



How to felt wool sweaters

Why felting wool sweaters?

- Felted wool from sweaters is a wonderful fabric that does not unravel or fray when cut.
- It is a great way to up-cycle unwanted sweaters and it is a material you can find at home.
- It can replace wool felt in your craft project.
- It is a perfect material for crafting animal dolls and plushies.

What sweaters to use?

- Sweaters with at least 85% of wool. 100% wool sweaters felt the best. Synthetic sweaters will not felt.
- Cashmere and Alpaca felted sweaters are high quality fabrics at the fraction of the cost.
- Aging sweaters, sweaters from thrift stores.

TIP: Large men sweaters will give you more for your money as they offer larger pieces of material.

The felting process

Materials needed:

- Wool sweaters
- Washing machine and dryer (if possible)
- Laundry detergent
- Old pillowcase or mesh laundry bag
- A rubber band

1) Put the sweaters inside a mesh laundry bag or an old pillowcase tied with a firm knot. This protects your washing machine from clogging up with excess fuzz caused by the felting process.

2) Set your machine at the highest HOT setting. The setting that usually harm your clothes! Place the sweaters in the machine along with a few jeans or towels to add extra friction.

A low water level plus high agitation is the secret to felt sweaters successfully.

3) Place the sweaters in the dryer to felt them even more.

- If the sweater pieces have not shrunk enough, the sweaters need to go through the whole process again, until felted properly.
- TEST: Make a small cut on the sweater. If it still frays, it is not ready and needs to be washed and dried one more time!

EXAMPLES of my work using felted sweaters:



Doll cape



Animal Dolls Sweaters



Sweaters pumpkins



Felted sweaters are the perfect material to make my Love bears.

You can find the Love Bears family pdf pattern in my Etsy store!

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1727488968/the-love-bears-plush-dolls-pdf-pattern>

Check all my dolls PDF patterns in my etsy shop!

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/manimina/>