



Felted Soap

A step-by-step guide to wet felting bars of soap.

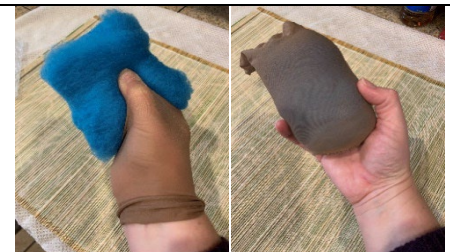


Supplies:

1. Short Fiber Wool, 10-14 grams
2. A bar of soap.
3. A knee-high stocking, or a 6-8" length of pantyhose.
4. A small piece of bubble wrap
5. A towel to cover your work surface.
6. Bowl of warm water.



Begin by wrapping your soap with the wool. Try to cover the soap on all sides with a consistent thickness of wool. Pay attention to the corners and edges – make sure there aren't thin spots where you can feel the soap too easily.



Pull the stocking over your hand and then place the wrapped soap into the covered hand. With your other hand, pull the stocking down over the wrapped soap. Be sure to hold on tightly and try not to let the wool bunch up or get pulled by the stocking. If this happens you can either take it out and start over or gently stretch the stocking and readjust the wool.



Dip the soap into your bowl of water, gently squeezing it to push out the air between the fibers and fully saturate the wool with water.



Gently press and squeeze the water out of the wool, dip into the water again and press out several times until you begin to see soap suds form.

	Once you see soap suds forming, you are ready to start felting it! Begin rubbing the soap between your hands or lay it on the bubble wrap. The initial rubbing should be a very light touch...like rubbing a sleeping baby's back. Rub gently for about 2-3 minutes and be sure to rub all sides of the soap equally. Gradually increase your pressure and continue rubbing for a few minutes.
	Once you begin to see tiny fibers come through the stocking, remove it. The wool will still be loose and "squishy" feeling but the surface fibers should be beginning to felt a bit. This stage of the felt is referred to as having a "surface skin".
	Continue gently rubbing with light to medium pressure on all sides.
	Smooth the edges around the bar of soap by rubbing back and forth along each side.
	If the wool begins to feel dry, dip it in the water.
	In this picture you can see the wool is holding together and is still loose. If you see these wrinkles, rewet the wool and gently rub to smooth them out.
	Rewetting the wool will expand it like a sponge and help smooth out some wrinkles automatically.

		Continue rubbing gently.
		Once the wool feels like a single layer of felt and not spongy or squishy, it is time to move on to the “fulling” stage of felting. This will further shrink the fibers to create a strong and denser layer of wool. Rinse under hot water or submerge in a bowl of hot water, then continue rubbing.
		Your pressure should be firm at this point. Continue rubbing in all directions, on all sides. I typically start rolling the bar in my hands side over side alternating with end over end. (not pictured: Rubbing the surface of the wool with the bubble wrap can also help shrink the wool)
		You are done when the felt has shrunk to fit the bar of soap like a snug sweater. =)
		Rinse one more time in hot and then cold water to remove the soap from the surface. DO NOT SQUEEZE THE WOOL – IT WILL BRING UP MORE SOAP SUDS!
		Lay the rinsed bar on a cookie sheet or drying rack to dry. If drying inside, It may take 24 hours or more to fully dry, roll it over occasionally. Setting it under a fan or outside on a warm, sunny day will dry it faster.

Benefits of Felted Soap	Felted soap is simply a bar of soap wrapped in wool. This wool coat helps soap last longer and makes slippery bars easier to hang on to. The wool is very gently exfoliating and can replace a washcloth or bath pouf in the shower.
Care of Felted Soap	Just like any other soap, you need to keep your felted soap as dry as possible between uses. Placing it on a soap dish that drains well will help greatly. This will make it last longer and keep the soap from softening. The felted wool will shrink as your bar shrinks. When the soap is gone you can cut a slit in the wool and add a new bar of soap, or just use the felted wool as a washcloth.
Fiber and soap sources	For felted soaps, I recommend our “MicroBattz” short fiber wool. It is easy to wet felt with and has a smooth finish but still has enough texture to be a gentle exfoliant! Fibers Of My Soul and Wooleyboogers Creations now carry a wide variety of felting and spinning fibers, felting tools and felting kits! If you would like to purchase fiber or felting tools for this and other projects, please visit us online or on Facebook/Instagram! You can use any type of bar soap that you wish but I have found bars of hand-made soaps make lovely, felted soaps! One of my favorite hand-made soap makers is The Bigheart Soap Company out of Skiatook, OK. Her soaps can be found in several shops in Oklahoma and online at Bigheartsoap.com

Thank you for purchasing this tutorial!

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out!

FibersOfMySoul@gmail.com or on Facebook/Instagram

WooleyboogersFelt@yahoo.com or on Facebook/Instagram

This tutorial was painstakingly created by small business owners and is intended for use by the purchaser only. If you loved this project, Thank you! Please tell your friends and share our website or contact information so they can purchase one too!