

Possum pouches

When young wombats, gliders, wallabies, bandicoots or possums come into care they need to be kept warm and quiet. WIRES carers are always in need of suitable pouches. The pouches are used for many different animals, some for two or three young ringtails at once, others for brushtail joeys which are larger and even for very young bandicoots. This means various size pouches are useful. Many people who would like to help our wildlife but are unable to commit to rescue or care volunteering can help by making pouches and linings.

Standard Pouches (2 sizes)

Wool: 8 ply **pure wool** (unfortunately we are unable to use pouches made from synthetic materials as the joeys cannot breathe in closed synthetic pouches)

Knitting: Pouches should be knitted in plain stitch both sides

Needles: Size 8 needles dimensions 18 cm wide by 20 cm long when finished (after sewing together) or 24 cm wide by 30 cm long when finished (after sewing together)
Closed on the two longer sides and one end and left open at the top.

Beginners knitting pattern for possum pouches

12 ply wool

Size 6 needles

Cast on 30 stitches

Row 1: Knit stitch

Repeat 1st row until work measures 48 cm

Cast off: Fold work in half and sew the sides together

This can be knitted with a circular needle and stocking stitch if preferred.

8 ply wool

Needles 4mm

Cast on 36 stitches

Row 1: Knit stitch

Repeat 1st row until work measures 48cm

Cast off: Fold work in half and sew the sides together

Finished size approx. 17cm wide, 24cm long.

This can be knitted with a circular needle and stocking stitch if preferred.

Advanced knitting pattern for possum pouches

8 ply wool

1 x 16 inch circular needle in size 4mm or set of 4 double-ended needles

Cast on 70 stitches

Rows 1 – 8: Purl

Row 9: Knit

Continue in stocking stitch until work measures 23 cm

Finish off with Kitchener stitch or cast off and sew bottom of pouch together.

12 ply wool

1 x 16 inch circular needle in size 6mm or set of 4 double-ended needles

Cast on 56 stitches

Rows 1 – 6: Purl

Row 7: Knit

Continue in stocking stitch until work measures 23 cm

Finish off with Kitchener stitch or cast off and sew bottom of pouch together.

Pattern for hot water bottle covers

12 ply wool

1 x 16 inch circular needle size 5 or 6mm

2 x 50 g balls of 12 ply wool

Cast on 50 stitches

Row 1: K1, P1 to end

Rep 1st row for 12 rows. Increase 10 stitches evenly across last row (60)

Row 14: Knit

Continue in knit stitch until work measures 33 cm

Finish in Kitchener stitch or cast off and sew bottom together.