



Tips for Working With Wool Felt

What is Wool Blend Felt?

The wool blend felt that we stock is manufactured by National Nonwovens. It is a blend of either 20%/80% (Style WCF) or 35%/65% (Style TOY) wool/rayon. The two styles can be used interchangeably. The felt is approximately 36" wide prior to pre-washing and is approximately 2 mm thick. Check our website, or give us a call for current pricing.

How Do I Use Wool Blend Felt?

Wool felt is ideal for penny rugs, ornaments, pillows, faux foods or flowers, hair clips, banners, art work, and as so much more. There are no raw edges to finish, so wool felt makes for quick and easy projects.

How Do I Prepare Wool Blend Felt?

Wool blend felt is often washed prior to use to create a textured look. This softens the felt and creates a bubbly texture. We usually pre-wash for larger projects, and when we want that traditional penny-rug look. If you prefer the flat look that it has straight off the bolt, you can use the felt as-is. We often don't wash the felts when we are working with very small pieces for applique, when we want stitching details to be accented, or we want firm body, such as for making dimensional items like cupcakes, etc.

Occasionally, due to the nature of wool felt, you may find a piece that has folds or creases from being rolled on the bolt, or folded to fit your package. Rest assured that any folds will come out in the pre-washing process. If you choose not to pre-wash, creases are easily removed by misting lightly with a spray bottle of water, then ironing with a press cloth and a low, steam setting.

To Pre-wash Wool Felt:

- Soak wool felt in a basin of very warm water. You can expect wool felt to bleed quite a bit, so soak colors separately. You can reduce future bleeding with dye fixative products on the market for treating hand-dyed fabrics. We do not recommend using a washing machine as the agitation can create excess pilling.
- Squeeze as much water out as you can, but do not wring or twist as the felt can stretch out of shape.
- If you have small pieces of felt, lay on a towel to air dry. They won't be as bubbly, but this will reduce shrinkage.
- Large pieces of felt can be dried in a dryer until slightly damp. Dry similar colors together as they may rub off on each other in the dryer. (Although this is a fun way to get slightly marbled colors!) Wipe down sides of dryer with wet paper towel. Place old, damp towel in dryer after use. Run dryer a few minutes and check towel to see if it picked up any color from dryer sides. Repeat as needed.
- Depending on fiber content, temperature of water and dryer, and length of time washed and dried, you can expect wool felt to shrink from 3"-5" in length and 2" -4" in width per yard.

How Do I Begin My Project?

- Trace shapes onto the smooth side of freezer paper. Loosely cut around traced pattern. Iron onto wool felt. The wax side of the freezer paper will stick temporarily to the wool, but will not leave a residue. Cut out shapes on traced line. Remove freezer paper. We do not recommend using fusible web. It will often make the pieces too stiff to stitch through.
- Position shapes as desired on background. Baste using a VERY TINY drop of *Roxanne's Glue Baste It* water soluble glue..
- Blanket stitch, whip stitch, or primitive stitch around shapes with Pearl Cotton or embroidery floss.
- To transfer wording or designs for embroidery: Trace words onto coarse netting with a permanent black marker. Position netting over background. Retrace over words with marking pen of choice. Lines will come through netting onto the background.

How Do I Care For My Project?

- Due to color bleeding, dry cleaning or spot cleaning your finished project is recommended. If embellishing a quilt or garment, you may have success laundering with products such as the Shout Color Catcher or other products designed to prevent dye transfer.

What Colors of Wool Felt are Available?

- Prairie Point Junction stocks 100+ colors of National Nonwoven's wool blend felt. A swatch deck is available for purchase as well as a sampler of every color we carry. Wool blend felt can be purchased by the yard (36" wide), in 12" x 18" pieces, or in bundles of assorted colors. Check our website for current pricing, patterns, and available colors.
- We have also developed a Wool Felt/DMC floss conversion chart for your convenience based on colors available in the DMC floss line. This enables you to easily select DMC floss colors to coordinate with the wool felts that we stock. Coordinating DMC numbers are listed on our swatch cards, or download a conversion chart from our website.

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