



6 Quick Tips for Using Your Stash



*Are you saving your stash for a rainy day?
Put your stash treasures to good use with these quick stashbusting tips.*

1. Ask yourself, “Is this little bit enough to save?” If you don’t have at least 20 grams of the yarn leftover, it might not be worth saving. Yes, it can still be saved for waste yarn, but I find that often those little piles of tidbits end up growing beyond our ability to use them. If you want a stash that’s really friendly to use, it can help to pick a minimum amount and draw the line somewhere. Saving at least 20 grams means you’ll have enough to actually use it in a meaningful way.

2. Know What You Have. If you don’t know what you have in your stash, it’s really hard to make good use of it. Every now and then, take the time to reorganize and refresh your stash so you’ll remember what’s there. I don’t know about you, but I often find little treasures I forgot I had!

3. Keep Like Bits Together. Keep any bits and bobs of the same yarn together in the same place - this makes it easier to use them in the best possible way. If you have only a mini-skein amount (about 20 grams) you might use it for a stripe or part of a pompom. But if you have three little balls that add up to 140 grams altogether, you might have enough for a whole hat. There’s nothing worse than using a little bit of the leftover yarn for a pompom, only to realize you have a little more of it somewhere else (but now it’s not enough for a small project).

4. Pockets. Remember that you can always use stash yarn for the inside of a pocket. Pocket yarn doesn’t have to be the same color as the sweater; it doesn’t even have to be the same yarn weight. (In fact, I recommend using yarn that is 1-2 yarn weights lighter than what you use for your sweater if you can; it makes the pocket lay nice and flat.)

5. Stripes. Never underestimate the power of stripes! Stash yarn is perfect for adding stripes or contrast to a project.

6. Try Before You Buy. Don’t forget you can use your stash to test out potential yarns for your next project. If you want to knit a pattern that calls for a yarn similar to one you’ve used before, you can test out the gauge before you order more. As long as the company hasn’t changed the yarn base (which doesn’t happen very often), you can swatch with the yarn you have on hand and then order more of that same yarn for the project once you confirm that you’ll be able to get gauge.