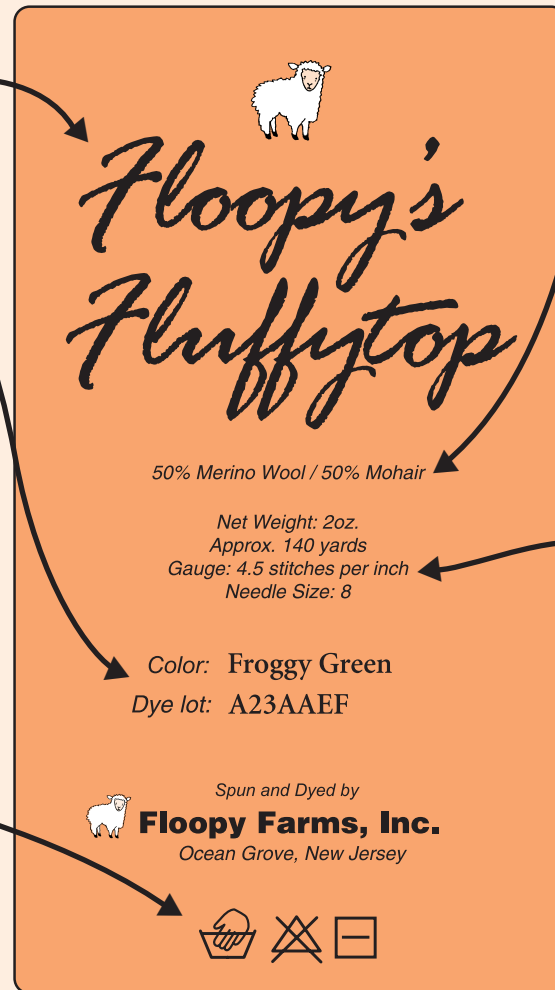
If this is Floopy's Fluffytop, it will say it here.

YARN COLOR AND DYE LOT:

If the yarn color is "Froggy Green," it will say it here. But more important is the dye lot number, written in some sort of nonsensical gibberish like "A23AAEF." It's very important that you buy all your yarn from the same dye lot. Otherwise, your sweater might be one shade of green in the front, and a slightly different shade in the sleeves. (Most yarn stores will allow you to return unused balls of yarn, so buy extra.)

WASHING INSTRUCTIONS:

You may not be able to decode the washing hieroglyphics on yarn labels, but, well, at least they try. These say that the yarn should be hand-washed, never ironed, and dried flat.



FIBER CONTENT:

What the heck is this stuff made of, anyway? Possum fur? Dog hair? Pieces of lint? Probably the first thing you'll read on a label, the fiber content will tell you what the yarn is made of, and the percentage of each fiber. A common blend for socks, for instance, is 80 percent wool and 20 percent nylon.

SUGGESTED NEEDLE SIZE AND GAUGE:

Yarn labels usually tell you how many stitches and rows you will get per 4-inch piece of fabric while knitting with the suggested size of needle. This info is particularly useful when you are trying to use a different yarn than what a given pattern calls for. If the yarn has the same recommended needle size and gauge listed on the label, it's a safe bet that you can use it in place of the pattern's yarn.