

How to Make Essential Balls

Materials:

Corriedale Slivers, Medium Felting Needle, Scissors, Needle Felting Foam & Hat Elastic or cord approx. 42cm or length required

1. Gently hold the sliver, pulling apart to create a 6cm length for a 2cm ball or a 12cm length for a 4cm ball depending on what size ball you would like. Repeat for all shades until you have 4 sliver lengths. Make pieces as even as possible to ensure finished balls will be even in size.

2. Roll one piece of sliver into a ball as tight as you can. Ensure all fluffy pieces are tucked in. Fill in any creases in your ball by gently pulling wool over the problem areas. Place ball on your felting foam.

3. Using the felting needle start felting by pushing the needle in and out of the wool, the needle should go about half way through the ball. This process will slowly connect the wool fibres. Do not push all the way through the wool to the pad, this prevents felting your wool into the pad. Slowly turn the ball, felting the entire surface of the ball. After 1-2 minutes the ball should hold itself together. Roll the ball in your hands if it is losing shape.

4. After 5-10 minutes of felting, the ball should be complete. When the ball is finished, it should be firm, but have a little bounce if you drop it. Repeat steps 2-4 until you have 4 balls in total.

5. Cut cord or hat elastic approximately 42cm long or double the length required plus some extra for the knot. Thread through the eye of the needle.

6. Push the needle with the cord/hat elastic through the centre of all of the 4 balls so they are on top of one another. Then thread the needle back up through the centre of all 4 balls leaving a loop at the top to hang the balls and then tie a double knot at the bottom of the last ball to secure them in place.

7. Put a few drops of your favourite essential oil on each ball.

