



# The Thread Exchange

Internet-based Thread Sellers  
 291-A Merrimon Avenue, Weaverville, NC 28787  
 800-915-2320



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## Nylon Thread Size Guide

Here is a list of forty things that are sewn with nylon thread and the range of thread sizes (thicknesses) that they use. Selecting the right thread size depends on the thickness of the material sewn, the "look" of stitching desired, and capabilities of available sewing machines. Then size ranges shown here are based on our experiences with customers since 2005.



[Nylon Thread Information](#)

	Size 15	Size 33	Size 46	Size 69	Size 92	Size 138	Size 207	Size 277	Size 346	Size 415	Size 500
Athletic Mats											
Athletic Pads											
Auto Interiors - Sizes 138 and 207 are the most frequently used. Heavier sizes make the thread stand out. Polyester is preferred when interiors are constantly exposed to strong sunlight (e.g. convertibles in Arizona)											
Awnings - Use polyester for outdoor awnings used outdoors (patios, storefronts); nylon works great for indoor work such as bed canapés											
Backpacks											
Banners and Flags - Use nylon in most cases. Exceptions are banners and flags that are regularly displayed outdoors.											
Bassoon and Oboe Reeds - Used for wrapping											
Book Binding - Most bookbinders prefer polyester											
	Size 15	Size 33	Size 46	Size 69	Size 92	Size 138	Size 207	Size 277	Size 346	Size 415	Size 500
Cat Collars and Leashes											
Corn Hole Bags - Polyester is better if the bags are left outside.											
Curtains and Drapes											
Residential											
Commercial ( stage )											
Costumes											
Cushions - Use nylon for indoors; polyester for patio and boat cushions.											
Decorative Stitching											
Lightweight (garments, purses, swimsuits)											
Middleweight (handbags, golf jackets)											
Heavyweight (knife sheaths, saddles)											
Dentist / Barber Chairs											
	Size 15	Size 33	Size 46	Size 69	Size 92	Size 138	Size 207	Size 277	Size 346	Size 415	Size 500
Dog											
Beds											
Collars											
Harnesses											
Leashes											

Fishing Rod Wrap - Bonded thread sometimes resists adhesives. Consider soft thread or soaking bonded thread in alcohol.	
Fly Tying	
<b>Garments</b>	
Lightweight (Swimsuits, t-shirts, pants)	
Middlweight (Windbreakers, blue jeans)	
Heavyweight (Leather jackets, overalls work gear)	
<b>Gloves</b>	
Dress	
Work - Do not use nylon for fire retardant gear. Use our fire retardant thread.	
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>Size 15</span> <span>Size 33</span> <span>Size 46</span> <span>Size 69</span> <span>Size 92</span> <span>Size 138</span> <span>Size 207</span> <span>Size 277</span> <span>Size 346</span> <span>Size 415</span> <span>Size 500</span> </div>
Hammocks - Use polyester when hammocks are left outdoors for prolonged periods	
<b>Horse</b>	
Blankets	
Saddles and Tack	
Laptop Cases - Leather, ballistic, and vinyl	
<b>Leatherwork</b>	
Lightweight - Slippers, small bags	
Middlweight - Moccasins, wallets, handbags	
Heavyweight - Shoes, boots, jackets	
Luggage - Sizes 207 and higher are for "show".	
Purses and handbags	
<b>Sandbags</b>	
Less than 20 pounds of sand	
More than 20 pounds of sand	
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>Size 15</span> <span>Size 33</span> <span>Size 46</span> <span>Size 69</span> <span>Size 92</span> <span>Size 138</span> <span>Size 207</span> <span>Size 277</span> <span>Size 346</span> <span>Size 415</span> <span>Size 500</span> </div>
Tailoring - Rarely used. Most use cotton and spun threads	
<b>Tarpaulins</b> - Polyester in the same sizes is preferred for outdoor use.	
Lightweight - Drop cloth	
Middlweight - Plant cover	
Heavyweight - Pool cover, circus tent	
<b>Upholstery / Furniture</b>	
Lightweight - Chenille	
Middlweight - Slip covers	
Heavyweight - Leather	
<b>Vinyl</b>	
Lightweight - Badge holders, toys	
Middlweight - Wall coverings, dust covers	
Heavyweight - Pool liners	
Wallets	
Weapon Cases	
<b>Webbing</b>	
Lightweight - Lawn chairs	
Middlweight - Straps	
Heavyweight - Conveyer belts	
X-Ray Aprons	

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