

# Knit a warm home for Age UK

Support our campaign for warm homes



# Age UK's campaign for warm homes

**Each winter one older person dies every seven minutes from the cold weather. Many more older people become seriously ill due to living in a cold home.**

These deaths and health problems could be prevented if everyone lived in a warm home. The UK has some of the worst levels of home energy efficiency in Europe, but with proper insulation and energy efficiency measures nearly all homes could be made much warmer.

That's why Age UK is calling on the Government to make millions of homes much more energy efficient, starting with the poorest and most energy inefficient homes.

Such an approach would not only improve older people's health and wellbeing and save lives; it would also bring down consumer bills and lift hundreds of thousands out of fuel poverty.

We believe that no older person should have to worry about the cold and everyone should be able to keep warm and well in winter. A legacy of warm and well-insulated homes would make a significant contribution to enabling everyone – not just older people – to keep warm, well and healthy in the future.



## Knit a warm home



**You can support our campaign by knitting a warm home for Cold Homes Week (2-6 February 2015), a week of action organised by the biggest ever public campaign and alliance to end fuel poverty, the Energy Bill Revolution. During Cold Homes Week, Age UK and hundreds of other organisations will be calling on MPs and local councillors to make millions of homes much more energy efficient.**

Local Age UKs up and down the country will be proudly exhibiting your knitted warm homes and inviting MPs and local councillors to see them, prompting conversations about tackling fuel poverty locally.

Whether you're knitting alone or in a group, you could knit a home – or even a village, town or city – for Cold Homes Week. All that we ask is you get in touch with us to tell us what you're planning on knitting and where you live and we'll put you in touch with your local Age UK.

Phone us on **020 3033 1712**

Email us **[campaigns@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@ageuk.org.uk)**

Write to us:

**Age UK Campaigns**  
2nd Floor, Tavis House  
1-6 Tavistock Square  
London WC1H 9NA

**You have from now until 9 January 2015 to knit your warm home(s), but the sooner you get knitting the better, so we can make Cold Homes Week a big success!**



# Description

This is a simple knitted house with moss stitch roof, stocking stitch walls and chimneys. The door and windows have a raised effect and hand sewn details. Feel free to use yarn in your own choice of (warm) colours and embellish the house as you see fit.

**Yarn:** Any DK weight yarn. Colours shown in the example with letter abbreviation and approximate amount: A (white) 100m/109yds, B (orange) 10m/10yds, C (purple) 60m/65yds.

**Needles:** Pair of size 3.25mm straight knitting needles.

**Notions:** Tapestry needle for sewing seams, toy stuffing/filling approx. 100g, (optional extra weight filling if making for a door stop e.g. rice and strong plastic freezer bag).

**Finished size approximately:** 19cm high x 10cm deep x 20cm wide (7.5 x 4 x 8 inches).

**Gauge:** 26 stitches x 34 rows over 10cm (4ins) in stocking stitch.

## Abbreviations:

**K:** knit

**P:** purl

**RS:** right side

**WS:** wrong side

**St st:** stocking stitch

**K2tog:** knit two stitches together

**S1kp:** slip one stitch from left needle to right needle purl wise, knit the next stitch, pass the slipped stitch over the knit stitch.

**Knitting skills:** Cast on, cast off, knit, purl, knit two stitches together, pass stitch over, make stitches using backward loop method, working with changes of colour, sewing seams.

**Estimated time required:** 12 hours for a fast knitter; 16 hours for a slow knitter.

# Instructions

The base, front and back walls are knitted in one piece, starting at the top of the back wall. A purl ridge is worked on the front of the stocking stitch to mark the transitions between each of the house wall and base sections. Take care with the tension when working with the colour changes. Leave 20cm cast on and cast off tail ends for use later when sewing side seams. Cast on 50 stitches in main colour A using 3.25mm needles.

**Row 1:** (RS) K

**Row 2:** P

Repeat rows 1 and 2, working a total of 24 rows of st st. These rows will form the back wall.

**Row 25:** (RS) P

**Row 26:** P

**Rows 27-49:** Repeat rows 1 and 2, working a further 23 rows in st st. These rows will form the base.

**Row 50:** (WS) K

**Row 51:** K20, P1, K8, P1, K20. This and the following rows will form the front of the house.

The following rows include the instructions for the windows and door colour changes abbreviated to A and B.

**Row 52:** P20A, K1A, P8B, K1A, P20A.

**Row 53:** K20A, P1A, K8B, P1A, K20A.

**Row 54-57:** Repeat rows 52 and 53 two more times.

**Row 58:** Repeat row 52.

**Row 59:** K6A, P8A, K6A, P1A, K8B, P1A, K6A, P8A, K6A.

**Row 60:** P6A, K1A, P6B, K1A, P6A, K1A, P8B, K1A, P6A, K1A, P6B, K1A, P6A.

**Row 61:** K6A, P1A, K6B, P1A, K6A, P1A, K8B, P1A, K6A, P1A, K6B, P1A, K6A.

**Row 62-67:** Repeat rows 60 and 61 three more times.

**Row 68:** (This row and following rows all in main colour A). P6, K1, P6, K1, P6, K1, P8, K1, P6, K1, P6, K1, P6.

**Row 69:** K6, P8, K6, P10, K6, P8, K6.

**Row 70:** P

**Row 71:** K

**Row 72-73:** Repeat rows 70 and 71.

**Row 74:** P. Cast off.

(continued over)



# Instructions continued

## Side walls

With RS facing and 3.25mm needle, pick up and knit 23 stitches along the edge of the house base in main colour A. (Repeat the instructions for the other side wall).

**Row 2:** P

**Row 3:** K

**Row 4:** P

Repeat rows 3 and 4, working 24 rows in st st.

**Row 25:** (RS facing, start of decreases for gable end wall). K1, K2tog, knit to last three stitches, s1kp, K1.

**Row 26:** P

Repeat rows 25 and 26 until 5 stitches remain RS facing.

**Start of chimney section.** With RS facing, make five stitches using backward loop cast on. (Backward loop cast on is used to add stitches onto the side of a piece of work. Loop the working yarn and place it on the needle backwards so that it doesn't unwind).

Turn work.

P2, K1, P2, K1, P3, K1, (10 stitches).

Make five stitches. Turn work.

(RS facing), K2, P1, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, P1, K2 (15 stitches).

(The following row numbers 1 and 2 refer to this chimney section only for ease of use).

**Row 1:** (WS) P2, K1, P2, K1, P3, K1, P2, K1, P2.

**Row 2:** (RS) K2, P1, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, P1, K2.

Repeat the above rows 1 and 2, one more time. Cast off.

## Front and back roof

With RS facing and 3.25mm needle pick up and knit 49 stitches in colour C along the cast off edge of the front house wall. (Repeat roof instructions for cast on edge of the back wall).

**Row 1:** \*K1, P1, repeat from\* to last stitch, K1.

**Rows 2-29:** Repeat Row 1, working 28 rows of moss stitch. Cast off.

## Finishing

Using a tapestry needle and main colour A, sew the glazing bar details on the windows, make four stitches from the edges of the window into the centre. Make a duplicate stitch for the door handle in contrast colour. Line up and sew corner seams (use spare length tail ends where possible). Join the chimney seams. Sew the sides of the roof to the sloping gable wall sections. Sew together 3cms of the roof cast off edges at each end to allow the chimneys to be sewn into position.

Fill with stuffing through the roof ridge and arrange filling to shape the house. Line up the roof ridge edges and sew together and weave in loose end.

**Note:** If using the finished house as a doorstep, add extra weight using a strong plastic bag filled with rice and surround with soft filling.

An original knitted design by Julia Marsh  
[handknittedthings.blogspot.co.uk](http://handknittedthings.blogspot.co.uk)

# Win a prize for the best knitted home!



**Once you've finished knitting your warm home(s), we'd love you to send us a photo of it to enter into our Cold Homes Week competition for the best knitted home. The competition will be judged by three members of staff at Age UK at 2pm on 4 February 2015. Entries will be judged against four key criteria: presentation, craftsmanship, use of colours and embellishment. The winning entry will win a Husqvarna Viking E20 sewing machine, worth £159.**

After Cold Homes Week, you have the option of keeping your knitted warm home or of donating it to your local Age UK, who will ensure that local older people benefit from it.

To enter our Cold Homes Week competition, please complete this form with your details, then tear it off and send it along with a photo of your knitted home to: **Freepost RTEH-ALYL-JJZU, Age UK, Campaigns, Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9NA** by 31 January 2015. You can also do this online at [www.spreadthewarmth.org.uk/knit](http://www.spreadthewarmth.org.uk/knit). We will notify and announce the winner at [www.spreadthewarmth.org.uk](http://www.spreadthewarmth.org.uk) on or before 5pm on Friday 6 February 2015. Good luck!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age UK will use the information you supply to communicate with you in line with Data Protection guidelines. Age UK (registered charity no 1128267) comprises the Charity, its group of companies and national partners (Age Cymru, Age Scotland and Age NI). If you would prefer not to hear from them please email us at [contact@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:contact@ageuk.org.uk) or telephone us at 0800 169 87 87. By providing your email address and/or telephone number you are agreeing to Age UK contacting you in these ways. You may contact Age UK at any time to unsubscribe from our communications.



**If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please get in touch.**

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