



Prairie Point Junction

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Tips for Working With Wool Felt

What is Wool Felt?

The Wool Felt that we stock at Prairie Point Junction is manufactured by National Nonwovens. It is a blend of either 20%/80% (Style WCF) or 35%/65% (Style TOY) wool/rayon. Designed to resemble boiled wool, this product offers a more reasonably priced alternative. Wool felt is approximately 36" wide prior to pre-washing.

How Do I Use Wool Felt?

Wool felt is being used for penny rugs, pillows, faux foods, hair clips, art work, and as embellishments on quilts and garments. There are no raw edges to finish, so wool felt makes for quick and easy projects.

How Do I Prepare Wool Felt?

Wool Felt is often washed prior to use to create the "Boiled Wool" 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 extra body, such as for making dimensional items like cupcakes, etc.

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 a wet paper towel. Place an old, damp towel in dryer after use. Run dryer for a few minutes and check towel to see if it picked up any color from dryer sides. Repeat as needed. (We have found this necessary especially with some of the shades of red and brown.)
- 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 in place with *Quilter's Choice Glue* or *Roxanne's Glue Baste It..* You only need a VERY TINY drop of this water soluble glue.
- Blanket 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 tool (The *Chaco-liner* or *White Marking Pen* by Clover work very well). 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 78 colors of National Nonwoven's wool felt. A swatch card set is available for purchase as well as a sample pack of every color we carry. Samples are labeled for ordering reference. Wool Felt can be purchased by the yard (36" wide), in 12" x 18" pieces, or in bundles of assorted colors. Check our website for pricing, patterns, and available colors.
- We have also developed a Wool Felt/DMC floss conversion chart for your convenience. This enables you to easily select DMC floss colors to coordinate with the wool felts that we stock. We carry these DMC colors in stock, or you can print our chart from our website to store with your own floss collection.

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