

The fitting or grooming should be done in a manner which displays the natural contour of the body when viewed from the rear. The wool is rounded over the rump to the dock and down each side to blend with the leg. Trim outward on the leg to blend with the side and over the rump. Flatness and squareness is associated with overly fat lambs, so avoid this shape.

Sufficient wool should be trimmed off the leg to make it handle easily and look good. The thigh region should be the widest on a structurally correct, well muscled lamb. Trim the sides smooth and blend the top and sides while following the natural contour of the forelegs.

Carefully cut the wool from around the eyes and blend with the jaw and neck. Have an adult help you with this step if you are uncertain about what to do. Roll and blend the neck and chest. Dip the wool card in water and pat the fleece all over. This will smooth the surface and pack the wool.

***Follow this procedure when you trim your lamb:***

1. Keep the fleece damp while working with it until you fine trim it. It is easier if lamb is soaked and rubbed until damp. Don't trim wool that is very wet.
2. Use a curry comb or wool rake to drag the fleece. This breaks the crimp and makes for a smoother look. Card the wool after dragging.
3. Starting on the top, trim off the tips of all carded wool using the shears in such a manner that a uniform, even cut is made.
4. Place the shears flat on the surface to be trimmed and tilt slightly up.
5. Move the shears forward so the bottom blade glides slowly and smoothly. Do not move your thumb when trimming.
6. As the bottom blades move forward, clip the fleece by repeatedly pulling the top blade back to the bottom blade and releasing it.
7. As you trim, stop often and dip the shears in water to clean them. Always keep the blades damp when trimming.

**What Equipment Do You Need?**

A trimming stand is useful but not absolutely necessary. You can restrain the lamb in a halter. The lamb's head should be held at the most desirable height or position for showing when you are doing the trimming.

A small tool box can be used as a tack box to keep your equipment in. This keeps all tools in one place and your display area will look tidier at show day.