

Wool Soap

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Soap Design and Photography by Erica
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Children love wetfelting. Wetfelting, a simple and forgiving craft, is what wet-on-wet painting is to art. It gives a child a chance to make a unique piece without an exacting requirement and/or skill, and without a measure to compare. One of the most simple and useful felting projects is making a wool soap bar. This project is very satisfying and fun to make for all ages.

MATERIALS

A bar of soap
Wool roving
Hot water
A piece of bubble wrap, felting board, or sushi mat
Nylon stocking (optional)
Felting needle (optional for detailed design)



INSTRUCTIONS

1) Wrap strips of wool tightly around the soap in all directions. If it is a round soap, it will be thicker in the middle, which works just fine. You can change colors as you like, or just use variegated wool roving. It is helpful to use a needle felting needle to secure loose fibers and fill in thin spots.



Erica's tip: *I use the needle to secure the loose fibers in place before felting the soap. It's easier to felt this way, especially if children are going to do it.*



2) **Optional:** Place the wool-wrapped soap inside an old nylon hose – you can skip this step and still felt, but it will take a bit more work to make sure you keep the wool together with your hands.

3) Dip the soap in hot water or hold it under the running hot water and start gently felting it with your fingers. You can also use a spray bottle as Erica did in these photos. Starting out gentle is the key so the bar of soap is not exposed. Felt with fingers for about two to three minutes.



Erica's tip: *I use a little bit of unscented liquid soap to start the suds so that we don't need to rub the wool too much in the beginning. I feel it works better if you roll or rub the soap very gently until the outer fibers are felted enough so the whole thing doesn't come apart as you start to apply pressure and rub harder.*





- 4) As you are still felting with your fingers, you can dip it into the hot water again and keep felting with your fingers, for five more minutes.
- 5) Once you are confident the wool is staying together, and has formed around the soap, start rubbing it over your felting surface. Make sure you rub all sides of the soap onto your felting surface. This step takes two to five minutes. However, children like to keep going, making more foam and fun!

6) Rinse the lather in water and check for loose pieces of wool.



7) Squeeze the water out, or blot with an old towel and let dry.





Optional Step:

8) With small pieces of wool create a design on the soap depending on the season or the occasion, and gently needlefelt it, keeping the needle at an angle, so it does not hit the soap.



Wool fibers are processed in different ways and called different names such as wool fleece or locks, wool roving, wool top, and wool batting. All of these are suitable for this project. You can even buy your own natural white wool and dye it yourself, or with your children. This can be done with natural dyes, as well as food coloring.

Following is a list of good sources for buying wool and felting accessories:

Living Crafts Fiber Resource Directory

A Child's Dream

Sandpoint, ID
(800) 359-2906

AChildsDream.com

Natural fiber crafts are our specialty. We offer a beautiful array of pure wool felt, felting fibers, and natural fiber doll making supplies. Enjoy our personal service and fast turnaround!

A Toy Garden

Fair Oaks, CA
(916) 390-5320

aToyGarden.com

Extensive selection of wool, roving, felt sheets, felting kits, craft books, and exclusive felted dolls, mobiles, and felt pictures. Many U.S. made wooden toys, \$5 play silks, dolls, and low-priced woolen undergarments.

Alpaca Direct

Brentwood, CA
(888) 306-0111

AlpacaDirect.com

Over 120 colors of merino, corriedale, alpaca, and other luxury roving in stock. Free, fast shipping on orders over \$50 within the USA. Spinning supplies, books and classes. Over 3,000 luxury yarn options in stock – wool, alpaca and blends.

Amber Meadow Farm, LLC

Edinburgh, IN

AmberMeadowFarm.com

Colored and white Kid Mohair, llama, alpaca, Blueface and Finn sheep rovings, yarn and completed textiles. Soft, lovely blended rovings, handspun yarns, completed handknitted/handwoven textiles from our Angora goats, Finn and Blueface sheep, llamas. All are hand prepared for you by me on our Indiana farm.

Ashford distributed by Foxglove Fiberarts Supply

Bainbridge Island, WA

(206) 780-2747

FoxgloveFiber.com

Ashford - pure New Zealand wool. Perfect for spinning and felting. Over 50 unique colors; choose Corriedale, Merino, Silk/Merino and Rainbow Dyed English Leicester fleece. Felting needles & punch handles.

Babe's Fiber Garden, LLC

Whitewater, WI

BabesFiberGarden.com

Babe's spinning wheels are light, easy to assemble, portable, and low cost. Manufactured with furniture and wheelchair wheel have ballbearing to spin smoothly and quietly. Spinning accessories.

Back to Back Fiber Products

Mesa, AZ

(480) 445-9068

BackToBackAlpaca.com

Alpaca fiber products to inspire the creativity of quilters and fiber artists. Pacafil Alpaca Quilt batting, Pacafil Brites and PacaFluff – vibrant hand dyed alpaca products, luxurious alpaca rovings and yarns.

Bijou Basin Ranch

Elbert, CO

(303) 601-7544

BijouBasinRanch.com

Bijou Basin Ranch, home of Bijou Spun Quality Yak Fibers and Yarns offers Pute Yak rovings and clouds for spinners and crafters. 100% Pure Yak yarns and blends also available.

Bird Brain Designs

Kelseyville, CA

(707) 279-8787

BirdBrainDesigns.net

Everything you need for needle felting. All supplies including wool roving, core wool, needles and needle tools, foam, original patterns, and complete kits.

Briggs + Little Woolen Mills Ltd.

York County, Canada

(800) 561-9276

BriggsAndLittle.com

After producing pure wool yarns for 152 years, we now have 7 weights including 100% wool and 80/20 wool/nylon for socks. Our new softspun is made from 25 micron wool. Spun yarns and roving available.

Colors of Nature

Davis, CA

(605) 454-4385

TheColorsOfNature.com

Naturally dyed fibers of all kinds in a rainbow of colors, rovings, curls, needle felted batting, merino pre felt, and wool felt. Retail and wholesale.

De Witte Engel
The Netherlands
0031 222 313644
DeWitteEngel.nl

Needlefelt in two qualities. 100% woolen felt in by colors. Felt wool in several qualities and lot of colors. A lot of woolen products and craft kits.

Decadent Fibers, LLC
Kinderhook, NY
(518) 265-9142
DecadentFibers.com

Our delicious fiber grown in the USA is hand selected and custom dyed for you! Original and creative needle felting projects, spinning and felting fiber and our luscious natural yarns are dyed in a variety of colorways or to your specifications. We love to dye for you!

Dharma Trading Company
San Rafael, CA
(800) 542-5227
DharmaTrading.com

Dharma Trading Company is thrilled to announce our new expanded fiber section! We now have over 90 different natural dyeable yarns and rovings, spinning, knitting, and crochet tools and dyes.

Esther's Place
Big Rock, IL
(630) 556-9665
EsthersPlaceFibers.com
IllinoisGreenPastures.org

Beautiful, hand dyed, locally produced fibers for all your felting, spinning, knitting, and art needs. We also offer kits, classes, retreats and more at our welcoming, Chicagoland location. Give us a call!

Felt on the fly
Lake Orion, MI
FeltOnTheFly.etsy.com

Glorious wool felt in an abundance of color! Pure, sustainable, environmentally friendly, close-to-the-sheep 100% merino wool felt. Choose your own colors or be inspired by my 'color stories'. Welcome to my home-based business.

The Felted Ewe
Livermore, CA
(925) 292-0166
TheFeltedEwe.com

With quality needle felting grade wool roving in many fabulous colors, felting needles, kits, books, wool blend felt and so much more. A one-stop needle felting supply shop.

The Fiber Studio
Henniker, NH
(603) 428-7830
FiberStudio.com

Our beautiful shop is full of everything you need for your knitting, crocheting, weaving, spinning, felting, beading, and rug hooking projects.

Halcyon Yarn
Bath, ME
(800) 341-0282
HalcyonYarn.com

Request a free catalog. Balance your fiber life. Felt, weave, knit, crochet, spin, hook rugs. The complete source for natural fibers, yarns, supplies, books, kits and patterns.

Harrisville Designs
Harrisville, NH
(800) 338-9415
Harrisville.com

Our 100% Natural Wool Fleece is packaged in half pound bags. Available in 56 colors, our beautiful heathered colors are the perfect choice for every wet felted and dry needle felted project.

Homestead Wool and Gift Farm
Monroe, Wisconsin
(608) 966-3943
HomesteadWoolAndGiftFarm.com

Wool batting and roving, with low impact dyes. 12 colors available.

Jimmy Beans Wool
Reno, NV
(877) JBW-KNIT (877) 529-5648
JimmyBeansWool.com

JimmyBeansWool.com provides supplies, fast shipping, and superior customer service to fiber enthusiasts around the world.

Joybilee Farms
Danville WA
(866) 965-9665 (WOOL)
FibreArts.ca

The wool is produced from organically raised cross-bred Merino or Romney sheep, providing a fine soft fiber that is also strong. Low impact dyes. 12 colors available.

La Lana Wools
Taos, NM

(575) 758-9631

LaLanaWools.com

Lalana Wools is a manufacturer and gallery featuring our own exquisite plant dyed fibers. We also offer unusual yarns and fibers for knitting, spinning, weaving, and all the fiber arts. The store carries fine wools, Romney and Kid Mohair. Our Forever Random blends, which people can also buy in carded batting form, is great for spinning or for felting. It is sold at 4 or 8 oz Bumkins. 55 colors available.

Louet North America

Ogdensburg, NY

(613) 925-4502

Lout North America offers the widest range of natural fibers, dyed and natural shades in the industry. Yak, camel, soy silk, silk, Bison Blend, flax, bamboo, wool, wool and more wool.

Marr Haven Wool Farm

Allegan, MI

(269) 673-8800

MarrHaven.com

Merino wool yarn, supplies for all fiber arts; knitting, crochet, wet and needle felting, locker hooking, and spinning.

Mielke's Fiber Arts, LLC

Rudolph, WI

MielkesFiberArts.com

Our friendly, knowledgeable family-owned fiber arts store can help you felt, weave, spin, dye, knit, crochet, naalbind, tat lace, locker hook, and more. Browse through our broad selection on our website.

New England Felting Supply

Easthampton, MA

(413) 527-1188

FeltingSupply.com

Norwegian C-1: Our #1 needlefelting wool that won't leave your project a hairy, pick-marked mess. Short-Fiber Merino: New and exclusive! Foolproof and great for kids' projects.

New Era Fiber

Gallatin, TN

(615) 452-7852

NewEraFiber.com

Alpaca: It's what we do! Fiber processing for award winning yarns and roving. 100% Suri and Huacaya is our specialty All natural, or blended, dyed or glitzy? Options for your alpaca fiber.

Paradise Fibers

Spokane, WA

(888) 320-7746

www.ParadiseFibers.net

Our knowledgeable family owned/operated fiber shop has a huge selection of weaving, knitting, spinning, felting, and crochet products available online. We're your friendly fiber-art supply headquarters. In business for over 13 years. Same day shipping/\$100 ships free.

Pygora Breeders Association

Lysander, NY

PygoraGoats.com

Pygora goats produce a luxurious, soft fiber that is fabulous for spinning, felting, weaving, crafting, and dyeing. It wears wonderfully. Please check out Pygora Breeders Association's website for producers.

Ram Wools

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

800-263-8002

RamWools.com

Ram Wools has a 32 year history of bringing great yarn and service to the knitting and crotchet community. We have established a reputation as one of Canada's premier yarn stores and mail order retailers, carrying a wide variety of well known quality and luxury brands as well as handspun and hand-dyed boutique yarns.

Scarlet Fleece

Cumberland, VA

ScarletFleece.com

We offer over 40 colorways and color washes available in our Wool Paint Roving and luxury yarns. See our website for color selection and website and shop listings.

Skacel Knitting

Kent, WA

SkacelKnitting.com

Using only the highest quality Merino Extrafine Wool, the Artfelt™ line of roving is butter soft. Dyed in vibrant colorways, it is sure to catch the eye and inspire the senses. Artfelt™ roving is available in both standard and pencil form.

Spirit Trail Fiberworks

Sperryville, VA

(703) 309-3199

Spirit-Trail.net

Handpainted yarns and spinning fibers. Natural and dyed spinning and felting fibers from rare and endangered sheep breeds from around the world. Exclusive knitting patterns and clubs.

Sunshine Daydream Farm and Garden

Brownfield, ME

SunshineDaydreamGardens.com

Our farm offers Organic Merino, Morristdale, Icelandic/Jacob sheep's wool and angora fiber. All our locks, roving and yarn are natural or plant dyed. Handfelted hats, mittens, handbags & accessories.

Table Rock Llamas Fiber Arts Studio

Colorado Springs, CO

(719) 495-7747

TableRockLlamas.com

Get your fiber fanatic fix here. Your one stop shop for classes, books, and supplies for natural/synthetic dyeing, spinning, felting, knit/crochet, and weaving. Broad selection of roving and yarn.

Texas Fiber Mill

McDade, TX

(512) 273-2540

TxFiberMmill.com

Wool, alpaca, mohair, Llama and other exotic fibers available in finely prepared roving, 2' x 4' batts of 1 lb. fiber, and 3 x 4 pre-felted sheets for crafts. Natural fiber yarns.

Tripping Gnome Farm Alpacas

Freeport, ME

(207) 865-0677

TrippingGnomeFarm.com

A full-time, full-service alpaca farm. Alpaca products made from our herd of over 60 alpacas. Roving, rugs, hats, scarves, raw fiber and yarn in many colors, both natural and plant-dyed.

Wabi-Sabi

Ottawa, ON Canada

(613) 867-9793

Wabi-Sabi.ca

Provides wool supplies from local sources, batting and roving from sustainable raised Shetland sheep, available in 6 natural colors and an assortment of 15 shades, hand dyed using food grade and plant dyes.

Weir Dolls and Crafts

Ann Arbor, MI

(734) 668-6992

WeirDollsAndCrafts.com

Everything you need for wet or needle felting: dozens of roving colors, curly and straight, core fiber, kits, tools and needles. 33 colors available.

Wild Rose Farm

Oak Harbor, WA

(360) 678-0258

We are breeding Wensleydale and Wensleydale cross sheep and are producing high quality breeding stock and wool, both in the grease and processed into roving and batts. It is a dream to work with.

The Wooden Wagon

(877) 885-7502

TheWoodenWagon.com

The Wooden Wagon sells Bioland fairy wool, felting wool and kits, and introductory woolen craft projects from Germany.

Wool Pets

888-966-5738

WoolPets.com

Try your hand at needle felting with a kit from WoolPets. Step-by-step color photographs show you exactly how to assemble your critter out of a fluff of wool and make it easy to create a WoolPet in no time flat. We have 27 patterns that are fun and easy!

The Woolery

Frankfort, KY

(800) 441-9665

Woolery.com

Custom hand dyed roving and fleece, felting supplies and kits, weaving supplies and looms, spinning supplies and wheels, rug hooking supplies, knitting and crochet. Huge selection of yarn and warp. Hundreds of books and videos. The Woolery has it all.

World of Wool

United Kingdom

01484 846878

WorldOfWool.co.uk

Let us color your world with 87 color options of the highest quality dyed merino wool tops. World of Wool - worldwide online suppliers of fibers to craft enthusiasts.

YARN BARN of Kansas

Lawrence, KS

800-468-0035

YarnBarn-KS.com

Try hand-dyed potluck roving in large 8 oz. balls at only \$12/ball. This 100% American wool is very easy to spin and to felt with. Item SF-WLPOTL. Just choose your colors.

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