

Trailing of the Sheep Festival

"To gather, celebrate, present, and preserve the history and cultures of shepherding in Idaho and the West"

info@trailingofthesheep.org PO Box 3692, Hailey, ID 83333 208.720.0585



FELTED SOAP PROJECT

Take an average bar of soap and turn it into a personal scrubber by learning to felt wool while discovering the properties of wool that make this the perfect personal care item!



MATERIALS:

- ◆ **Wool Roving**
can be purchased at a hobby store or on Amazon
- ◆ **Used nylon stocking**
- ◆ **Hot water**
- ◆ **Towels**
- ◆ **Bars of soap**
any kind will work
- ◆ **Bowl for hot water**
(Instructions for project on the next page!)

7 PROPERTIES OF WOOL

- 1. Fire Resistant.** Each and every wool fiber retains a certain amount of air moisture which makes it resistant to burning.
- 2. Moisture Wicking.** When each fiber butts up against the next, air pockets form creating a natural insulator. Wool can soak up as much as 30% of its weight in moisture without feeling wet.
- 3. Mildew & Mold Resistant.** Moisture wicking creates a naturally anti-microbial environment preventing mold, mildew, and other undesirable "stinks."
- 4. Hypoallergenic.** Wool does not harbor the right environment to attract common allergens.
- 5. Extremely Flexible & Durable.** The balance of air moisture retained by wool keeps it from getting brittle over time. It can be bent back and forth 20,000 times (compared to 3,000 times for cotton) before it snaps.
- 6. Environmentally Desirable.** Wool is sustainable since it is the regrown hair of an animal that is produced organically without the refinement or treatment of chemicals.
- 7. Wool Keeps You Cool.** The breathable "air pocket" characteristic means that sweat doesn't weigh you down.



Note: There is no right way or wrong way to do this project! Felting will happen as the fiber (roving) is manipulated with warm water causing it to be shocked or shrink. At first, it is difficult to get roving to stay in place but patience makes it all worthwhile!

Try using stones and make colorful Easter eggs using this method!

Instructions:

1. Take thin strands of roving and wrap around the bar of soap.
2. Continue with several wraps in different directions and more colors.
3. Place the wrapped soap in the toe of a nylon stocking or piece of gauze. Tie securely to help roving stay in place.
4. Fill a bowl with hot water, making sure the water is cool enough to place your hand inside.
5. Dip in the water and remove.
6. Begin to gently rub the soap.
7. Add water and continue to felt the roving. Repeat.
8. Be careful not to felt the wool into the nylon stocking or gauze.
9. You may need to warm the water.
10. When you are satisfied with the process, remove the felted soap from the nylon.
11. Use the dried soap in your next bath or make more for gifts!

A **roving** is a long and narrow bundle of fiber. Rovings are produced during the process of making spun yarn from wool fleece, raw cotton, or other fibers. Their main use is as fiber prepared for spinning, but they may also be used for specialized kinds of knitting or other textile arts.

Felting is the consolidation of certain fibrous materials by the application of heat, moisture, and mechanical action, causing the interlocking, or matting, of fibers possessing **felting** properties. Wool can produce **felting** even when mixed with other fibers.



RESOURCES:

<https://spinkandco.com/7-properties-of-wool/>