



## Making felt flowers

*Felt making is believed to be the oldest form of textile process. Felt consists of simple materials- wool, soap and water. No specialist equipment is required. When you have learned this process you have the knowledge to go on to make scarves, bags, banners and more!*

**Step 1** – Lay out the bamboo matt with the bubble wrap on top. Prepare your wool by separating off large chunks with your hands (**do not** cut the wool with scissors or a knife).



Use red wool if making a poppy



**Step 2** – Lay out the wool in even chunks all facing in the same direction, slightly overlapping to ensure no gaps.





**Step 3** – Add another layer on top of the first one with all wool facing at an opposite angle, e.g, if the first layer is horizontal, the second needs to be vertical. This will be the petals of your flower.



**Step 4** – Repeat the process, adding a third layer. A minimum of 3 layers is recommended; however if you want a thick piece of felt simply add more layers.

**Step 5** – Place a piece of different colour felt (e.g black if making a poppy) in the middle. This will be the centre of your flower. Cover with netting



**Step 6** – Cover with netting





**Step 7** - Make a depression in the felt and sprinkle or pour water onto the wool, a little at a time.



**Step 7** – Add either washing up liquid or use a bar of soap to rub over the surface of the wool, working the water into the wool to the edges so all the wool is wet. Massage the wool for 5-10 minutes...



**Step 8** – Carefully lift the netting to see if the wool has meshed together 'felted' pinch it to see if the fibres have bonded:

- If they have not, continue rubbing until they appear to be bonding
- If they have roll up the wool into the bamboo matt.

# growing support

because gardens are good for you

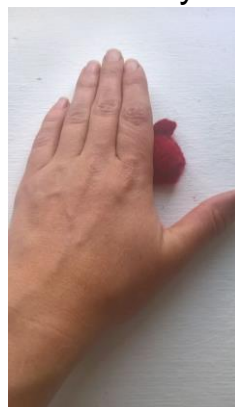


**Step 9-** Squeeze out the excess water then roll the matt containing the wool backwards and forwards, applying a little pressure.



**Step 10** - Unroll the matt and turn the felt to ensure even shrinkage (the felt at the edge of the beginning of the roll when you rolled it up will shrink the most). Keep checking the felt to get the desired shape).

**Step 11** – Fold your piece of felt in half and then in half again. Now roll the felt in your hands on the corner of the folds to felt it together. You could also do this by using thread to tie it together.





**Step 11-** You can sow a broach pin onto your flower now / attach a safety pin.

**Step 12-** Rinse the felt so it is soap free - soap will eventually rot the wool so must be rinsed out to ensure longevity. Leave your finished piece to dry!

## YOU WILL NEED:

### Materials:

- Carded merino wool (Any mammal hair will felt but merino is quick to felt and soft to handle)
- Bubble wrap
- Net curtain material
- Washing up liquid or soap
- A sushi matt or bamboo blind \* (it will work in a tea towel or j-cloth but bamboo works best)

### Tools:

- Small jug

