Waffle Stitch Dishcloth

Free CookZya crochet pattern · US crochet terms



The photo is a preview of the finished look, not crocheted and swatched by a person.

A waffle stitch dishcloth is a square of deep pockets. The front post double crochet stitches stand up as ridges, and the dc between them sink into small squares that hold soap, water and crumbs. It is the reason this stitch is a favorite for the kitchen.

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Materials

Finished size	About 7.7 x 8.1 in (estimated)
Yarn	Worsted cotton (#4): about 34 yd cream and 30 yd sage green (estimated, with a 30 % margin)
Hook	US H-8 (5 mm)
Gauge	Suggested only: about 3.5 sts and 1.85 rows = 1 in (estimated)
Rows	Foundation ch 29, then 15 rows: 1 row of dc, then 7 Row A and 7 Row B
Time	About 105 to 140 minutes, with 1 color change and 4 ends to weave in (estimated, not timed)
Skills	ch, dc, fpdc, changing color in the last dc

- Color A: cream, about 34 yd (estimated)
- Color B: sage green, about 30 yd (estimated)
- Yarn needle and scissors. Cotton yarn makes the best dishcloth: it stays firm and takes heat.

Stitch counts checked row by row by our simulator. This dishcloth has not been crocheted and swatched by a person: size, yarn and time are estimates.

Before you start

- US crochet terms. ch = chain, dc = double crochet, fpdc = front post double crochet, st(s) = stitch(es), yo = yarn over, rep = repeat. Fpdc: yo, push the hook from front to back to front around the upright stem (the post) of the stitch below, yo and pull up a loop, then (yo, pull through 2 loops) twice. A fpdc is worked in the place of a dc: it takes the spot of that st, so you skip nothing and never also work into its top. Each row after Row 1 starts with ch 2 and a turn (the ch 2 does not count as a st and is never worked into).
- Row 1 is the wrong side. Every odd row (1, 3, 5 … 15) is worked with the wrong side facing you and every even row (2, 4 … 14) with the right side facing you. You turn at the end of every row but the last. On the wrong-side rows the posts come toward you, so those rows put their ridges on the wrong side.
- Row A (even rows 2-14): dc, then (fpdc, 2 dc) 8 times, fpdc, dc = 27 sts (18 dc and 9 fpdc). Row B (odd rows 3-15): 2 dc, then (2 fpdc, dc) 8 times, dc = 27 sts (11 dc and 16 fpdc).
- Gauge: about 3.5 sts and 1.85 rows = 1 in (estimated). 27 sts are about 7.7 in wide.
- Other widths: chain a multiple of 3, plus 5 (here 3 x 8 + 5 = 29), and repeat the part between the * one more or one fewer time for each 3 sts. A bigger cloth is then a longer or wider square; a smaller one is a wash cloth. The numbers are estimates: your yarn and tension decide.
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Waffle stitch dishcloth

Flat, in rows. Row 1 is the wrong side; the even rows are worked with the right side facing you. Cream for Rows 1-8, then sage green for Rows 9-15. The count after each row is the number of stitches you work in that row (the turning ch is not a st).

Chain With cream, ch 29.

Row 1 Skip the first 2 ch from the hook (they stand in for a turning ch). Dc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in every ch to the end. (27 sts: 27 dc.)

Row 2 Ch 2, turn. Dc in the 1st st. *Fpdc around the next st, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Fpdc around the next st, dc in the last st. (27 sts: 18 dc and 9 fpdc.)

Row 3 Ch 2, turn. Dc in each of the first 2 sts. *Fpdc around each of the next 2 sts, dc in the next st; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Dc in the last st. (27 sts: 11 dc and 16 fpdc.)

Row 4 Ch 2, turn. Dc in the 1st st. *Fpdc around the next st, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Fpdc around the next st, dc in the last st. (27 sts: 18 dc and 9 fpdc.)

Row 5 Ch 2, turn. Dc in each of the first 2 sts. *Fpdc around each of the next 2 sts, dc in the next st; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Dc in the last st. (27 sts: 11 dc and 16 fpdc.)

Row 6 Ch 2, turn. Dc in the 1st st. *Fpdc around the next st, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Fpdc around the next st, dc in the last st. (27 sts: 18 dc and 9 fpdc.)

Row 7 Ch 2, turn. Dc in each of the first 2 sts. *Fpdc around each of the next 2 sts, dc in the next st; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Dc in the last st. (27 sts: 11 dc and 16 fpdc.)

Row 8 Ch 2, turn. Dc in the 1st st. *Fpdc around the next st, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Fpdc around the next st, dc in the last st, changing to sage green: work that last dc in cream until 2 loops are left, then pull sage green through them. Fasten off cream, leaving a 6-inch tail. (27 sts: 18 dc and 9 fpdc.)

Row 9 Ch 2, turn. Dc in each of the first 2 sts. *Fpdc around each of the next 2 sts, dc in the next st; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Dc in the last st. (27 sts: 11 dc and 16 fpdc.)

Row 10 Ch 2, turn. Dc in the 1st st. *Fpdc around the next st, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Fpdc around the next st, dc in the last st. (27 sts: 18 dc and 9 fpdc.)

Row 11 Ch 2, turn. Dc in each of the first 2 sts. *Fpdc around each of the next 2 sts, dc in the next st; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Dc in the last st. (27 sts: 11 dc and 16 fpdc.)

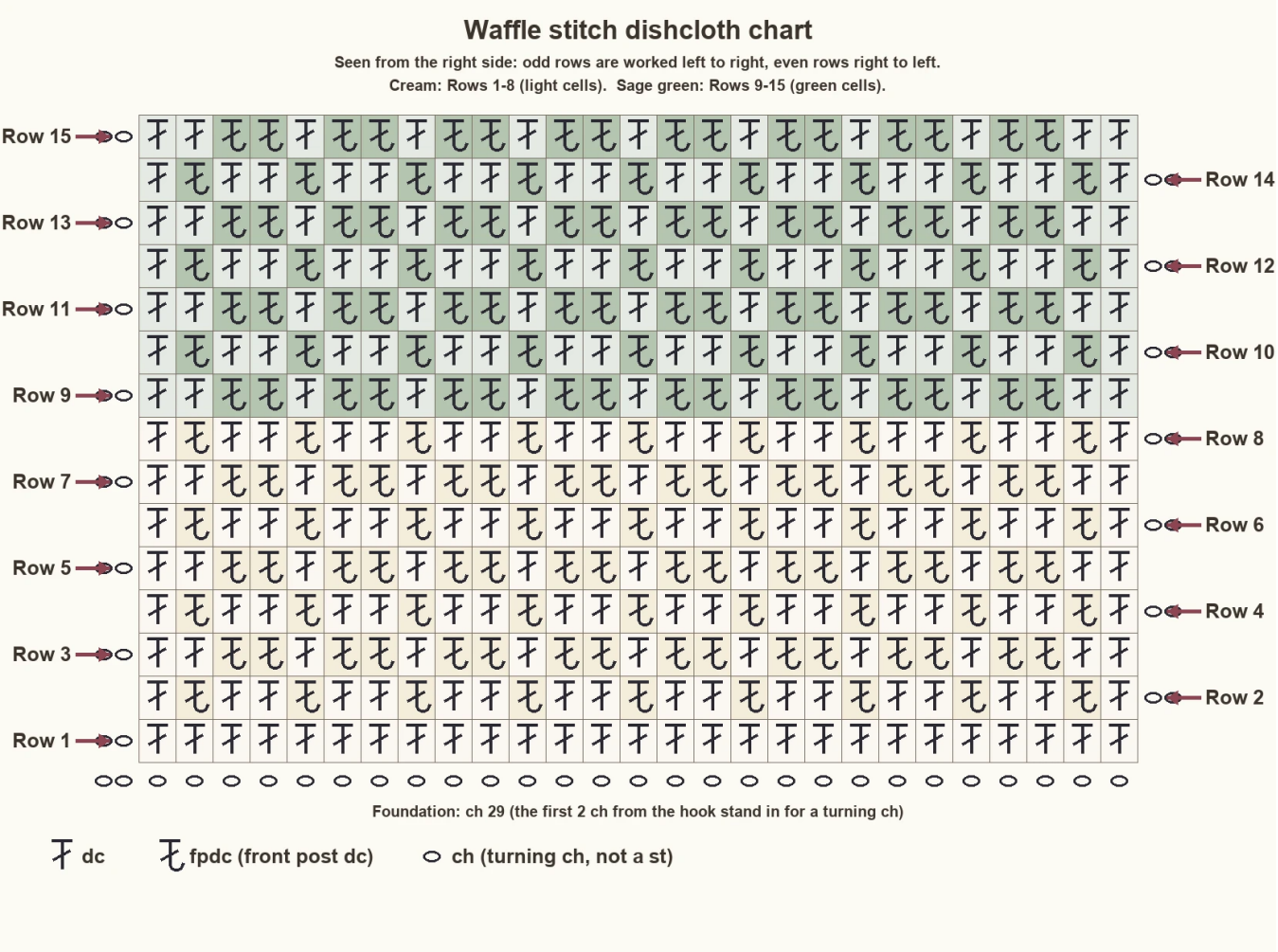
Row 12 Ch 2, turn. Dc in the 1st st. *Fpdc around the next st, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Fpdc around the next st, dc in the last st. (27 sts: 18 dc and 9 fpdc.)

Row 13 Ch 2, turn. Dc in each of the first 2 sts. *Fpdc around each of the next 2 sts, dc in the next st; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Dc in the last st. (27 sts: 11 dc and 16 fpdc.)

Row 14 Ch 2, turn. Dc in the 1st st. *Fpdc around the next st, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Fpdc around the next st, dc in the last st. (27 sts: 18 dc and 9 fpdc.)

Row 15 Ch 2, turn. Dc in each of the first 2 sts. *Fpdc around each of the next 2 sts, dc in the next st; rep from * 7 more times (8 times in all). Dc in the last st. (27 sts: 11 dc and 16 fpdc.) Fasten off and weave in the ends.

Waffle stitch dishcloth chart



The stitch chart, drawn from the pattern and seen from the right side. A short stem is a dc; a taller stem on a darker cell is a fpdc; an oval is a ch. The 29 ovals along the bottom are the foundation ch, and the 2 ovals at the end of each row are the turning ch (not stitches). Rows 1-8 are cream, Rows 9-15 sage green.

How the waffle stitch works

1. A fpdc goes around the post, not into the top: Yo, push the hook in from the front, around the stem of the stitch below, and out to the front again. Pull up a loop and finish it like a dc. It replaces the dc of that stitch.
2. Row A and Row B are different: Row A puts one fpdc, then 2 dc, over and over (9 fpdc in the row). Row B puts 2 fpdc side by side, then 1 dc (16 fpdc in the row). That shift makes the pockets.
3. The posts shape the pockets: Each pocket is the dc between the posts of the row below and the row above. Keep the posts snug and the squares stay deep.
4. Change color in the last dc of Row 8: Work that dc in cream until 2 loops are left, pull sage green through, then fasten off cream with a 6-inch tail.

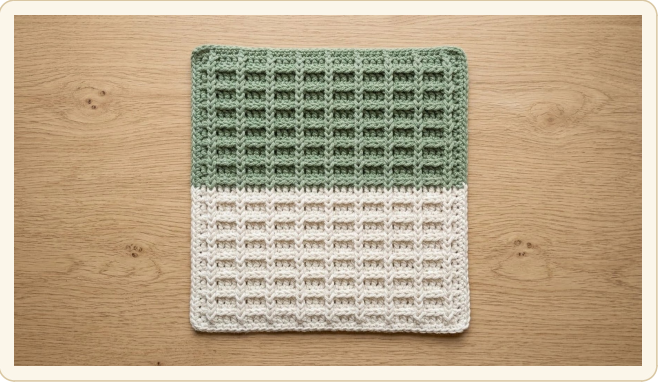
Finishing

Weave the 4 ends into stitches of their own color. Wash the cloth once, then lay it flat to dry. Cotton relaxes a little in the first wash, so the size may change.

Use it for

- A kitchen dishcloth. The deep pockets hold soap and scrub dishes well.
- A washcloth or a spa cloth for the bathroom, in a soft cotton.
- A set of cloths as a gift: change the two colors and keep the counts.





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Tips

- Count after every row. Each row must end with 27 sts: the posts are easy to double or skip.
- Work each fpdc around the post of the stitch below it, never around the turning ch.
- Keep the fpdc loose enough to slide the hook through; a tight post pulls the edges in.
- Keep the edge dc at the start and end of the row: they hold the straight sides.

Common mistakes

- Working a dc into the top of a stitch that already has a fpdc. The fpdc replaces that dc.
- Working into the turning ch. It is not a st, so work into the first st; the row stays at 27.
- Mixing up Row A and Row B. Row A has fpdc one at a time, Row B has them in pairs.

Make it your own

- Swap the colors. Keep the change in the last dc of Row 8 and the counts stay the same.
- Make it in one color for a plain cloth, or add a third band by repeating the color change.

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